VOTERS AND HEALTH CARE IN THE 2018 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION

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This report focuses on the views of likely American voters as they head into the 2018 midterm congressional election. It focuses on three main issues: the relationship of the midterms to President Trump, national priorities among likely voters, and health policies important to voters.

PART I: PRESIDENT TRUMP

Registered voters who were either certain they would vote in the 2018 congressional elections or reported that they had already cast an early ballot – a group this report refers to as "likely voters" – were asked about the factors influencing their vote for members of Congress in the midterms. When asked whether one reason for their vote will be to express support or opposition to President Trump, most voters viewed the election as a referendum on the presidency. Table 1 shows that a plurality (38%) of likely voters said their congressional vote would be to express opposition to Donald Trump, while more than a quarter (28%) said their vote would be to express support for the president. Less than one-third (31%) said Trump would not be a factor in their vote for Congress.

Table 1. Trump as a Factor in Likely Voters' Choice for Congress, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
Support for Donald Trump	28	68	3
Opposition to Donald Trump	38	7	72
Trump not a factor	31	24	23

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

Among likely voters who said one reason for their vote will be to express support for Donald Trump, the vast majority (82%) say it is because they approve of his policies. One in eight (12%) said they are voting to express support because they like the president's policies and like him personally, while five percent said they are voting to express support for the president because they only like him personally. Another one percent said they are voting to support the president for neither of these reasons.

PART II: NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Likely voters were asked to describe how important a list of 15 issues will be when they decide how to vote in this year's election for the U.S. House of Representatives. The list included the economy and jobs, health care, abortion, taxes, foreign policy, the environment and climate change, Supreme Court nominees, gun policy, opioid and drug abuse, trade and tariffs, immigration, the federal budget deficit, education, terrorism, and poverty.

Table 2 shows that, based on the proportion saying each issue is extremely important, there is no single dominant issue at the forefront of likely voters' minds as they head into the midterm elections. The results indicate a statistical tie among the top five issues, which include health care, gun policy, Supreme Court nominees, the economy and jobs, and education.

Table 2. Likely Voters' Top Issues in Deciding How to Vote for House, by Party Identification

Rank	Total Likely Voters		Republicans		Democrats	
	Issue	% saying "extremely important"	Issue	% saying "extremely important"	Issue	% saying "extremely important"
1	Health care	40	Terrorism	48	Health care	55
2	Gun policy	39	Economy / jobs	47	Education	49
3	Supreme Court nominations	38	Gun policy	47	Supreme Court nominations	47
4	Economy / jobs	37	Immigration	43	Environment / climate change	43
5	Education	37	Taxes	41	Gun policy	43

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

These priorities differ dramatically by party, however. Among Republicans, the three top issues are terrorism, the economy / jobs, and gun policy.

Among Democrats, more than half (55%) of likely voters say health care is an extremely important issue that will decide how they vote for Congress. Just under half (49%) say education is extremely important, while 47 percent say Supreme Court nominees will be extremely important when they choose members of the House.

PART III: HEALTH CARE

Likely voters who said that health care will be extremely important to their vote in the midterms were then asked about specific policy issues relating to health care. As shown in Table 3, the top four issues, ranked by the proportion saying they are extremely important, are making sure insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions (73%), lowering the overall cost of health care (69%), preserving benefits provided under Medicare (68%), and making sure people do not lose their health insurance coverage (67%).

Table 3. Health Care Voters' Top Health Care Issues in Deciding How to Vote for House, by Party Identification

Among likely voters who said health care will be extremely important in their vote						
	Total		**Republicans**		**Democrats**	
Rank	Issue	% saying "extremely important"	Issue	% saying "extremely important"	Issue	% saying "extremely important"
1	Making sure insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions	73	Lowering the overall cost of health care	75	Making sure insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions	82
2	Lowering the overall cost of health care	69	Making sure insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions	60	Making sure people don't lose their health insurance coverage	78
3	Making sure Medicare benefits are not cut back	68	Making sure Medicare benefits are not cut back	56	Making sure Medicare benefits are not cut back	77
4	Making sure people don't lose their health insurance coverage	67	Lowering prescription drug prices	56	Making sure low-income people don't lose their Medicaid coverage	77
5	Making sure low-income people don't lose their Medicaid coverage	63	Increasing federal efforts to deal with drug abuse and the opioid epidemic	45	The future of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare	70

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

As Table 3 also shows, health care policy priorities vary somewhat by party affiliation. Among Republicans who care intensely about health care, three-quarters (75%) say that lowering the overall cost of health care will be extremely important to their vote for Congress. Three other health care issues are cited as extremely important by a majority of Republican health care voters: making sure that insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions (60%), making sure Medicare benefits are not cut back (56%), and lowering prescription drug prices (56%).

Among Democrats who care intensely about health care, the four top issues cited as extremely important are making sure insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions (82%), making sure people don't lose their health insurance coverage (78%), making sure Medicare benefits are not cut back (77%), and making sure low-income people don't lose their Medicaid coverage (77%). Each of these is rated as extremely important by more than three-fourths of Democratic health care voters.

Likely voters were also asked about a range of health care topics, including prescription drug prices and Obamacare. Table 4 shows that when asked about President Trump's prescription drug plan, a majority (52%) of likely voters do not believe it will make a difference for drug prices in the U.S. Meanwhile, less than one-quarter (24%) of likely voters believe it will lower drug prices in the U.S., and the same proportion did not have an opinion (24%).

Table 4. Expected Impact of the President's Prescription Drug Plan on Prescription Drug Prices, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
Will lower prescription drug prices in the U.S.	24	48	6
Will not make a difference	52	23	76
Don't know/Refused	24	29	18

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

Not surprisingly, confidence in President Trump's prescription drug plan differs by party. Just six percent of Democratic likely voters believe the president's plan will lower drug prices in the U.S., while about half (48%) of likely voters in the president's party say the same.

Likely voters were asked to share their opinion on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Obamacare, nearly nine years after its passage and five years after the rollout of the individual marketplaces. Table 5 shows that a slight majority of likely voters (51%) have a generally favorable view of the law, while 45 percent have a generally unfavorable view. Among Republican likely voters, 14 percent have a favorable view, compared to 82 percent who hold an unfavorable view. Among Democratic likely voters, 87 percent view the law favorably, while just 9 percent view it unfavorably.

Table 5. Views on the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
Favorable	51	14	87
Unfavorable	45	82	9

When asked about the law's performance over the last year, Table 6 shows that half of likely voters in America say the law has been working about the same. Meanwhile, a third (33%) of likely voters say it has been working worse over the past year, while 12 percent say it has been working better. This suggests that President Trump's actions to weaken parts of the law, including his repeal of the law's individual mandate for insurance and shortened window for open enrollment, have not changed most Americans' perceptions of the law's functionality.

As expected, views of the law's performance differ by party, with more Republican likely voters saying the law performed worse last year and more Democrats saying the law performed better or about the same.

**Table 6. Views on the Affordable Care Act's Performance Last Year,
by Party Identification**

	Total	Rep	Dem
Better	12	7	15
Worse	33	43	24
About the same	50	43	55

When asked who is responsible for the ACA's performance last year – good or bad, most likely voters still attribute the law's function to Democrats. Among likely voters who say the ACA has been working better over the past 12 months, 59 percent say the Democrats are most responsible for this, while 21 percent say President Trump and the Republicans are most responsible. Among likely voters who say the ACA has been working worse over the past 12 months, 51% of likely voters say the Democrats are most responsible for this. Less than one-third (32%) say President Trump and the Republicans are responsible for the law's reduced performance.

At the beginning of August, the Trump administration issued a final rule that expands the availability of health plans that cover fewer benefits and offer fewer protections for people with pre-existing conditions, compared to the ACA. Likely voters were told about these plans and that they are typically less expensive for younger and healthier people, but may result in higher premiums for older and sicker people.

More than six in ten (62%) likely voters say they oppose allowing insurers to sell these plans, while 29 percent say they support it. Among Republicans, less than a majority (48%) say they support allowing insurers to sell short-term, limited-duration insurance, while 39% oppose it. Democrats, on the other hand, are less split. More than four in five (83%) Democratic likely voters say they are opposed to allowing insurers to sell these plans, while 13 percent favor them.

Table 7. Views on Short-Term, Limited-Duration Health Plans, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
Favor	29	48	13
Oppose	62	39	83

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

When asked what role the federal government should play in trying to make the health care system in the U.S. work better, a majority of likely voters (59%) believe the federal government should play a major role, as seen in Table 8. Less than a quarter (24%) say the federal government should play a minor role in improving the American health care system, while 16 percent say the federal government should not play a role.

Republican likely voters appear split, with 37 percent saying the federal government should play a major role, 35 percent saying it should play a minor role, and 27 percent saying it should play no role at all. The vast majority of Democratic likely voters (83%), on the other hand, believe the federal government should play a major role in improving the U.S. health care system, while 12 percent believe it should play a minor role. Just 4 percent of Democratic likely voters believe the federal government should have no role.

Table 8. Views on the Federal Government's Role in Health Care, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
Major role	59	37	83
Minor role	24	35	12
No role	16	27	4

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

In a similar vein, likely voters were asked whether it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage. Table 9 shows that a majority of likely voters (54%) believe it is the responsibility of the federal government to ensure that all Americans have health insurance, while 44 percent believe it is not the responsibility of the federal government.

Not surprisingly, a wide chasm exists between Republican and Democratic likely voters on this topic. While 77 percent of Republican likely voters say it is <u>not</u> the responsibility of the federal government to ensure health insurance coverage, a great majority (88%) of Democrats believe it is.

Table 9. Views on the Federal Government's Responsibility to Ensure Health Insurance Coverage, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
It *is* the responsibility of the federal government	54	21	88
It is ***not*** the responsibility of the federal government	44	77	10

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

On the topic of abortion, a majority (58%) of likely voters believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 37 percent believe it should be illegal in all or most cases, as seen in Table 10. More than a quarter (27%) of likely voters believe abortion should be legal in all cases, while 31 percent believe it should be legal in most cases, 27 percent believe it should be illegal in most cases, and 10 percent believe it should be illegal in all cases.

Among Republican likely voters, less than a third (31%) believe it should be legal in all or most cases, while 47 percent believe it should be illegal in most cases and 19 percent believe it should be illegal in all cases. On the other side of the aisle, 82 percent of Democratic likely voters believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, with 40 percent saying it should be legal in all cases and 42 percent saying it should be legal in most cases. Ten percent of Democratic likely voters say abortion should be illegal in most cases and just four percent say it should be illegal in all cases.

Table 10. Views on Abortion, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
Legal in all cases	27	11	40
Legal in most cases	31	20	42
Illegal in most cases	27	47	10
Illegal in all cases	10	19	4

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

Likely voters were asked whether they would favor or oppose replacing the health system the U.S. currently has with an insurance program in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one government insurance plan like Medicare that is financed by taxpayers. Table 11 shows that likely voters are split, with 49 percent saying they would oppose such a system and 46 percent saying they would favor such a system.

As one might expect, more than three-quarters (76%) of Republican likely voters say they would oppose such a switch, while 70 percent of Democratic likely voters say they would favor such a change.

Table 11. Views on Medicare for All, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem
Favor	46	21	70
Oppose	49	76	24

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election, September 4 – 16, 2018. Base: Likely voters in the 2018 congressional election.

Those who said they would favor replacing the current system with a Medicare-for-all-type system were also asked if they would still support the change if it meant their own taxes would increase, or if they would oppose the change if their own taxes would increase. Six percent of likely voters who initially said they would support the switch to a Medicare-for-all-type system changed their vote, bringing the total to 55% of likely voters who oppose such a change and 39% of likely voters who support it.

METHODOLOGY

The results are based on polling conducted by *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Representatives of the two organizations worked closely to develop the survey questionnaires and analyze the results of the polls. *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health paid for the surveys and related expenses.

The project team was led by Robert J. Blendon, Sc.D., Richard L. Menschel Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Joanne Kenen, Executive Editor, Health Care at *Politico/Politico Pro*. Harvard research team also included John M. Benson, Caitlin L. McMurtry, and Justin M. Sayde.

Interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1,201 randomly selected likely voters via telephone (including cell phones and landlines) by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. The interviewing period was September 4 – 16, 2018. In this survey, "likely voters" are defined as adults age 18 or older who said they were registered to vote and were absolutely certain they would vote in the 2018 congressional election or had already voted. The interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

When interpreting these findings, one should recognize that all surveys are subject to sampling error. The margin of error for the full sample is ±3.3 percentage points. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is ±4.7 percentage points.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by household size, cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, race/ethnicity, education, and region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Poll

Voters and Health Care
in the 2018 Congressional Election

The survey was conducted for *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health via telephone (cell phone and landlines) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted September 4 – 16, 2018, with 1,201 likely voters (those who said they were registered to vote and were either absolutely certain they would vote in the 2018 congressional election or had already voted). The margin of error for total respondents is +/- 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is approximately +/- 4.7 percentage points. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com

POLQ1. Will one reason for your vote for Congress be to express support for Donald Trump, to express opposition to Donald Trump, or is Trump not a factor in your choice?

	Support for Donald Trump	Opposition to Donald Trump	Trump not a factor	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	28	38	31	3
Reps	68	7	24	1
Dems	3	72	23	2

(Asked of likely voters who said one reason for their vote will be to express support for Donald Trump; n=345)
POLQ2a. Would you say that in this year's election for Congress you are voting to express support for President Trump more because you approve of most of his policies or because you like him personally?

	Total likely voters	Reps	Dems
Approve of his policies	82	84	Not enough cases for analysis (n<50)
Like him personally	5	4	
Both (vol)	12	10	
Neither (vol)	1	1	
Don't know/Refused	*	1	

(Asked of likely voters who said one reason for their vote will be to express opposition Donald Trump; n=478)
POLQ2b. Would you say that in this year's election for Congress you are voting to express opposition to President Trump more because you disapprove of most of his policies or because you dislike him personally?

	Total likely voters	Reps	Dems
Disapprove of his policies	52		51
Dislike him personally	11	Not enough cases for analysis (n<50)	10
Both (vol)	36		39
Neither (vol)	*		-
Don't know/Refused	1		*

POLQ3. Thinking ahead to the November 2018 election, please tell me how important each of the following issues will be when you decide how to vote in this year's election for the US House of Representatives? How about (INSERT ITEM)? Will that be…?

a.   The economy and jobs

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	37	45	15	2	1
Reps	47	43	8	1	1
Dems	32	43	22	3	-

b.   Health care

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	40	37	16	7	*
Reps	33	31	22	13	1
Dems	55	38	5	2	-

c.   Abortion

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	25	27	27	19	2
Reps	29	21	26	22	2
Dems	29	32	25	12	2

(Asked of half-sample A; n=598)
d.   Taxes

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	34	40	21	4	1
Reps	41	37	19	3	-
Dems	26	40	27	7	*

(Asked of half-sample A; n=598)
    e.   Foreign policy

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	29	45	21	4	1
Reps	35	45	16	3	1
Dems	34	40	21	5	*

(Asked of half-sample A; n=598)
    f.   The environment and climate change

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	23	32	27	18	*
Reps	5	22	40	32	1
Dems	43	40	13	4	*

(Asked of half-sample A; n=598)
    g.   Supreme Court nominees

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	38	38	16	7	1
Reps	40	43	10	6	1
Dems	47	36	11	5	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=598)
    h.   Gun policy

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	39	35	19	7	*
Reps	47	33	12	7	1
Dems	43	28	22	6	1

(Asked of half-sample A; n=598)
  i.   Opioid and drug abuse

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	25	33	31	10	1
Reps	32	32	27	9	-
Dems	23	36	29	11	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=603)
  j.   Trade and tariffs

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	21	36	33	7	3
Reps	28	38	30	3	1
Dems	17	34	36	10	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=603)
  k.   Immigration

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	34	36	21	8	1
Reps	43	37	13	6	1
Dems	32	37	22	8	1

(Asked of half-sample B; n=603)
  l.   The federal budget deficit

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	24	36	31	8	1
Reps	30	33	33	4	*
Dems	19	38	31	9	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=603)
m.   Education

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	37	38	20	5	*
Reps	26	33	28	12	1
Dems	49	39	10	*	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=603)
n.   Terrorism

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	32	30	26	11	1
Reps	48	27	20	4	1
Dems	18	32	37	11	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=603)
o.   Poverty

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	28	34	29	8	1
Reps	19	23	42	16	*
Dems	36	40	21	2	1

Extremely Important Summary Table (% saying each of the following issues will be "extremely important")

	Total likely voters	Reps	Dems
Health care	40	33	55
Gun policy [a]	39	47	43
Supreme Court nominees [a]	38	40	47
The economy and jobs	37	47	32
Education [b]	37	26	49
Taxes [a]	34	41	26
Immigration [b]	34	43	32
Terrorism [b]	32	48	18
Foreign policy [a]	29	35	34
Poverty [b]	28	19	36
Opioid and drug abuse [a]	25	32	23
Abortion	25	29	29
The federal budget deficit [b]	24	30	19
The environment and climate change [a]	23	5	43
Trade and tariffs [b]	21	28	17

[a] = asked of half-sample A, n=598 likely voters
[b] = asked of half-sample B, n=603 likely voters

(Asked of likely voters who said that health care will be an extremely important issue in their decision how to vote; n=487)

POLQ4. Now thinking specifically about health care... Please tell me how important each of the following health care issues will be when you decide how to vote in this year's election for the US House of Representatives. How about (INSERT ITEM)? Will that be...?

a.   The future of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	54	18	10	17	1
Reps	25	16	15	41	3
Dems	70	20	7	2	1

b.   Laws affecting the availability of abortion services

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	43	24	19	12	2
Reps	33	14	27	24	2
Dems	46	29	16	7	2

c.   Lowering prescription drug prices

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	60	23	15	2	*
Reps	56	21	20	3	*
Dems	61	25	13	1	-

d.   Making sure insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	73	20	4	3	*
Reps	60	22	11	6	1
Dems	82	16	2	-	-

e.   Lowering the overall cost of health care

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	69	21	7	2	1
Reps	75	18	4	3	-
Dems	66	24	9	1	*

f.   Making sure low-income people don't lose their Medicaid coverage

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	63	18	14	4	1
Reps	40	14	33	10	3
Dems	77	16	6	1	-

g.   Providing health insurance coverage for everyone through a taxpayer-funded national plan like Medicare for all.

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	45	23	15	15	2
Reps	23	21	15	39	2
Dems	55	26	14	5	*

h.   Making sure people don't lose their health insurance coverage

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	67	22	8	3	*
Reps	44	28	20	6	2
Dems	78	19	2	-	1

i   Increasing federal efforts to deal with drug abuse and the opioid epidemic

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	39	31	22	8	*
Reps	45	28	16	11	*
Dems	34	36	22	8	*

j.   Making sure Medicare benefits are not cut back

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	68	21	8	2	1
Reps	56	22	19	1	2
Dems	77	20	2	1	-

k.   Increasing restrictions on coverage for low-income people on Medicaid, such as work requirements

	Extremely important in your vote	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	33	25	22	18	2
Reps	32	28	30	8	2
Dems	33	23	18	24	2

Extremely Summary Table (% saying each of the following health care issues will be "extremely important")
Based on likely voters who said that health care will be an extremely important issue in their decision how to vote; n=487

	Total likely voters	Reps	Dems
Making sure insurance companies still have to provide health insurance for pre-existing conditions	73	60	82
Lowering the overall cost of health care	69	75	66
Making sure Medicare benefits are not cut back	68	56	77
Making sure people don't lose their health insurance coverage	67	44	78
Making sure low-income people don't lose their Medicaid coverage	63	40	77
Lowering prescription drug prices	60	56	61
The future of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare	54	25	70
Providing health insurance coverage for everyone through a taxpayer-funded national plan like Medicare for all	45	23	55
Laws affecting the availability of abortion services	43	33	46
Increasing federal efforts to deal with drug abuse and the opioid epidemic	39	45	34
Increasing restrictions on coverage for low-income people on Medicaid, such as work requirements	33	32	33

POLQ5. From what you have heard, do you believe that President Trump's prescription drug plan will lower prescription drug prices in the U.S. or will it not make a difference?

	Will lower prescription drug prices in the U.S.	Will not make a difference	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	24	52	24
Reps	48	23	29
Dems	6	76	18

POLQ6. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010, known commonly as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	51	45	4
Reps	14	82	4
Dems	87	9	4

POLQ7. In terms of how well the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, has been working, do you think over the past year it has been working better, worse, or about the same?

	Better	Worse	About the same	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	12	33	50	5
Reps	7	43	43	7
Dems	15	24	55	6

(Asked of likely voters who think the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare has been working better/worse over the past year)
POLQ8. Who do you think is most responsible for this? (President Trump and the Republicans), (the Democrats), or someone else?

POLQ7/POLQ8 Combo Table I
Based on likely voters who believe the ACA has been working better; n=150

	Total likely voters	Reps	Dems
President Trump and the Republicans are most responsible	21	Not enough cases for analysis (n<50)	10
The Democrats are most responsible	59		77
Someone else is most responsible	20		12
Don't know/Refused	*		1

POLQ7/POLQ8 Combo Table II
Based on likely voters who believe the ACA has been working worse; n=396

	Total likely voters	Reps	Dems
President Trump and the Republicans are most responsible	32	11	78
The Democrats are most responsible	51	78	7
Someone else is most responsible	15	10	14
Don't know/Refused	2	1	1

POLQ9. The Trump administration is expanding the availability of health plans that cover fewer benefits and offer fewer protections for people with pre-existing conditions compared to the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. These plans are typically less expensive for younger and healthier people but may result in higher premiums for older and sicker people. Do you favor or oppose allowing insurers to sell these plans?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	29	62	9
Reps	48	39	13
Dems	13	83	4

POLQ10. Do you think the federal government should play a major role, a minor role, or no role in trying to make the health care system in the US work better?

	Major role	Minor role	No role	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	59	24	16	1
Reps	37	35	27	1
Dems	83	12	4	1

POLQ11. Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, or is that not the responsibility of the federal government?

	It is the responsibility of the federal government	It is NOT the responsibility of the federal government	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	54	44	2
Reps	21	77	2
Dems	88	10	2

POLQ12. Do you think abortion should be…?

	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	27	31	27	10	5
Reps	11	20	47	19	3
Dems	40	42	10	4	4

POLQ13. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current health insurance system in the United States with an insurance program in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one government insurance plan like Medicare that is financed by taxpayers?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
Total likely voters	46	49	5
Reps	21	76	3
Dems	70	24	6

(Asked of likely voters who would favor replacing the current health insurance system in the U.S. with an insurance program in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one government insurance plan that is financed by taxpayers; n=557)
POLQ14. Would you still favor this if it meant your own taxes would increase, or would you oppose it if it meant your own taxes would increase?

POLQ13/POLQ14 Combo Table
Based on total likely voters; n=1,201

	Total likely voters	Reps	Dems
Still favor	39	13	63
Oppose	55	82	30
Opposed originally	49	76	24
Oppose if it meant your own taxes would increase	6	6	6
Don't know/Refused	6	5	7