# Polling on Universal Care 

JULY 2019

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Full poll report available at www.VariedStrengths.com

Total per Capita Inflation Adjusted Health Care Expenditures


Total Food, Clothing, Shelter and Health Care as a \% of Personal Consumption


## DRAFT TOPLINE DATA

| SAMPLE: 402 Registered Voters in Oregon |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| SAMPLE FRAME: Registered Voter List |  |
| MARGIN OF SAMPLING ERROR: $\pm 5 \%$ at the $95 \%$ level of confidence |  |
| DATA COLLECTION: | Mixed mode <br> 202 Land line telephone with live interviewers 100 Cell phone with live interviewers 100 completed the survey online |
| FIELD DATES: July 17-21, 2019 |  |
| PARTY REGISTRATION | Democrat 35\% Republican 25\% Other 40\% |
| - The questions are presented here as they were asked in the interview <br> - The figures in bold type are percentages of respondents who gave each answer. <br> - The data have been statistically adjusted by age and party ID <br> - Percentages may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding. |  |

1 These first questions are about the health care system including how we pay for it: Overall, how would you rate the health care system? Would you say it is... 9 Excellent
39 Satisfactory
30 Unsatisfactory
17 Poor
5 DK/NA

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About half say that the current system is unsatisfactory or poor.

2 The following are some things that people have mentioned as problems with the health care system. As I read each one, tell me whether you see that as a Major problem, a Minor problem or Not a Problem with the health care system in the United States. The first one is...[INSERT LIST].

| ROTATE | MAJ | MIN | NOT | DK |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A The increasing cost of health care to individuals, <br> governments, and businesses. | 81 | 13 | 4 | 2 |
| BThe complexity of the system - including referrals, <br> approvals, confusing bills, and unpredictable charges. <br> C The number of people in our state who do not have regular <br> access to health care or face financial crisis due to medical <br> costs. | 72 | 22 | 6 | 2 |
| D The overall quality of health care in America, as measured <br> by such things as life expectancy, infant mortality and <br> other health outcomes. | 43 | 34 | 18 | 6 |
| E The fact that health care is significantly tied to an |  |  |  |  |
| employer. |  |  |  |  |$\quad 46$

Is the increasing cost of health care a problem?


5 There are several different ways universal care could be achieved, and I am going to ask you about some of these. But first, do you think that universal health care in the US is:
49 Both Desirable and Achievable
26 Desirable, but not Achievable
21 Not Desirable $\rightarrow$ SKIPTQ 07
4 DK/NA $\rightarrow$ SKIP TO 07

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21 Not Desirable $\rightarrow$ SKIP TQ 07
4 DK/NA $\rightarrow$ SKIPTO 07
$75 \%$ said universal health care is desirable.

8 I am going to describe a proposal that could be placed on the ballot. It would establish full, lifetime health care - including vision, dental and hearing - for every person in Oregon. Under this plan, you would pay no direct medical costs - that is, no private insurance premiums, co-pays or deductibles. Instead, you would pay a new state health care tax, and a state agency would pay all medical costs.
Which of these statements best describes your initial reaction to this proposal?
21 I would support it
45 I am inclined to support it, but it depends on the details.
10 I am inclined to oppose it, but it depends on the details.
19 I would oppose it.
5 Not Sure

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10 I am inclined to oppose it, but it depends on the details.
19 I would oppose it.
5 Not Sure
$66 \%$ show support for a new health care tax paid to a state agency.

10 Oregon households and businesses currently spend over 16 billion dollars a year on health care. The total amount raised by Oregon's income tax is about 6 billion dollars. This means that funding universal health care for everyone in Oregon would require an additional health care tax of two to three times as much as you pay in state income tax.

However, under this plan, a typical household would pay less for the new tax than they currently pay in total for premiums and health care expenses. And everyone in the state would have healthcare.

People with employer-paid health care would pay less tax because employers who currently pay for insurance premiums would be required to pay part of the health care tax for their employees.

As things stand today, would you be inclined to:
22 Definitely vote for such a proposal
41 Probably vote for it
9 Probably vote against it
21 Definitely vote against such a proposal
7 DK/NA

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62\% would definitely or probably vote in favor.

Majority Support for Oregon Health Care Tax Holds
in All Five Congressional Districts


1. Suzanne Bonamici
2. Greg Walden
3. Earl Blumenauer
4. Peter DeFazio
5. Kurt Schrader

Support for Health Care Tax by House Districts



## Why does this poll show higher support?

The problem approach?
Language of the questions?
Oregon voters are different from national voters?
State vs. federal program?

## ELWAY CONCLUSIONS

"It is easier to tell a pollster that one favors a new health care tax than it is to actually vote for one. Still, with 6 in 10 respondents open to a measure that would eliminate or replace private insurance, establish a new state agency and a new health care tax to fund it, these findings indicate that Oregon voters are ready to have that discussion."

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