

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Bernie Pinsonat, Southern Media & Opinion Research, (225) 405-6797

Poll Shows Two-thirds of La. Voters Oppose Obama on Health-Care Reform

Survey shows most voters don't believe reform will lower costs

BATON ROUGE, La. – About two thirds of Louisiana voters are opposed to President Obama's health-care reform efforts, according to a new survey by Southern Media & Opinion Research Inc.

The poll showed that generally, Louisiana voters believe they would be worse off if health care is offered through the government. They also believe the deficit will increase, and they don't want to fund reform through higher taxes.

Moreover, the survey showed that the majority of Louisiana residents are satisfied with their current health care and health insurance.

The survey was conducted via telephone interview among 600 likely Louisiana voters chosen at random. The interviews took place Aug. 20-23, and the results have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.

Among the key findings:

- 62 percent of all respondents oppose the president's reform proposals, while only 31 percent are in favor.
- 79 percent of black respondents favor the president's reform effort, while 8.8 percent were opposed and 12 percent were undecided or didn't respond. Among white respondents, 81.5 percent are opposed, while 14 percent were in favor.
- 80 percent of all respondents said they were "very satisfied" or satisfied with their current health care, while 78 percent said they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with their current health insurance.
- 53.8 percent of all respondents said they believe health-care reform is necessary. Among black voters, 85 percent favor reform, while 53 percent of white voters are in favor and 42 percent are opposed.

ADD ONE

- 70 percent of all respondents said they are unwilling to fund health-care reform with higher taxes – 77 percent of whites and 51 percent of blacks.
- Less than 24 percent of all respondents believe government-provided health care would lower costs.
- Nearly 70 percent of all respondents said they would oppose government-provided health insurance if it would increase the national deficit.
- Doctors are most trusted when it comes to health-care reform (percentage?). Congressional Democrats were least trusted. Congressional Republicans are somewhat more trusted than Democrats. Fifty-eight percent of white voters said they don't trust President Obama in reforming health care.

“President Obama has been very critical of insurance companies,” Pinsonat said. “But here in Louisiana, voters trust insurance companies far more than they trust President Obama.”

The poll was commissioned by a coalition of Louisiana businesses concerned about the affects of health-care reform efforts.

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