

# Next Steps on Healthcare: What Voters Want

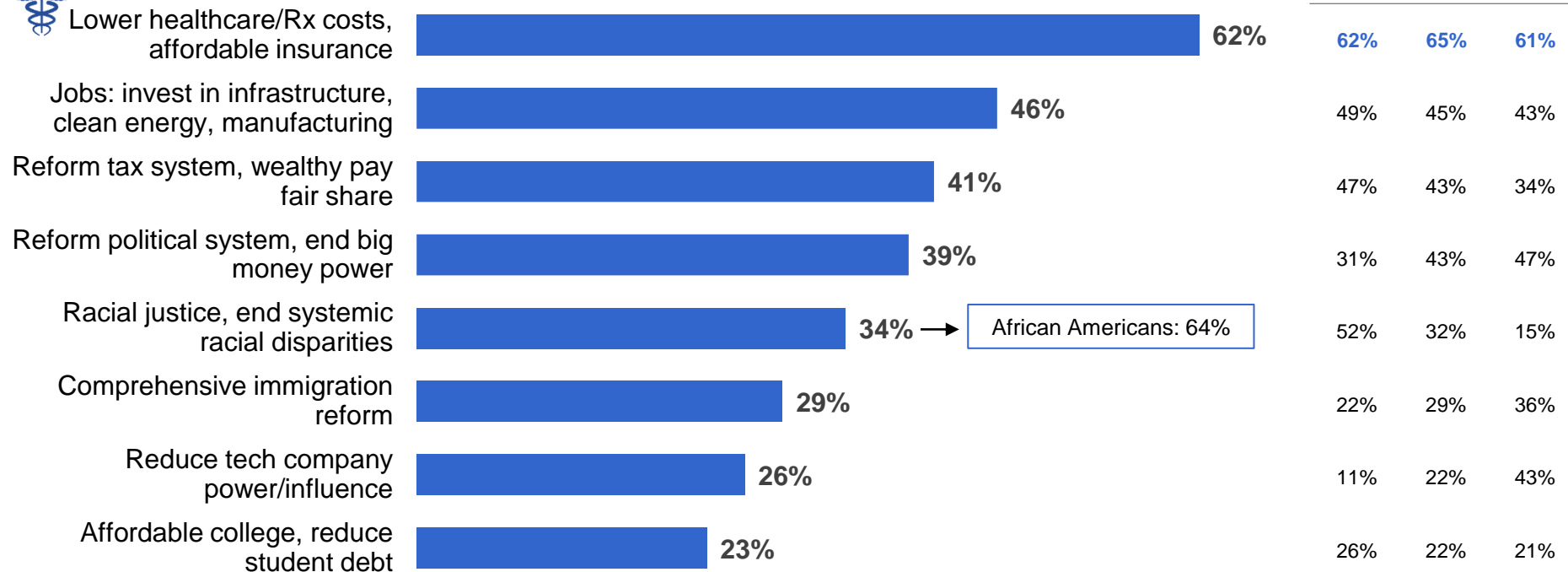
*Key findings from a national survey among 1,200 voters  
Conducted April 14 to 18, 2021 for Protect Our Care*

PROTECT  
OUR CARE

**HART**  
**RESEARCH**  
ASSOCIATES

# Lowering the cost of healthcare and expanding affordable health insurance coverage is a top priority for a large majority of voters.

THREE Most Important Issues (after COVID-19) for President and Congress this Year



# Support for three key Democratic healthcare proposals is both broad and deep.

***Lower cost of health insurance for people who purchase coverage on their own***

***Give Medicare the power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices***

***Give low-income Americans who are uninsured (including seniors, children, disabled) the opportunity to obtain health insurance at little or no cost***

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor

There is more support for lowering the cost of health insurance for “**people who purchase coverage on their own**” than there is when the same proposal is described as lowering the cost for “**people who purchase coverage through the Affordable Care Act.**”



Favor Total/Strong	
Dem	99%/62%
Ind	96%/49%
Rep	88%/43%



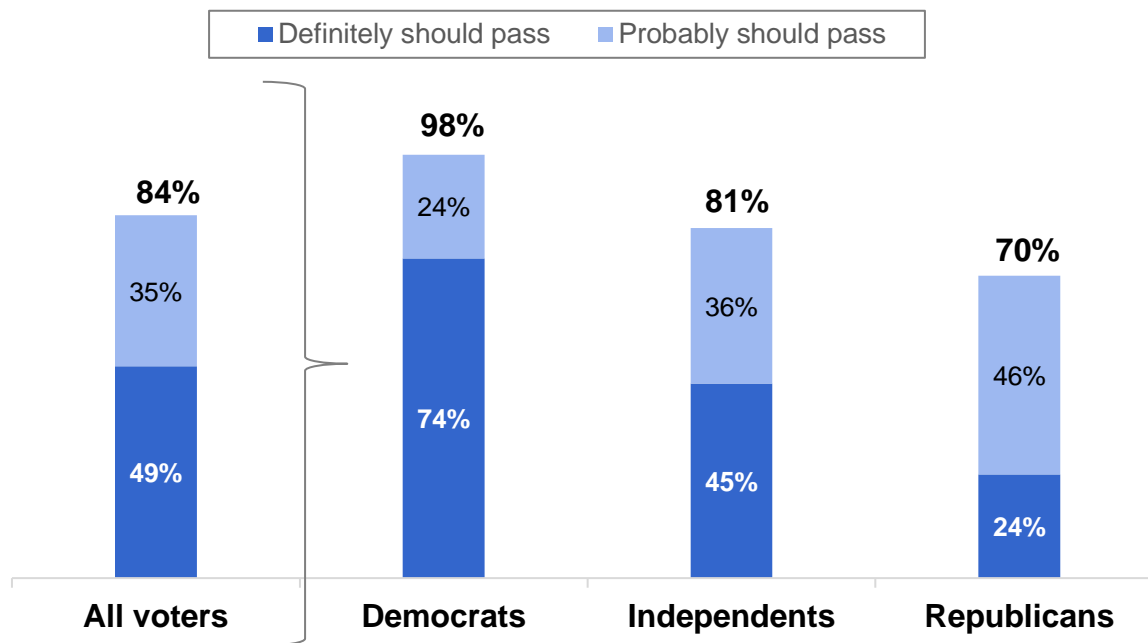
Favor Total/Strong	
Dem	96%/66%
Ind	91%/51%
Rep	90%/42%



Favor Total/Strong	
Dem	99%/75%
Ind	87%/57%
Rep	70%/28%

If these three proposals were combined into a single package to lower the cost of healthcare, majorities across party lines would want Congress to pass it.

*If these healthcare proposals were presented together, I think Congress should pass this healthcare package:*



# Republicans would oppose a Biden-Democratic healthcare package at their peril.

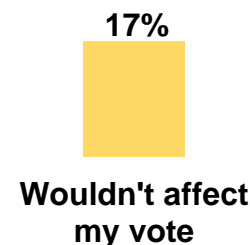
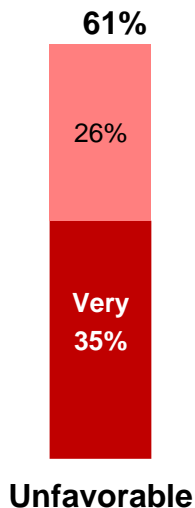
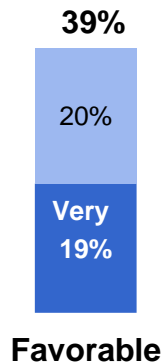
Nearly all Republicans in Congress OPPOSE this healthcare package and plan to vote AGAINST it: How does this make you feel about Republicans in Congress?

If the **Democratic candidate supported** these healthcare proposals and the **Republican candidate opposed** them, would you be more likely to vote for the Democrat or more likely to vote for the Republican in the next election for Congress?

**Unfavorable**

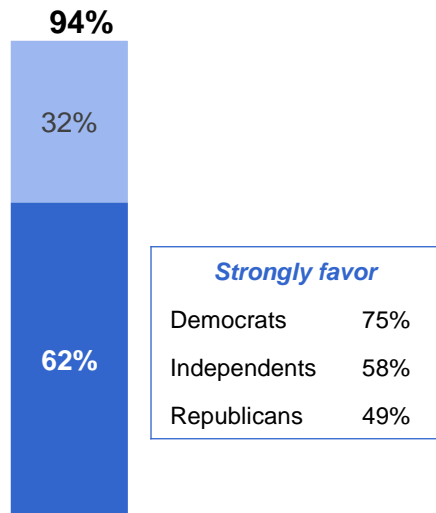
Democrats	86%
Independents	72%
Republicans	32%

	Dem	GOP
Independents	48%	20%
Voters of color	73%	14%

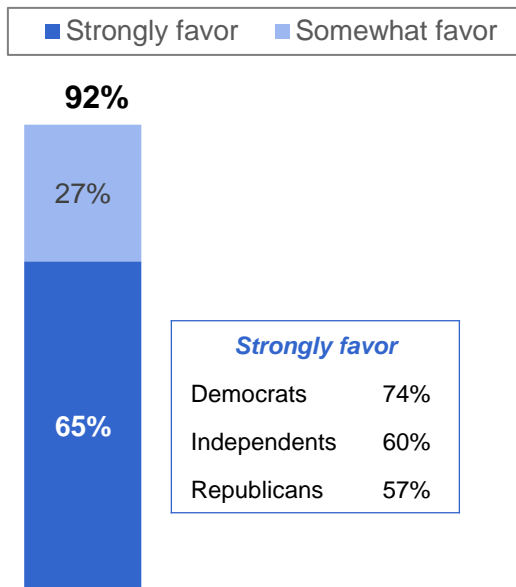


# We also tested enhancements to the core policy of giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower Rx prices, all of which are strongly supported.

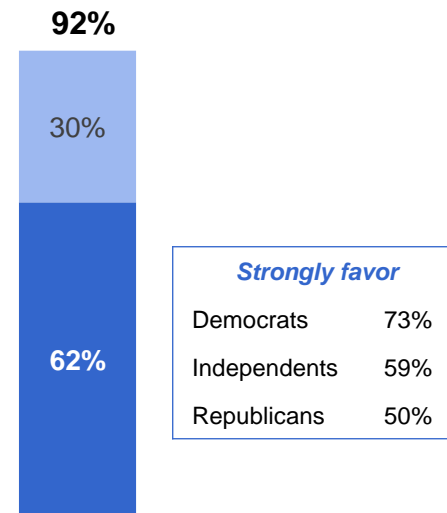
*All Americans will benefit from the lower drug prices negotiated by Medicare, no matter where they get their insurance from.*



*Drug companies would not be allowed to raise prices of existing drugs beyond the rate of inflation.*

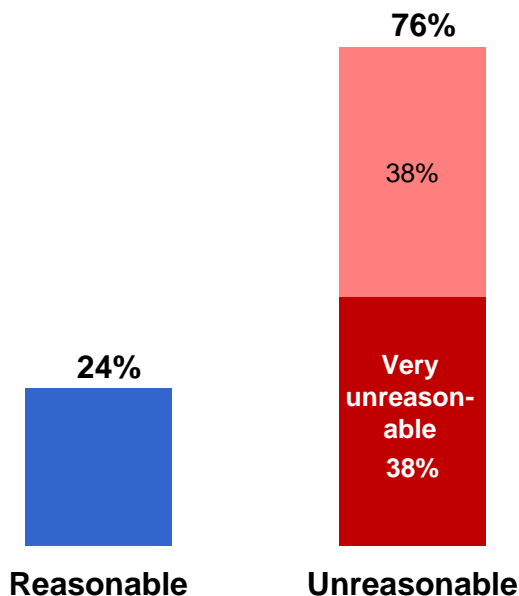


*Drug companies would be required to roll back their price hikes for thousands of drugs.*



# This is underscored by a continued feeling that pharmaceutical companies charge too much for prescription drugs and should be regulated.

*Amount pharmaceutical companies charge for Rx drugs is:*



*Concerning Rx drugs, which worries you more?*

Congress **will not go far enough** to lower the cost of Rx drugs and will allow drug companies to continue charging excessive amounts that make medicines too expensive for many people.



Congress **will go too far** in regulating the cost of Rx drugs and will reduce the ability of companies to invest in the research and development of new life-saving medicines.

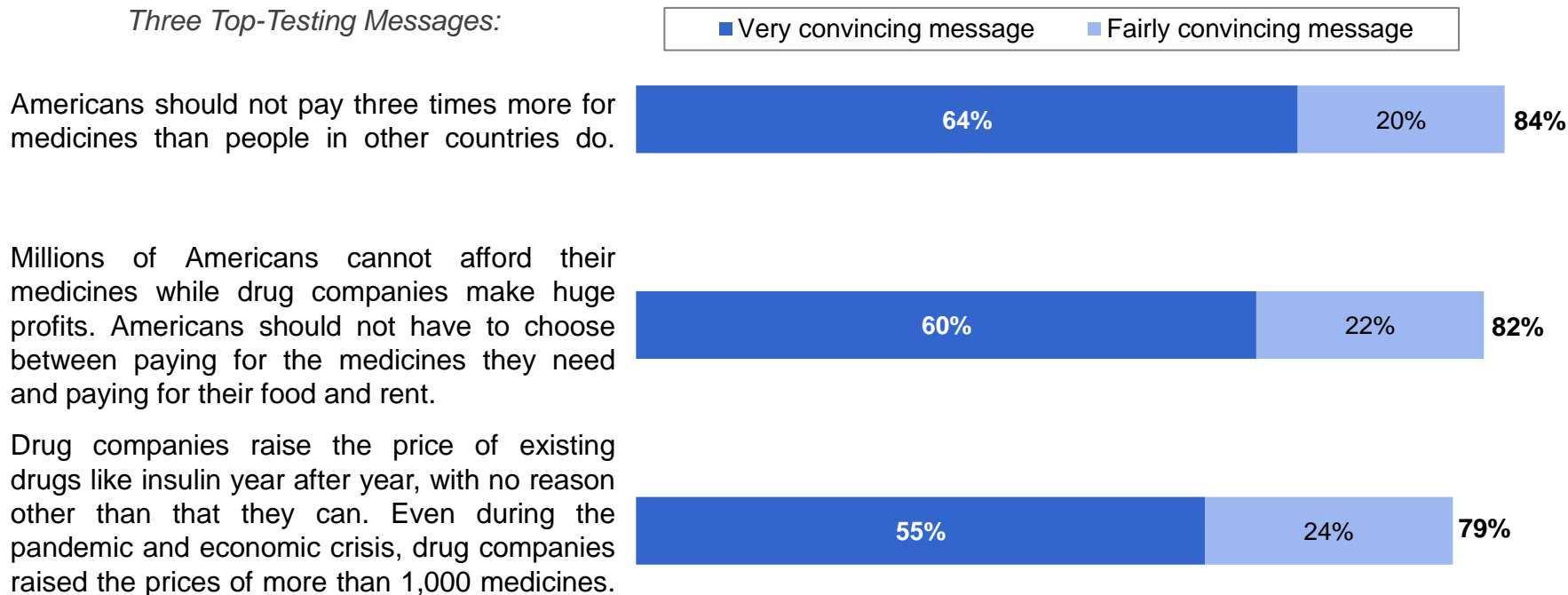


Neither worries me.



# The best messages to support action on drug prices emphasize the unfairness of Americans having to pay higher prices for medicines than people in other countries and the effect this has on the lives of many Americans.

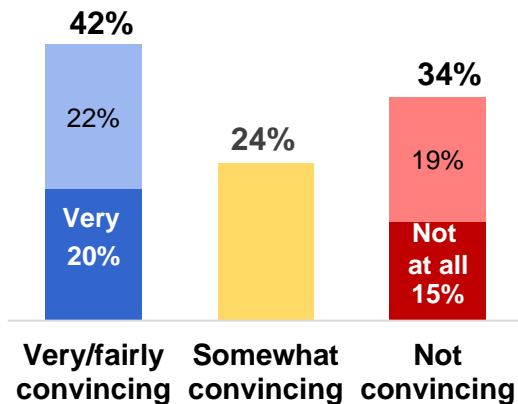
## Three Top-Testing Messages:





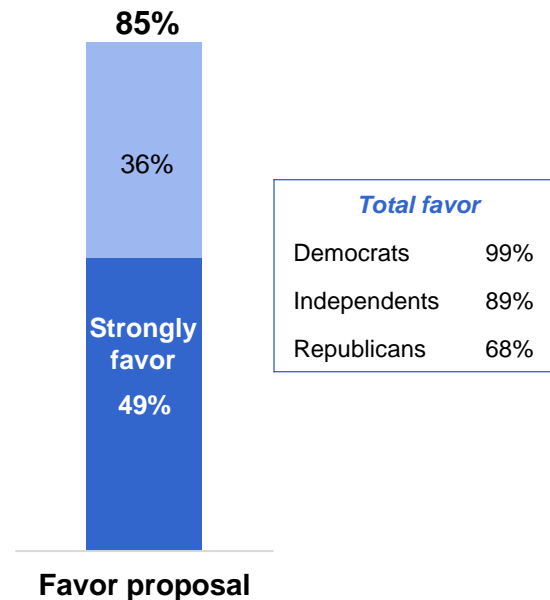
# Every message in favor of action to lower drug prices is far more convincing than an opposing message, and support remains sky-high after voters hear from both sides.

**How convincing is this reason\* to OPPOSE giving Medicare power to negotiate drug prices:**



\*“Americans depend on the pharmaceutical industry to develop new cures and treatments to save lives, just as it did in developing safe and effective coronavirus vaccines. Putting government price controls on medicines will reduce the ability of the drug companies to discover new life-saving cures and treatments for diseases including cancer and Alzheimer’s.”

**Having heard both sides, would you favor or oppose President Biden’s proposal to give Medicare the power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices?**



The best framing of policies to lower premium costs for people who purchase insurance on their own 1) provides specificity about the type of people who will benefit and 2) gives a sense of the scale of how many people will be helped.

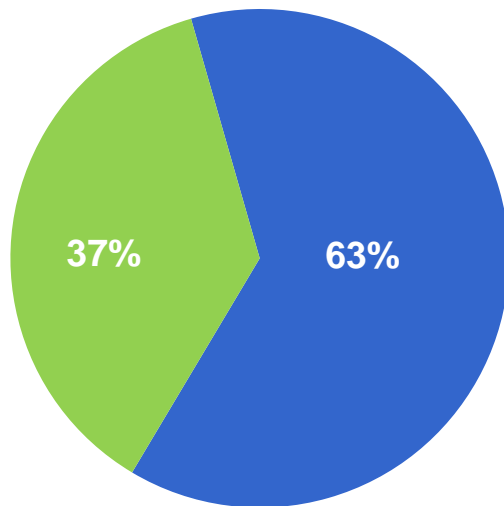
<i>Reaction to statements about proposal to reduce cost of health insurance for people who purchase through the ACA</i>	Very favorable*	Choose as one of top two
This proposal will lower the price of health insurance for millions of middle-class Americans and working families who buy their own insurance, including workers in jobs without benefits and middle-class small-business owners and farmers.	62%	48%
A 60-year-old couple with a household income of \$75,000 will save \$1,389 in monthly premiums—more than \$16,000 in savings a year.	59%	26%
Seven million lower-income Americans will be able to get health insurance with zero premiums as a result of this proposal.	57%	32%
This caps the amount you have to pay in premiums if you buy insurance on your own.	57%	29%
This proposal guarantees that if you buy insurance on your own you will never have to pay more than 8.5% of your income on health insurance premiums.	57%	25%
Black and Hispanic Americans are much more likely than white Americans to be uninsured. This proposal would help close that gap because two-thirds of uninsured Black and Hispanic people would have access to quality coverage with no premiums.	52%	23%
A family of four with a household income of \$120,000 will save \$595 in monthly premiums—more than \$7,000 in savings a year.	53%	17%

\*8-10 on 0-to-10 scale

## By a wide margin, voters would prefer using the savings from drug price negotiations to expand coverage broadly rather than to expand Medicare.

*Giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices will save the federal government hundreds of billions of dollars: which would be the better way to use this savings?*

Lower the Medicare eligibility age to 60 and expand benefits to cover dental, vision, and hearing care



Expand health insurance coverage to millions of Americans of all ages and lower premiums for millions more Americans

	Expand coverage/ lower costs	Expand Medicare
Democrats	75%	25%
Independents	64%	36%
Republicans	51%	49%
Seniors	60%	40%