



Curing the Health Care Headache

**WHAT VOTERS THINK ABOUT HEALTH CARE COSTS,
PROVIDERS, AND THE RIGHT TO SHOP**

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Overview Of Findings

Voters see medical bills as unpredictable, confusing, and potentially devastating.

Voters don't believe that providers or insurers are looking out for the best interest of the patient.

Voters are natural comparison shoppers and they want to use these skills to reduce their medical costs.



Voters Are Natural Comparison Shoppers

88% of voters say they compare prices before making purchases in their everyday lives.

Q: How often do you compare prices before making everyday purchases?



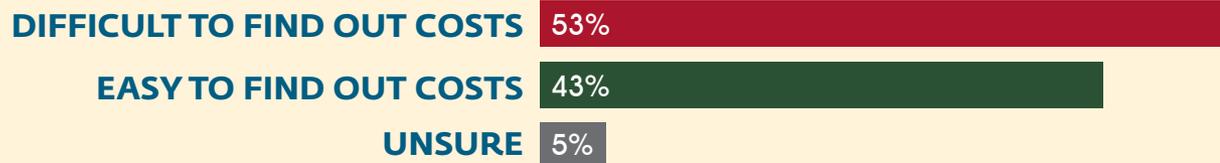
- I comparison shop on most purchases
- I comparison shop on large purchases
- I never comparison shop
- Unsure



Medical Costs Are A Waiting Game

A majority of voters say they have a difficult time getting medical costs before their visits. Instead, they have to wait for bills to arrive later.

Q: Do you think it's easy to find out how much a doctor's visit, x-ray, blood work or other medical services cost ahead of time so that you can comparison shop for the best value?



61% of independent voters say it's difficult to get cost information in advance.



Medical Bills Are A Guessing Game

When medical bills arrive, they're confusing, according to a majority of voters.

Q: Do you generally have trouble understanding medical bills?



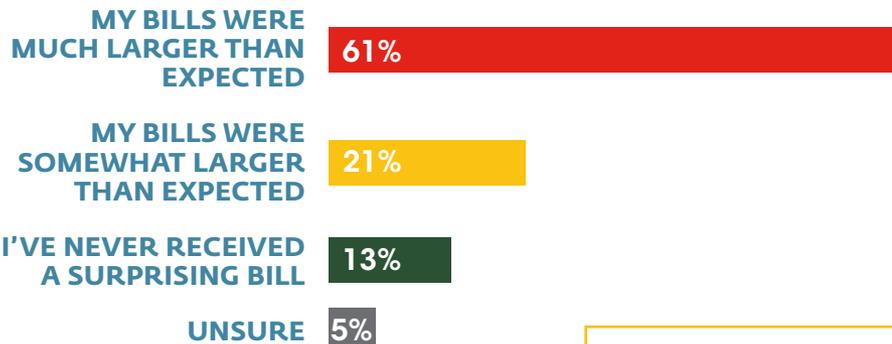
55% of Democrats and **50%** of Republicans say medical bills are confusing.



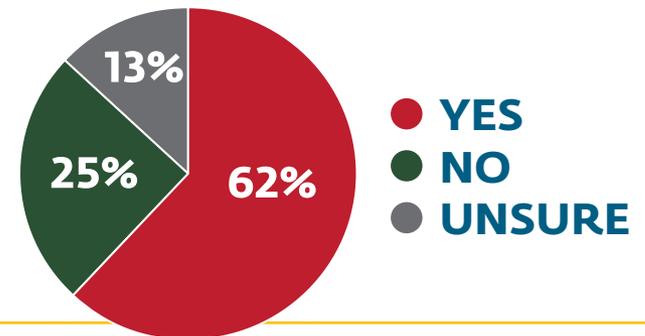
Medical Bills Can Be Devastating

A large majority of voters have been surprised by medical bills they received. 82% of all voters say they've received bills larger than they expected.

Q: Have you ever been surprised by the amount of a medical bill you received?



Q: Would it be difficult if you had to pay your entire health care deductible this month?



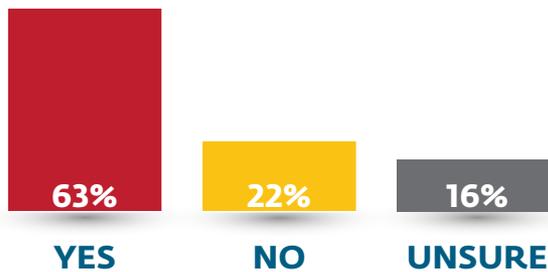
62% say it would be difficult to pay their entire deductible in one month.



Voters Don't Trust Providers To Look Out For Their Best Interest

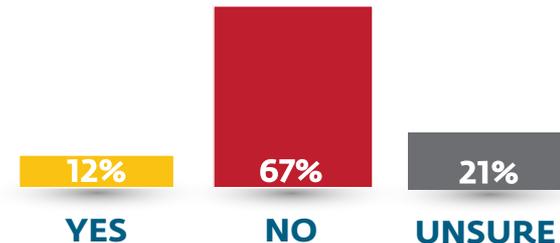
Voters overwhelmingly feel like providers charge significantly different prices, even if they're using the same equipment and facilities.

Q: Do you think medical providers charge significantly different prices, even if using the same equipment and facilities?



Voters don't think they're getting better quality care just because they're paying more.

Q: Do you think higher-cost health care providers always provide better quality than lower-cost providers?



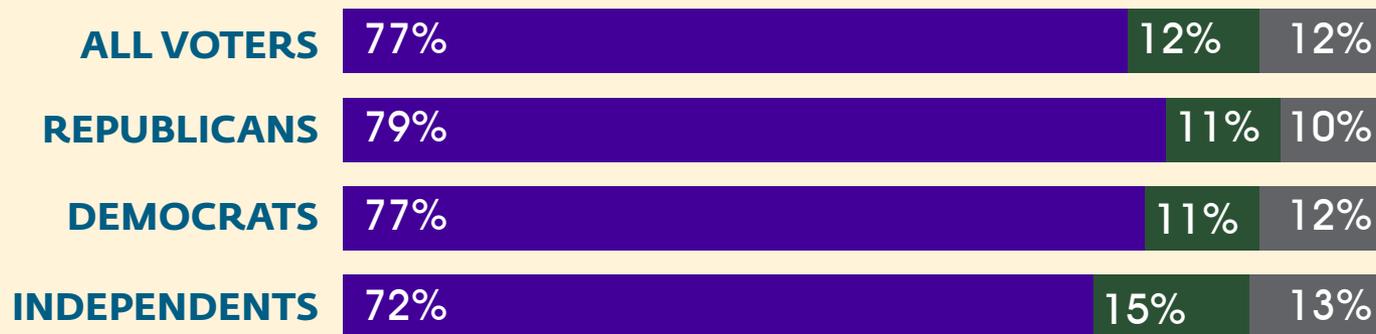
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Just **31%** of all voters think their insurance company is working on their behalf to keep health care costs low.

Voters Want the Right to Shop

Voters want to be able to shop and compare prices for health care in order to save money.

Q: If you knew that comparison shopping before getting an x-ray, blood work, or other medical services could save you money, would you be more or less likely to compare costs beforehand?



● More likely to shop

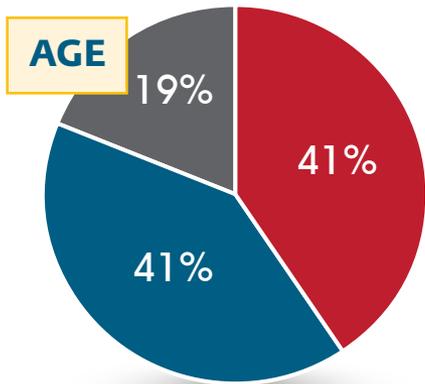
● Less likely to shop

● Unsure

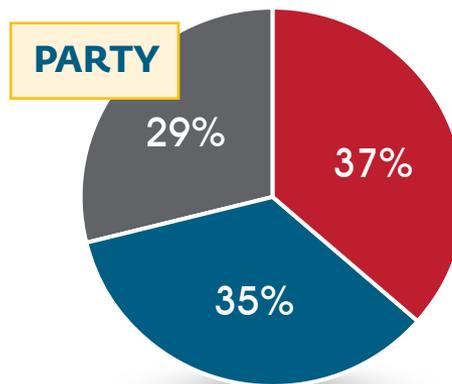


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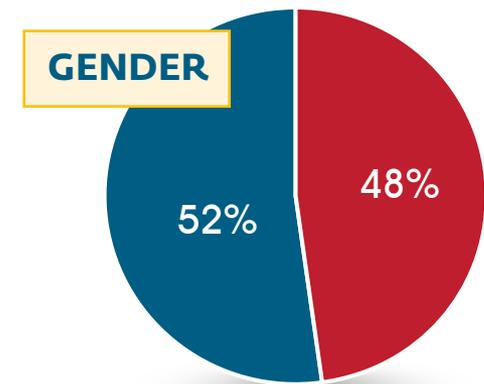
Respondent Demographics



● 18-44 ● 45-64 ● 65+



● Democrat ● Republican ● Independent



● Male ● Female

METHODOLOGY

Results for this poll are based on automated telephone interviews conducted among a multi-state sample of 549 likely voters. Data for this survey research was collected by Cor Strategies Inc.

Interviews were conducted via a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system utilizing techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation. The surveys were conducted September 21-28, 2015. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4.18 percentage points. The margin of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups. Results presented may not always appear to total 100 percent due to rounding.

Data was sampled using weighted demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement and states' official election authorities. Demographic information for actual voters in past elections were used to construct sample target weights.

The Foundation for Government Accountability paid for all costs associated with this survey.

