## Winning on Healthcare: Tapping the Power of an Issue That Hits Home with Voters

Key findings and message recommendations from a survey of 1,002 voters nationally and 601 voters in House battleground districts

## Overview of Key Findings

- Healthcare is a key issue for voters that provides Democrats with an important way to show they are fighting to lower costs for working families and seniors. Democratic healthcare policies are highly popular with voters. There is enormous potential to build support for Democrats by campaigning aggressively on health care.
- The positions Republicans have taken are widely rejected by voters, and that rejection is deepened by communicating the real-world consequences of what Republicans want to do. Democrats can play offense against Republicans on healthcare and take advantage of the Republicans' deep vulnerabilities on the issue.
- Democrats have a dominant upper hand on the issue of drug pricing. Voters are negative to drug companies and support Medicare price negotiations. The messages in favor of giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower prices are strong, and far outweigh the arguments of the pharmaceutical industry and its Republican allies. The Republican policy of letting drug companies charge as much as they can get away with is unsustainable.
- Democrats' proposals to expand pricing reforms to benefit all patients are both widely supported and are seen by voters as something that would benefit them personally.

Key Finding \#1: A large majority of voters say healthcare will be important to their vote, including close to half who say it will be very important.

How important will the issue of healthcare be to you in voting next year?


|  | Total Important | Very important | Fairly important |  | Total Important | Very important | Fairly important |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ALL VOTERS | 80\% | 47\% | 33\% | Men age 18-44 | 80\% | 44\% | 36\% |
| Democrats | 91\% | 63\% | 28\% | Men age 45-64 | 73\% | 42\% | 31\% |
| Independents | 73\% | 42\% | 31\% | Men age 65+ | 76\% | 42\% | 34\% |
| Republicans | 74\% | 34\% | 40\% | Women age 18-44 | 87\% | 53\% | 34\% |
| Presidential swings | 80\% | 42\% | 38\% | Women age 45-64 | 84\% | 53\% | 31\% |
| House swings | 75\% | 35\% | 40\% | Women age 65+ | 78\% | 45\% | 33\% |
|  |  |  |  | White voters | 77\% | 41\% | 36\% |
|  |  |  |  | Black voters | 91\% | 68\% | 23\% |
|  |  |  |  | Hispanic voters | 87\% | 58\% | 29\% |
|  |  |  |  | AAPI/other voters | 86\% | 49\% | 37\% |

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## There is strong agreement that lowering drug prices is an important way to help people afford the cost of living.

"Lowering drug prices and the cost of prescriptions is an important way to help people afford the cost of living."


## The actions President Biden and congressional Democrats have taken on healthcare are extremely popular with voters.

|  | $\square$ Very favor | - Somewhat favorable |  | House battlegrounds |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Capped the cost of insulin for people on Medicare | 51\% | 24\% | 75\% | 80\% |
| Strong new rules to protect patients from surprise medical bills | 46\% | 28\% | 74\% | 72\% |
| Drug company penalties if they raise prices above inflation rate | 49\% | 24\% | 73\% | 71\% |
| Health insurance coverage for mental illnesses same as physical illnesses | 47\% | 26\% | 73\% | 74\% |
| Eliminated out-of-pocket costs for vaccines on Medicare | 47\% | 26\% | 73\% | 74\% |
| Giving Medicare power to negotiate with drug companies | 44\% | 29\% | 73\% | 74\% |
| Major funding increase for research on cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, etc. | 43\% | 27\% | 71\% | 70\% |
| Cracking down on plans that don't cover pre-existing, major medical expenses | 41\% | 27\% | 68\% | 70\% |
| Prevent maternal deaths/improve infant health: full year of Medicaid coverage | 46\% | 22\% | 68\% | 64\% |
| Lowered insurance premiums by $\$ 2,400$ per family for people who buy coverage | 39\% | 23\% 63\% |  | 66\% |
| They capped out-of-pocket prescription costs for people on Medicare to $\$ 2,000$ | 38\% | $25 \%$ 63\% |  | 61\% |
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## There is a favorable response to Biden/Democratic healthcare accomplishments across diverse groups of voters, including many Republicans.

|  | Capped cost of insulin for people on Medicare | Rules to protect from surprise medical bills | Penalties if raise Rx prices above inflation | Cover mental illnesses same as physical | No out-of-pocket for vaccines on Medicare | Medicare negotiate with drug cos |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| All voters | 76\% | 75\% | 74\% | 73\% | 73\% | 73\% |
| Democrats | 88\% | 87\% | 89\% | 86\% | 87\% | 87\% |
| Independents | 74\% | 69\% | 71\% | 72\% | 69\% | 67\% |
| Republicans | 64\% | 65\% | 60\% | 62\% | 62\% | 61\% |
| Presidential swings | 80\% | 72\% | 73\% | 69\% | 72\% | 69\% |
| House swings | 76\% | 73\% | 74\% | 73\% | 73\% | 71\% |
| White voters | 76\% | 75\% | 71\% | 73\% | 72\% | 72\% |
| Black voters | 71\% | 74\% | 78\% | 74\% | 73\% | 68\% |
| Hispanic voters | 84\% | 85\% | 90\% | 82\% | 83\% | 87\% |
| AAPI/ other voters | 69\% | 57\% | 69\% | 65\% | 67\% | 64\% |
| Age 18-34 | 71\% | 74\% | 80\% | 81\% | 73\% | 71\% |
| Age 35-49 | 72\% | 76\% | 71\% | 74\% | 67\% | 67\% |
| Age 50-64 | 80\% | 79\% | 78\% | 77\% | 80\% | 79\% |
| Age 65+ | 79\% | 70\% | 67\% | 63\% | 72\% | 74\% |

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## Key Finding \#2: Republicans are deeply vulnerable on healthcare.

> While Democratic healthcare policies are popular, the positions that nearly all Republicans have backed are widely rejected by voters, and that rejection is deepened by communicating the real-world consequences of what Republicans want to do.
> Democrats can play offense against Republicans on healthcare and take advantage of the Republicans' deep vulnerabilities on the issue.

## Clear majorities of voters say they would be MUCH less likely to vote for a Republican based on key aspects of their healthcare record.

■ Much less likely to vote for $\quad$ Somewhat less likely to vote for
House
Favors allowing drug companies to charge as much as they want for medicines

Voted to severely weaken protections for people with pre-existing health conditions
Voted AGAINST capping insulin costs and how much seniors on Medicare have to pay out of pocket for medicines
Would ban Medicare from negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs

Supports cutting Medicare benefits and raising Medicare eligibility age for future

Vote to cut over $\$ 3$ billion dollars from the agency that administers Medicare
Would take away Medicare's ability to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices


## Key Finding \#3: Drug price reforms, including Medicare price negotiation, is a winning issue for Democrats

$>$ Democrats have a dominant upper hand on the issue of drug pricing. Large majorities of voters are negative to drug companies and voters overwhelmingly support Medicare price negotiations.
$>$ The messages in favor of giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower prices are strong and far outweigh the arguments of the pharmaceutical industry and its Republican allies.
$>$ The Republican policy of letting drug companies charge as much as they can get away with is unsustainable.

## The pharmaceutical industry and drug companies are extremely unpopular.

Opinion of the Pharmaceutical Industry


Opinion of Drug Companies


## Recommendation: Democrats can lean into a fight over drug prices with confidence that their messages beat those of the opposition.

In each pair, which is the more convincing statement? $\quad$\begin{tabular}{c}
Demo- <br>
crats

$\quad$

Inde- <br>
pend- <br>
ents

$\quad$

Repub- <br>
licans
\end{tabular}

Millions of Americans cannot afford their medicines while drug companies make huge profits. Prescription drugs don't work if people can't afford them. It is the responsibility of our leaders to make sure Americans do not have to choose between paying for the medicines they need or paying for food and rent.
 and treatments discovered as a result of investments by the pharmaceutical industry, and government price controls will mean less investment in the discovery of new life-savings cures and treatments for cancer and other diseases. *
 investments by the pharmaceutical industry, and the discovery of new life-savings cures and treatments for cancer and other diseases.

## The bill introduced by House Democrats to extend drug pricing reforms to more Americans is highly popular.

Favorability

Democrats in Congress have proposed new legislation that would expand on the provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act:

1. Giving all Americans the benefit of the $\$ 35$ per month cap on the cost of insulin.
2. Applying the lower prices negotiated by Medicare with drug prices to all insurance plans, so people with employer or individual coverage will benefit.
3. Expanding the number of medicines that will be subject to Medicare price negotiations.
4. Requiring drug companies to pay rebates to all insurance plans, in addition to Medicare, if they raise the price of drugs beyond the rate of inflation.


Impact on my Family

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\(63 \%\) benefit a lot/some, including \(30 \%\) benefit a lot
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[^0]:    Medicare price negotiations are a priority accomplishment for voters 65+. Coverage of mental healthcare costs is a priority for voters under age 50. Action on maternal and infant health is key for Black voters.

