

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Nationwide Mixed Mode<sup>1</sup> Survey Among 1,000 Registered Voters Oversample of Seniors (467 Total) Registered Voters

---

**America is Sick of No Real Solutions for its Healthcare System  
Which Party Will Stand and Deliver?**

**I . Healthcare remains a top concern for Americans, who will consider it alongside other issues as they head to the polls in 2024. Republicans have a double-digit trust deficit on this issue and are seen as having no clear plan for healthcare. Ignoring voter pleas on healthcare could cost them precious political currency, and majority control of Washington.**

- ★ **Healthcare remains a pressing and urgent concern for Americans, with 4-in-10 individuals ranking it as a top or top three issue, while an additional 4-in-10 consider it among their top 10.**
- ★ **By double digits, Democrats are trusted more than Republicans when it comes to lowering health insurance premiums (47% Dems - 31% GOP) and lowering prescription drug costs (47% Dems - 34% GOP)**
- ★ **6-in-10 disagree with the statement, “The Republican party has a clear plan to reform healthcare and lower healthcare costs” (28% agree).**
  - Just a quarter of Seniors and suburban voters and only 15% of Independents say Republicans have a clear plan for healthcare reform.
- ★ **Republicans need a modern plan and a fresh playbook on healthcare for a post Obamacare repeal and replace world.** Republicans should not cede this issue, which makes up nearly a fifth of the U.S. economy,<sup>2</sup> affects every American, and claims a majority of women as its consumers and providers.
- ★ **Bolstering credibility and increasing action on healthcare is sound policy and smart politics.** Post-COVID, Republicans finally went on offense on education, exposing failure, exulting the stakeholders (schoolchildren) and elevating free-market alternatives to conventional schools. Now many polls show the two major political parties are parity or within the margin of error on the matter of which does better handling the issue. This reversed a decades-long double-digit advantage for Democrats on education, an advantage they still enjoy with respect to healthcare. Recent polling shows healthcare<sup>3</sup> is one of three issues where Democrats and Biden still maintain a significant lead.

---

<sup>1</sup> 50% online, 35% Cell phone, 15% Landline

<sup>2</sup> [Healthcare Spending Will be One-Fifth of the Economy within a Decade \(pgpf.org\)](https://www.pgpf.org/healthcare-spending-will-be-one-fifth-of-the-economy-within-a-decade)

<sup>3</sup> [Fox News Poll: Who is leading the presidential race and other frequently asked questions about 2024 | Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/poll/2024/05/01/fox-news-poll-who-is-leading-the-presidential-race-and-other-frequently-asked-questions-about-2024)

**II. To cure the healthcare system, we must first know what (Americans think) ails it.**

- ★ **Despite a majority of Americans reporting recent visits to a doctor for checkups or conditions, a significant percentage encounter challenges related to healthcare affordability and coverage.** Approximately 2-in-10 individuals indicate facing obstacles such as unaffordable hospital bills, doctor visits, or prescription medicines. Relatedly nearly 1-in-5 respondents report being unable to secure a prescription because it wasn't covered by insurance.
  - Those responsible for managing healthcare within their households express similar struggles with affordability and access (ample coverage).
  
- ★ **There is no single remedy to healthcare concerns in the United States because there is no one symptom. Survey respondents expressed unease about various aspects of the healthcare system.**
  - **Top Concerns:**
    - 16% cost of monthly premium payment
    - 10% amount paid in deductibles
    - 10% surprise medical bills
    - 7% cost paid when filling or refilling prescription drugs
    - 6% cost of hospital services
    - 32% **all of the above**
    - 11% **none of the above**
  
  - Demographic breakdowns reveal nuanced patterns in healthcare concerns.
    - Seniors aged 65 and above, along with individuals responsible for managing healthcare decisions within their households, are more likely to express broad concerns encompassing *all* aspects of healthcare.
    - Conversely, respondents aged 30-49 and those who have declined care due to cost are more likely to focus on the affordability of healthcare, including premiums, deductibles, surprise bills, prescription costs, and hospital services.
  
- ★ **Nearly 6-in-10 voters nationwide agree that they are not receiving adequate value for the price they pay for healthcare coverage; a third say the ROI is fair.**
  - *"I pay a lot for my healthcare coverage, and I don't feel like I am getting what I pay for, because my insurance still makes me pay too much for medicine, treatments, and services."* **(58% Agree - 34% Disagree)**

## KAConsulting, LLC on behalf of Commitment to Seniors

- Parents of kids under age 18 (67%), those who manage healthcare decisions for family members (60%), those who care for family members on Medicare/Medicaid (59%), and those who could not get care because of costs (70%) are more likely to agree with this statement.

### **III. The Inflation Reduction Act, clocking in at \$750 billion, was passed on a purely partisan vote and has been criticized as being “excessive government spending”, “a misnomer that does not reduce inflation”, “a green energy/climate bill.” What’s missing is a fact-based, passionate criticism of it as negatively impacting healthcare.**

- ★ **The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, touted by Democrats as a solution to curb rising costs, faces significant skepticism from the American public regarding its efficacy in reducing inflation and “making healthcare more affordable”<sup>4</sup>. Across various demographic groups, a substantial majority believes the IRA has exacerbated rather than alleviated economic pressures, particularly concerning items like groceries, energy, and health insurance.**

- 8-in-10 say **grocery costs have increased** since the IRA became law
- 7-in-10 say the same about the price of **gas and home energy**
- 6-in-10 agree when it comes to **health insurance**
- And a plurality (48%) claim the same about **prescription drugs – still just 8% say their prescription drug prices have decreased**
- Vast majorities of Republicans, Independents, Seniors, and Suburban voters say **costs have skyrocketed for everyday essentials, energy, and health insurance since the IRA was signed into law.**
- Of those who say health insurance and/or prescription drug costs have increased, a majority place the blame on the “**government getting more involved in healthcare**” (32%) and “**insurance companies**” (27%).

- ★ **Facts and figures move minds when it comes to the impact of IRA on healthcare. Over 6-in-10 are less likely to support the Biden-Harris-Democrats signature domestic policy when exposed to any and all of 8 true statements:**

- *The treatments and drugs currently being researched and tested will be influenced by the government rather than patient needs. (64% less*

---

<sup>4</sup> [CHAIRMAN JEFFRIES STATEMENT ON HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT | House Democrats \(dems.gov\)](#)

**likely to support IRA - 18% more likely to support IRA)**

- *The IRA cut Medicare by nearly \$300 billion to fund Democrat priorities like healthcare for illegal migrants, subsidies for big health insurers, and tax credits for electric vehicles. **(64% less likely to support IRA - 18% more likely to support IRA)***
- *Inflation has not been reduced, in fact, Medicare prescription drug insurance premiums have already increased by 20% and are on track to increase by another 20% next year. **(64% less likely to support IRA - 18% more likely to support IRA)***
- *This is having a real-world impact. Due to the Inflation Reduction Act, the CEO of CVS Health recently announced on its earnings call that CVS would begin focusing on reducing health insurance benefits for consumers, increasing health insurance prices, and exiting certain markets to make up their profit losses. **(64% less likely to support IRA - 20% more likely to support IRA)***
- *The IRA spends \$3 billion to fund hundreds of new government bureaucrats who will determine the costs and availability of drugs, inserting more government control between you and your doctor. **(63% less likely to support IRA - 19% more likely to support IRA)***

**IV. There is an unmistakable call for decisive action to address the pressing issue of exorbitant healthcare costs, reflecting a shared concern among Americans for fairer drug pricing and increased consumer protection.**

- ★ **Opposition to the IRA is just a piece of it; the GOP must also finish their sentences and deliver meaningful, measurable healthcare reform that provides more options, higher quality and lower costs.** As Republicans learned in the 2022 midterm election, they must lead with solutions, not problems, with specifics, not one-word generalities. Here we tested numerous solutions – like market-based strategies that would lower prescription drug prices without giving government bureaucrats more money and power.
- ★ **Passing Discounts Directly to Patients:**
  - *We need to ensure that all price discounts negotiated between drug manufacturers and insurance companies get passed along directly to patients at the pharmacy counter. **(86% agree)***
- ★ **Market-Based Strategies for Older Medicines:**

## KAConsulting, LLC on behalf of Commitment to Seniors

- *We need a market-based approach that would lower the cost of all medicines that have been on the market for more than 13 years without competition, so they automatically get priced the same as cheaper, more affordable generic drugs. **(83% agree)***

### ★ **Enhanced Congressional Oversight:**

- *We need greater Congressional oversight on health insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers to ensure that they are not overcharging Medicare and Medicaid. **(78% agree)***

### ★ **Simplified Price Reduction Processes:**

- *Instead of spending \$3 billion in taxpayer money and hiring hundreds of bureaucrats to make decisions better left to doctors, Congress should develop a simple process to lower prices for seniors when competition has not worked. **(78% agree)***

### ★ **Lowering Medicare Premiums:**

- *Congress should take action to reduce Medicare premiums which increased by 20 percent this year and are on track to increase another 20 percent next year. **(77% agree)***

## V. Political currency to be had if the GOP is bold enough to collect it.

- ★ The data underscores a resounding mandate from voters, transcending demographic divides, for congressional candidates to prioritize specific actions in healthcare reform. Additionally, it sheds light on key determinants influencing voter allegiance to candidates.
- ★ Top Priority Actions for Congressional Candidates:
  - **Empowering patients with more choices, reduced costs, and improved care:** An overwhelming **84% of voters endorse candidates championing these objectives, signaling a demand for patient-centric healthcare solutions that foster competition and affordability.**
    - *Provide more choices, lower costs, and better care for patients directly.*
  - **Upholding the sanctity of the patient-doctor relationship:** A significant **79% majority supports candidates advocating for healthcare decisions to remain between patients and their doctors, free from undue government intrusion.** This reflects a staunch commitment to preserving individual liberties and healthcare autonomy.
    - *Believes that the Federal Government should stay out of your doctor's office. Healthcare decisions should be made between you and your doctor, not the bureaucrats in Washington DC.*

- **Ensuring fair distribution of medication savings to patients: Three-fourths of voters (75%) back candidates advocating for increased transparency and fairness in medication pricing, highlighting a widespread desire for cost-sharing practices.**
  - *Believes that insurance companies and their pharmacy benefit manager middlemen should share more of the savings they get on medicines directly with patients.*
- **Strengthening oversight to combat fraud and abuse in healthcare systems:** A substantial 75% majority of voters prioritize candidates who pledge to enhance Congressional scrutiny of health insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers, signaling a collective resolve to root out inefficiencies and safeguard taxpayer funds.
  - *Calls for greater Congressional oversight of health insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers on fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid.*
- ★ **Rejection of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA):** A majority (55%) of voters express a preference for candidates committed to overturning the IRA, echoing concerns over its perceived failure to address *healthcare inflation* effectively and durably.
  - Notably, this sentiment is shared by significant proportions of Seniors (50%) and Independents (52%).
- ★ **The lexicon voters' demand for healthcare policies centered on choice, affordability, individual autonomy, and accountability.** Candidates aligning with and articulating these principles stand poised to earn widespread support across party lines.