# THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS OF TAX REFORM AND OTHER DOMESTIC ISSUES 

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Top Priorities for Congress ..... 3
II. Tax Policy ..... 4
III. Health Care Policy ..... 6
IV. Prescription Drug Prices and Policy ..... 9
V. Food Policy ..... 11

# The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues 

## Part I: Top Priorities for Congress

Though it is President Trump's top stated priority for the fall, a new poll by POLITICO and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health finds the majority (89\%) of Americans have heard little or nothing about it. Despite a lack of public familiarity with the tax proposal, the public has a general view about it $-47 \%$ favor it and $38 \%$ oppose it.

Of importance for the upcoming Congressional debate, this top priority for the President is not very salient for the general public as a whole. When given ten domestic issues that might be a priority for the Congress during the rest of the year, cutting federal taxes for individuals and businesses ranks seventh for the public, and third for Republicans (Table 1).

Table 1: Americans' Top Priorities for Congress Through the End of the Year, by Party Identification

|  | \% saying extremely important priority |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Critical Domestic Issues | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| Taking action to lower prescription drug prices | 40 | 30 | 51 | 36 |
| Raising the current $\$ 7.25$ an hour federal <br> minimum wage | 33 | 14 | 42 | 29 |
| Reducing the budget deficit and overall federal <br> spending | 30 | 36 | 29 | 30 |
| Taking action to repeal and replace the <br> Affordable Care Act, also known as the <br> ACA or Obamacare | 26 | 53 | 18 | 21 |
| Increasing spending to improve the nation's <br> roads, bridges, airports, and other infrastructure | 24 | 18 | 29 | 24 |
| Investigating Russia's involvement in the 2016 <br> U.S. election | 23 | 10 | 44 | 18 |
| Reducing federal taxes on individuals and <br> businesses | 20 | 34 | 11 | 22 |
| Increasing spending on national defense | 17 | 33 | 15 | 12 |
| Limiting immigration into the U.S. | 14 | 27 | 10 | 13 |
| Building a wall along the Mexican border to <br> help stop illegal immigration into the U.S. | 11 | 28 | 6 | 6 |

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## Part II: Tax Policy

The same partisan divisions shown in Table 1 are seen when asking the public's views of whether the President's tax cut proposal will improve the economy and create more jobs. As shown in Table 2, the public is evenly divided. However, $78 \%$ of Republicans feel it will improve the economic situation vs. $27 \%$ of Democrats.

Table 2: The Public's Views on Whether President Trump's Tax Cut Proposal Will Improve the Economy and Create More Jobs or Not, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Improve | 45 | 78 | 27 | 45 |
| Not improve | 46 | 13 | 69 | 47 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 9 | 9 | 4 | 8 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

When asked whether the President's tax proposal would help them financially, 43\% thought it would, and $53 \%$ thought it would not (Table 3). Most Republicans thought it would help them ( $64 \%$ ) whereas only $29 \%$ of Democrats thought they would be helped. Few ( $21 \%$ ) thought they would be helped a lot by the President's tax cut proposal.

Table 3: The Public's Views on Whether President Trump's Tax Cut Proposal Would Help Them Financially, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Would help | 43 | 64 | 29 | 44 |
| Help a lot | 21 | 38 | 10 | 23 |
| Help a little | 22 | 26 | 19 | 21 |
| Would not help | 53 | 28 | 69 | 52 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 4 | 8 | 2 | 4 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

When asked about its potential impact on different income groups, over half (52\%) of the public sees the President's proposed tax plan as mostly benefitting high-income households (Table 4). But once again, each party's constituency sees the issue differently. The majority of Republicans ( $57 \%$ ) believe it would mostly benefit middle-income households, whereas the majority of Democrats say high-income households (77\%).

Table 4: The Public's Views on Which Income Group President Trump's Tax Plan Would Benefit the Most, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| High-income households | 52 | 19 | 77 | 51 |
| Middle-income households | 29 | 57 | 15 | 26 |
| Low-income households | 10 | 12 | 5 | 13 |
| All equally/ None (vol) | 4 | 6 | $*$ | 5 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

The poll also asked the public about a number of other major policy issues relating to the federal government's lowering of pharmaceutical prices, their preferences for the future of health reform legislation, and views on a number of key public health related food policies in the news recently.

## Part III: Health Care Policy

Congress did not enact any legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or Obamacare. When the public was asked what they thought Congress should do next about the ACA, about half (51\%) thought they should try again to develop an alternative plan. Most Republicans ( $71 \%$ ) favored this approach, while most Democrats (57\%) thought Congress should move on to other issues (Table 5).

Table 5: The Public's Views on What Congress Should Do Next about the ACA,
by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Try again to develop an alternative <br> plan to the ACA | 51 | 71 | 39 | 50 |
| Move on to other issues | 45 | 26 | 57 | 46 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

One alternative plan that could be considered along with other options is replacing the current health insurance system in the U.S. with a single-payer system, in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one national government plan. As shown in Table 6, the public is evenly divided on this plan, with most Republicans opposing it ( $62 \%$ ) and most Democrats favoring it (60\%).

Table 6: The Public's Views on Replacing the Current Health Insurance System with a Single-Payer System, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 45 | 32 | 60 | 42 |
| Oppose | 47 | 62 | 35 | 50 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 8 | 6 | 5 | 8 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Of significance for the future debate, when you change the term from "single-payer" to "Medicare for all Americans", public support increases substantially from 45\% to 66\% (Table 7).

Table 7: The Public's Views on Replacing the Current Health Insurance System with a National Plan Like Medicare, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 66 | 44 | 80 | 67 |
| Oppose | 28 | 48 | 15 | 28 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 6 | 8 | 5 | 5 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

The caveat which may prove critical in the years ahead is the resistance by a share of the public to paying additional taxes for these alternative health plans. As shown in Table 8, when asked if they would still favor these alternative plans if it meant their own taxes would increase, support falls to less than a majority in both descriptions $-31 \%$ for a single-payer system vs. $44 \%$ for a national plan like Medicare.

Table 8: The Public's Views on Replacing the Current Health Insurance System if Their Own Taxes Would Increase, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor replacing the current health <br> insurance system in the United States <br> with a taxpayer-funded national plan <br> like Medicare, which would cover all <br> Americans | 66 | 44 | 80 | 67 |
| Favor even if it meant your own <br> taxes would increase | 44 | 26 | 63 | 41 |
| Favor replacing the current health <br> insurance system in the United States <br> with a single-payer system, in which <br> all Americans would get their health <br> insurance from one national <br> government plan | 45 | 32 | 60 | 42 |
| Favor even if it meant your own <br> taxes would increase | 31 | 18 | 48 | 25 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Among other alternative options to the current legislation is allowing people between the ages of 55 and 64 to have the choice of purchasing Medicare coverage. This is supported by eight in ten ( $81 \%$ ) of the general public (Table 9).

Table 9: The Public's Views on Allowing People Age 55 to 64 to Have the Choice of Purchasing Medicare Coverage, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 81 | 79 | 80 | 83 |
| Oppose | 15 | 17 | 15 | 14 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

As part of the overall debates, some states are considering adding work requirements for some people who receive health insurance through Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low-income people. As shown in Table 10, most of the public ( $72 \%$ ) favors requiring low-income, able-bodied adults without young children to work in order to receive Medicaid benefits.

Table 10: The Public's Views on Requiring Low-Income, Able-Bodied Adults Without Young Children to Work in Order to Receive Medicaid Benefits, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 72 | 84 | 64 | 77 |
| Oppose | 24 | 10 | 32 | 18 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

## Part IV: Prescription Drug Prices and Policy

In the POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health poll, government taking action to lower prescription drug prices was the highest ranked public priority for Congressional action (Table 1). It ranked much higher than other issues receiving attention by the Congress today.

As shown in Table 11, an overwhelming percentage of the public ( $88 \%$ ) favors the federal government negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to lower the prices of prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare.

However, also shown in Table 11, support substantially declines if it meant that because of these government-negotiated lower prices some pharmaceutical companies might choose to not sell certain prescription drugs to seniors through Medicare. This is a consequence which has been raised in prior national debates.

When given this scenario, only $38 \%$ of the public favors government negotiations of prescription drug prices for those on Medicare.

## Table 11: The Public's Views on Government Negotiating with Pharmaceutical Companies to Lower Prices of Prescription Drugs for Seniors on Medicare, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor the federal government negotiating <br> with pharmaceutical companies to lower the <br> prices of prescription drugs for seniors on <br> Medicare | 88 | 86 | 89 | 87 |
| Favor even if it meant that because of <br> these government-negotiated lower <br> prices, some pharmaceutical companies <br> might choose to not sell certain <br> prescriptions drugs to seniors through <br> Medicare | 38 | 35 | 38 | 40 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Another possible way of reducing prescription drug costs and giving consumers more choices is allowing importation of prescription drugs and medical devices that have been approved by countries with different standards such as Canada and European countries, but have not been approved for safety and effectiveness by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA.

As shown in Table 12, Americans are divided on this potential solution to lowering prescription drug prices, with more favoring (51\%) than opposing (42\%).

Table 12: The Public's Views on Allowing Importation of Prescription Drugs and Medical Devices That Have Been Approved by Countries with Different Standards Such as Canada and European Countries But Have Not Been Approved for Safety and Effectiveness by the FDA, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 51 | 51 | 49 | 53 |
| Oppose | 42 | 44 | 44 | 42 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 7 | 5 | 7 | 5 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

In addition to these issues, the poll asked whether people believe addition to prescription painkillers or opioids in the U.S. is a crisis, a serious problem but not a crisis, or not a problem at all. There has been a call for President Trump to name it a national crisis.

As shown in Table 13, slightly less than half of Americans (45\%) currently view this issue as a national crisis, despite it having been labeled so by many national organizations and public figures.

Table 13: The Public's Views on the Seriousness of Opioid Addiction in the U.S., by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Crisis | 45 | 43 | 50 | 43 |
| Serious problem but not a crisis | 41 | 42 | 38 | 45 |
| Not so serious | 7 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| Not a problem at all | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

## Part V: Food Policy

Food policy issues have become issues of significant controversy across the country. Across many communities, there are debates over what should be the government's role in improving people's diets in order to reduce obesity.

As shown in Table 14, there is no overall consensus on this question. Almost equal numbers support more (31\%), less (30\%), or about the same (36\%) regulation of people's diets.

Table 14: The Public's Views on Government Regulation to Try to Improve People's Diets in Order to Reduce Obesity, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| There should be more | 31 | 18 | 42 | 31 |
| There should be less | 30 | 47 | 16 | 31 |
| About the same amount | 36 | 31 | 40 | 36 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

One area of food policy controversy is over the question of taxing soda and sugary beverages to raise money for pre-school and children's health programs and help address the problem of obesity.

As shown in Table 15, the general public supports (57\%) this tax measure, but it is opposed by more than half of Republicans (53\%).

Table 15: The Public's Views on Taxing Soda and Other Sugary Drinks to Raise Money for Pre-School and Children's Health Programs and Help Address the Problem of Obesity, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 57 | 44 | 63 | 57 |
| Oppose | 39 | 53 | 32 | 39 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

As to the question of whether government should require chain restaurants to post calorie counts on their menus, as shown in Table 16, once again the public is evenly split with most Democrats favoring ( $57 \%$ ) and most Republicans opposing (57\%).

Table 16: The Public's Views on Requiring Chain Restaurants to Post Calorie Counts on Their Menus, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 49 | 43 | 57 | 48 |
| Oppose | 49 | 57 | 41 | 50 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 2 | - | 2 | 2 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Another area of contention in food policy is whether there should be federal government regulation of how much whole grain, sugar and fats, fruits and vegetables public school lunches have, or should it be left to local school districts to decide their own standards.

As shown in Table 17, the majority of the public (63\%) favors local school districts setting their own lunch standards.

Table 17: The Public's Views on Federal Government Regulation of How Much Whole Grain, Sugar and Fat, Fruits and Vegetables Public School Lunches Have, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Support federal government <br> regulation | 34 | 21 | 44 | 35 |
| Local school districts should be able <br> to decide their own lunch standards | 63 | 79 | 51 | 62 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 3 | - | 5 | 3 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Another area of food policy controversy relates to federal government food assistance programs for low-income Americans. Two issues are being debated. The first is a possible ban on using food stamps or SNAP benefits to purchase soda or sugary beverages. Again, as shown in Table 18, public opinion is essentially evenly divided on this question with slightly more opposing ( $51 \%$ ) than favoring ( $47 \%$ ).

Table 18: The Public's Views on a Ban on Using Food Stamps or SNAP Benefits to Purchase Soda and Sugary Beverages, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 47 | 47 | 43 | 51 |
| Oppose | 51 | 52 | 55 | 48 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

The second issue relates to views on permitting states to require low-income Americans to work in order to receive food stamps or SNAP benefits. In this case, nearly three quarters (74\%) of the public supports some sort of a work requirement for food assistance coverage (Table 19).

Table 19: The Public's Views on Permitting States to Require Low-Income, Able-Bodied Adults Without Young Children to Work in Order to Receive Foods Stamps or SNAP, by Party Identification

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor | 74 | 92 | 68 | 71 |
| Oppose | 22 | 7 | 28 | 24 |
| Don't know/ Refused | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 |

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues, August 30 - September 3, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Probably the most significant finding of this food policy series of questions is the support for a tax on sugary beverages. The results suggest more interest in this source of revenue for communities in the future.

## METHODOLOGY

The results are based on polling conducted by Politico and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Representatives of the two organizations worked closely to develop the survey questionnaires and analyze the results of the polls. Politico and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health paid for the surveys and related expenses.

The project team was led by Robert J. Blendon, Sc.D., Richard L. Menschel Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Joanne Kenen, Executive Editor, Health Care at Politico/Politico Pro. Harvard research team also included John M. Benson, Logan S. Casey, and Justin M. Sayde.

Interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1,016 randomly selected adults, ages 18 and older, via telephone (including cell phones and landlines) by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. The interviewing period was August 30 - September 3, 2017. The data were weighted to reflect the demographics of the national adult population as described by the U.S. Census.

When interpreting these findings, one should recognize that all surveys are subject to sampling error. Results may differ from what would be obtained if the whole U.S. adult population had been interviewed. The margin of error for the full sample is $\pm 3.8$ percentage points. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is $\pm 5.3$ percentage points.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response in telephone surveys produces some known biases in surveyderived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by household size, cell phone/landline use and demographics (sex, age, race/ethnicity, education, and region) to reflect the true population. Other techniques, including random-digit dialing, replicate subsamples, and systematic respondent selection within households, are used to ensure that the sample is representative.

## Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Poll The Public's Views of Tax Reform and Other Domestic Issues

This survey was conducted for Politico and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health via telephone by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted via telephone (cell phone and landline) August 30 - September 3, 2017, among a nationally representative sample of 1,016
U.S. adults. The margin of error for total respondents is $\pm 3.8$ percentage points at the $95 \%$ confidence level. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is $\pm 5.3$ percentage points.

More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com.

## PRIORITIES

PO-01. The country faces a number of critical domestic issues. Here is a list of some things Congress could work on during the rest of the year, keeping in mind that Congress can work on only a few of these issues at a time. For each one, please tell me if you think it SHOULD BE a priority, or SHOULD NOT BE a priority. (If a priority) And should [insert item] be an extremely important, very important, or only somewhat important priority?

## (Asked of half-sample $A ; n=517$ )

a. Taking action to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 26 | 53 | 18 | 21 |
| Very important priority | 20 | 26 | 9 | 25 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 10 | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Should not be a priority | 40 | 16 | 60 | 38 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 | - | 3 | 6 |

(Asked of half-sample $A ; n=517$ )
b. Increasing spending to improve the nation's roads, bridges, airports, and other infrastructure

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 24 | 18 | 29 | 24 |
| Very important priority | 37 | 34 | 37 | 40 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 17 | 26 | 19 | 10 |
| Should not be a priority | 20 | 21 | 14 | 23 |
| Don't know/Refused | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

## (Asked of half-sample $\mathbf{A ; n = 5 1 7 )}$

c. Reducing federal taxes on individuals and businesses

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 20 | 34 | 11 | 22 |
| Very important priority | 24 | 28 | 19 | 24 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 18 | 15 | 14 | 24 |
| Should not be a priority | 33 | 20 | 51 | 24 |
| Don't know/Refused | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 |

(Asked of half-sample A; n=517)
d. Raising the current $\$ 7.25$ an hour federal minimum wage

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 33 | 14 | 42 | 29 |
| Very important priority | 26 | 16 | 35 | 26 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 9 | 11 | 10 | 8 |
| Should not be a priority | 29 | 55 | 12 | 35 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

(Asked of half-sample $A ; n=517$ )
e. Building a wall along the Mexican border to help stop illegal immigration

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 11 | 28 | 6 | 6 |
| Very important priority | 9 | 22 | 3 | 8 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 9 | 17 | 4 | 8 |
| Should not be a priority | 67 | 31 | 87 | 75 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 | 2 | $*$ | 3 |

(Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )
f. Limiting immigration into the U.S.

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 14 | 27 | 10 | 13 |
| Very important priority | 17 | 21 | 11 | 17 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 10 | 12 | 8 | 11 |
| Should not be a priority | 55 | 37 | 68 | 53 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 | 3 | 3 | 6 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $\mathbf{n = 4 9 9 \text { ) }}$

g. Reducing the budget deficit and overall federal spending

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 30 | 36 | 29 | 30 |
| Very important priority | 33 | 46 | 20 | 36 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 15 | 11 | 18 | 13 |
| Should not be a priority | 19 | 7 | 29 | 18 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3 | - | 4 | 3 |

(Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )
h. Increasing spending on national defense

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 17 | 33 | 15 | 12 |
| Very important priority | 25 | 35 | 16 | 26 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 13 | 13 | 9 | 15 |
| Should not be a priority | 42 | 17 | 56 | 43 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 |

(Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )
i. Taking action to lower prescription drug prices

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 40 | 30 | 51 | 36 |
| Very important priority | 31 | 34 | 30 | 32 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 13 | 12 | 7 | 20 |
| Should not be a priority | 14 | 24 | 12 | 10 |
| Don't know/Refused | 2 | - | $*$ | 2 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )

j. Investigating Russia's involvement in the 2016 U.S. election

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Extremely important priority | 23 | 10 | 44 | 18 |
| Very important priority | 13 | 1 | 21 | 12 |
| Only somewhat important priority | 10 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| Should not be a priority | 51 | 79 | 26 | 56 |
| Don't know/Refused | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

## TAXES

## (Asked of half-sample A; $\mathbf{n = 5 1 7}$ )

PO-02. President Trump recently proposed a new tax plan. Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing about his tax proposal?

|  | A lot | A little | Nothing | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 10 | 43 | 46 | 1 |
| Rep | 8 | 44 | 48 | $*$ |
| Dem | 11 | 45 | 43 | 1 |
| Ind | 11 | 44 | 44 | 1 |

(Asked of half-sample $A ; n=517$ )
PO-03. President Trump's tax proposal would lower tax rates for individuals and families that now pay federal income taxes, reduce the number of tax brackets, and lower rates for businesses. It would double the standard deduction that individuals can take without having to itemize on their tax forms. In addition, Trump has proposed eliminating many income tax deductions except mortgage interest and charitable contributions. That could include ending the deduction for state and local taxes, work-related deductions for the self-employed and the tax break for employerprovided health insurance. Do you favor or oppose this tax proposal?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 47 | 38 | 15 |
| Rep | 71 | 14 | 15 |
| Dem | 26 | 58 | 16 |
| Ind | 50 | 37 | 13 |

## (Asked of half-sample $\mathbf{A ; n = 5 1 7 )}$

PO-04. If it is enacted, do you think President Trump's tax proposal will improve the economy and create more jobs, or not?

|  | Yes, will <br> improve | No, will not <br> improve | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 45 | 46 | 9 |
| Rep | 78 | 13 | 9 |
| Dem | 27 | 69 | 4 |
| Ind | 45 | 47 | 8 |

## (Asked of half-sample $\mathbf{A ; ~ n = 5 1 7 ) ~}$

PO-05. If it is enacted, do you think President Trump's tax proposal will help you or your family financially or not? (If think it would help) Do you think it will help a lot or a little?

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| If it is enacted, President Trump's tax proposal <br> will help you or your family financially | 43 | 64 | 29 | 44 |
| Help a lot | 21 | 38 | 10 | 23 |
| Help a little | 22 | 26 | 19 | 21 |
| Will not help | 53 | 28 | 69 | 52 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 | 8 | 2 | 4 |

(Asked of half-sample $A ; n=517$ )
PO-06. Who do you think will benefit the most from President Trump's tax plan?

|  | Low-income <br> households | Middle- <br> income <br> households | High- <br> income <br> households | None <br> (Vol.) | All <br> equally <br> (Vol.) | Don't <br> know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 10 | 29 | 52 | $*$ | 4 | 5 |
| Rep | 12 | 57 | 19 | - | 6 | 6 |
| Dem | 5 | 15 | 77 | $*$ | - | 3 |
| Ind | 13 | 26 | 51 | 1 | 4 | 5 |

## (Asked of half-sample A; $\mathbf{n}=\mathbf{5 1 7}$ )

PO-07. As part of this effort to lower the federal tax rates for many taxpayers, the President and Congress are considering cutting in half the amount of mortgage interest homeowners can deduct from their taxes from $\$ 1$ million to $\$ 500,000$. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 48 | 39 | 13 |
| Rep | 67 | 24 | 9 |
| Dem | 39 | 48 | 13 |
| Ind | 47 | 42 | 11 |

## HEALTH CARE

PO-08. Congress did not enact any legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. What do you think Congress should do next about the ACA, or Obamacare?

|  | Try again to <br> develop an <br> alternative plan <br> to the ACA | Move on to other <br> issues | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 51 | 45 | 4 |
| Rep | 71 | 26 | 3 |
| Dem | 39 | 57 | 4 |
| Ind | 50 | 46 | 4 |

## (Asked of half-sample C; $n=496$ )

PO-09. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current health insurance system in the United States with a taxpayer-funded national plan like Medicare, which would cover all Americans?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 66 | 28 | 6 |
| Rep | 44 | 48 | 8 |
| Dem | 80 | 15 | 5 |
| Ind | 67 | 28 | 5 |

## (Asked of half-sample C; $n=496$ )

PO-09. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current health insurance system in the United States with a taxpayer-funded national plan like Medicare, which would cover all Americans? (If favor)
PO-10. Would you still favor this if it meant your own taxes would increase, or would you oppose it if it meant your own taxes would increase?

P0-09/PO-10 Combo Table
Based on half-sample C; $n=496$

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor even if it meant your own taxes would <br> increase | 44 | 26 | 63 | 41 |
| Oppose (NET) | $\mathbf{4 7}$ | $\mathbf{6 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 9}$ | $\mathbf{5 1}$ |
| Oppose replacing the current health <br> insurance system in the United States with a <br> taxpayer-funded national plan like Medicare, <br> which would cover all Americans | 28 | 48 | 15 | 28 |
| Oppose if it meant your own taxes would <br> increase | 19 | 17 | 14 | 23 |
| Don't know/Refused | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 |

## (Asked of half-sample $\mathbf{D ; ~} \mathbf{n = 5 2 0}$ )

PO-11. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current health insurance system in the United States with a single-payer system, in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one national government plan?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 45 | 47 | 8 |
| Rep | 32 | 62 | 6 |
| Dem | 60 | 35 | 5 |
| Ind | 42 | 50 | 8 |

(Asked of half-sample $D ; n=520$ )
PO-11. Would you favor or oppose replacing the current health insurance system in the United States with a single-payer system, in which all Americans would get their health insurance from one national government plan?
(If favor)
PO-12. Would you still favor this if it meant your own taxes would increase, or would you oppose it if it meant your own taxes would increase?

P0-11/PO-12 Combo Table Based on half-sample D; $\mathbf{n = 5 2 0}$

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor even if it meant your own taxes would <br> increase | 31 | 18 | 48 | 25 |
| Oppose (NET) | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 2}$ | $\mathbf{4 5}$ | $\mathbf{6 4}$ |
| Oppose replacing the current health <br> insurance system in the United States with a <br> single-payer system, in which all Americans <br> would get their health insurance from one <br> national government plan | 47 | 62 | 35 | 50 |
| Oppose if it meant your own taxes would <br> increase | 12 | 10 | 10 | 14 |
| Don't know/Refused | 10 | 10 | 7 | 11 |

## (Asked of half-sample A; n=517)

PO-13. Currently Medicare covers people age 65 and over. Do you favor or oppose allowing people between the ages of 55 and 64 to have the choice of purchasing Medicare coverage?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 81 | 15 | 4 |
| Rep | 79 | 17 | 4 |
| Dem | 80 | 15 | 5 |
| Ind | 83 | 14 | 3 |

## (Asked of half-sample A; n=517)

PO-14. Some states are considering adding work requirements for some people who receive health insurance through Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low-income people. Do you favor or oppose requiring low-income, able-bodied adults without young children to work in order to receive Medicaid benefits?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 72 | 24 | 4 |
| Rep | 84 | 10 | 6 |
| Dem | 64 | 32 | 4 |
| Ind | 77 | 18 | 5 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $\mathbf{n = 4 9 9 )}$

PO-15. Would you favor or oppose the federal government negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to lower the prices of prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 88 | 11 | 1 |
| Rep | 86 | 13 | 1 |
| Dem | 89 | 9 | 2 |
| Ind | 87 | 11 | 2 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )

PO-15. Would you favor or oppose the federal government negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to lower the prices of prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare?
(If favor)
PO-16. Would you still favor this if it meant that because of these government-negotiated lower prices, some pharmaceutical companies might choose to not sell certain prescriptions drugs to seniors through Medicare?

P0-15/PO-16 Combo Table Based on half-sample B; $n=499$

|  | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor even if it meant that because of these government-negotiated lower prices, some pharmaceutical companies might choose to not sell certain prescriptions drugs to seniors through Medicare | 38 | 35 | 38 | 40 |
| Oppose (NET) | 54 | 58 | 53 | 54 |
| Oppose the federal government negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to lower the prices of prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare | 11 | 13 | 9 | 11 |
| Oppose if it meant that because of these government-negotiated lower prices, some pharmaceutical companies might choose to not sell certain prescriptions drugs to seniors through Medicare | 43 | 45 | 44 | 43 |
| Don't know/Refused | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $\mathbf{n = 4 9 9}$ )

PO-17. As a way of reducing prescription drug costs and giving consumers more choices, do you favor or oppose allowing importation of prescription drugs and medical devices that have been approved by countries with different standards such as Canada and European countries, but have not been approved for safety and effectiveness by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't <br> know/Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 51 | 42 | 7 |
| Rep | 51 | 44 | 5 |
| Dem | 49 | 44 | 7 |
| Ind | 53 | 42 | 5 |

(Asked of half-sample $A ; n=517$ )
PO-18. Do you believe addiction to prescription painkillers or opioids in the U.S. is a crisis, a serious problem but not a crisis, not so serious, or not a problem at all?

|  | A crisis | A serious <br> problem <br> but not a <br> crisis | Not so <br> serious | Not a <br> problem <br> at all | Don't <br> know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 45 | 41 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Rep | 43 | 42 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Dem | 50 | 38 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Ind | 42 | 45 | 6 | 6 | 1 |

## FOOD POLICY

## (Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )

PO-19. Do you think there should be more, less, or about the same amount of government regulation to try to improve people's diets in order to reduce obesity?

|  | More | Less | About the <br> same | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 31 | 30 | 36 | 3 |
| Rep | 18 | 47 | 31 | 4 |
| Dem | 42 | 16 | 40 | 2 |
| Ind | 31 | 31 | 36 | 2 |

(Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )
PO-20. Eight major cities, including Philadelphia and San Francisco, have passed taxes on soda and other sugary beverages to raise money for pre-school and children's health programs and to help address the problem of obesity. Do you favor or oppose taxing soda and other sugary drinks for this purpose?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 57 | 39 | 4 |
| Rep | 44 | 53 | 3 |
| Dem | 63 | 32 | 5 |
| Ind | 57 | 39 | 4 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )

PO-21. Some people have proposed having the government require chain restaurants to post calorie counts on their menus. They believe it would help encourage healthier eating habits in response to the nation's obesity problem. But others believe this should not be required because it would raise costs for the businesses and increase prices charged to consumers. Do you favor or oppose the government requiring chain restaurants to post calorie counts on their menus?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 49 | 49 | 2 |
| Rep | 43 | 57 | - |
| Dem | 57 | 41 | 2 |
| Ind | 48 | 50 | 2 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )

PO-22. School lunch programs serve nearly 30 million American children each day and are largely funded with federal tax dollars. Do you support the federal government regulating how much whole grains, sugar and fat, fruits and vegetables public school lunches have, or should local school districts be able to decide their own lunch standards?

|  | Support federal <br> government <br> regulation | Local school <br> districts to <br> decide | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 34 | 63 | 3 |
| Rep | 21 | 79 | - |
| Dem | 44 | 51 | 5 |
| Ind | 35 | 62 | 3 |

(Asked of half-sample B; $\mathbf{n}=499$ )
PO-23. Do you favor or oppose permitting states to require low-income, able-bodied adults without young children to work in order to receive food stamps, often called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance or SNAP?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 74 | 22 | 4 |
| Rep | 92 | 7 | 1 |
| Dem | 68 | 28 | 4 |
| Ind | 71 | 24 | 5 |

## (Asked of half-sample B; $n=499$ )

PO-24. Do you favor or oppose a ban on using food stamps or SNAP benefits to purchase soda and sugary beverages?

|  | Favor | Oppose | Don't know/ <br> Refused |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 47 | 51 | 2 |
| Rep | 47 | 52 | 1 |
| Dem | 43 | 55 | 2 |
| Ind | 51 | 48 | 1 |

