

THE PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TRUMP IN THE POST- THANKSGIVING PERIOD

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Top Priorities for Congress and President Trump.....	3
II.	The Affordable Care Act.....	5
III.	Tax Policy	7
IV.	Opioid Abuse.....	9

THE PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TRUMP IN THE POST-THANKSGIVING PERIOD

PART I: TOP PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TRUMP

In an era when many have concluded that the debate of health care has receded, a new poll by POLITICO and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health finds that for both Republicans and Democrats a health care issue tops their list of priorities for Congress and President Trump. When given a list of 15 domestic policy issues that have been identified in the media as potential action items for Congress and the President during the rest of the year, trying again to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the number one priority for Republicans. For Democrats, the top priority is renewing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Republicans and Democrats differ on their other top priorities as well. For Republicans, in addition to repealing and replacing the ACA, the other two top issues are limiting unauthorized immigration into the U.S. and reducing federal taxes on individuals and businesses. For Democrats, in addition to renewing CHIP, the other two top priorities are enacting stricter gun laws and increasing hurricane relief for Puerto Rico.

Of interest, at a time of intense negotiation between the United States, Mexico, and Canada over the future of NAFTA, that issue ranks as a low priority overall and for both parties' adherents (Table 1).

Table 1: The Public's Top Priorities for Congress and President Trump to Work on During the Rest of 2017, by Party Identification

Critical Domestic Issues	% saying <i>extremely important</i> priority			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Renewing funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, a combined federal-state program that funds health insurance for low-income children who are not in Medicaid	36	13	48	37
Increasing hurricane relief aid to Puerto Rico	31	19	43	30
Taking action to lower prescription drug prices	30	28	39	25
Enacting stricter gun laws	29	8	47	24
Fixing the current problems in the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare	28	33	32	26
Taking increased national action to reduce the number of deaths from opioid abuse	24	27	23	25
Increasing spending on the nation's infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and airports	23	20	20	26
Reducing federal taxes on individuals and businesses	21	35	9	20
Limiting unauthorized immigration into the U.S.	21	38	15	16
Trying again to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare	20	40	5	18
Investigating Russia's involvement in the 2016 U.S. presidential election	19	4	35	19
Renewing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, or DACA, which grants temporary legal status to people brought to the US illegally as children	17	5	20	18
Increasing spending on national defense	17	34	5	15
Renegotiating NAFTA, a trade agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, to provide more protection for US-based jobs	15	12	11	20
Passing legislation to allow more oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, or ANWR	6	11	5	4

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

PART II: THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Looking ahead, about half (51%) of insured Americans age 18-64 believe their health insurance premiums will increase during the coming year. This includes 24% who think their premiums will increase a lot. These beliefs do not vary significantly by party identification (Table 2).

Table 2: The Public's Expectations about Their Own Health Insurance Premiums During the Coming Year, Among Those Age 18-64 with Health Insurance, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Increase	51	48	52	53
Increase a lot	24	24	26	24
Increase a little	27	24	26	29
Decrease	3	3	2	4
Stay about the same	43	46	45	41
Don't know/ Refused	3	3	1	2

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

When those who thought their premiums would increase were asked whom they would blame most, insurance companies rank first overall (32%). This includes 37% of Republicans and 23% of Democrats. Adherents of the two political parties also assign blame to the other party: 35% of Republicans blame the Democrats most, while 45% of Democrats blame President Trump and the Republicans (Table 3).

Table 3: If Their Health Insurance Premiums Increase, Who the Public Will Blame, Among Those Age 18-64 with Health Insurance Who Think Their Premiums Will Increase, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Insurance companies	32	37	23	37
President Trump and the Republicans	26	4	45	24
The Democrats	14	35	3	11
Pharmaceutical companies	11	7	9	13
Doctors and hospitals in your state	7	13	8	4
Your state's governor and state legislature	6	5	5	7
Don't Know/ Refused	4	-	7	4

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

When asked why they thought President Trump has made significant changes to reduce the scope of the ACA, the public is closely divided: 47% believe he made the changes just to undermine the ACA, while 43% think he made the changes to try to bring Democrats and Republicans together on an alternative plan. About three-fourths of Democrats (74%) believe the changes were made to undermine the ACA, while almost an equal proportion of Republicans (77%) think they were made to try to bring the parties together on an alternative (Table 4).

Table 4: The Public's Views on the Reason President Trump Has Made Significant Changes to Reduce the Scope of the ACA, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
President Trump made these changes just to undermine the ACA	47	16	74	49
President Trump made these changes to try to bring Democrats and Republicans together to enact an alternative plan	43	77	20	40
Don't Know/ Refused	10	7	6	11

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

PART III: TAX POLICY

At the present stage of the debate over the Republican tax proposal, 26% favor the proposal, 45% are opposed, while nearly three in ten (29%) are not fully aware of what is in the legislation. Even among Republicans, only about half (49%) favor the proposal as they understand it (Table 5).

Table 5: Public Attitudes Toward Republican Tax Proposal, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	26	49	4	26
Oppose	45	16	76	43
Don't know/ Refused	29	35	20	31

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Most of the public does not believe that the Republican tax proposal would help them or their families financially. About three in ten (29%) believe it would help them (Table 6).

Even among Republicans, only about half (52%) expect the proposal to help them or their families financially. But the driving force behind the Republican congressional push for tax reductions is that the issue ranks highly among the Republicans' public constituency. For Republicans, reducing taxes on individuals and businesses ranks third among 15 possible priorities for Congress and President Trump (Table 1).

Table 6: The Public's Views on Whether Republican Tax Proposal Would Help Them Financially, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Would help	29	52	14	26
Help a lot	12	25	3	10
Help a little	17	27	11	16
Would not help	54	26	76	56
Don't know/ Refused	17	22	10	18

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

As to two specific items in the tax debate, the public is divided. In order to lower the overall tax rate people would pay, half (50%) favor reducing the tax deferral for retirement accounts like 401(k)s and about half (47%) favor eliminating the federal deduction for state and local taxes Americans pay. The two parties' adherents differ significantly in their views, with a majority of

Republicans favoring both possible changes, while more Democrats are opposed (Tables 7 and 8).

Table 7: The Public’s Views about Reducing the Tax Deferral for Retirement Accounts like 401(k)s to Lower Tax Rate People Pay, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	50	60	41	52
Oppose	38	32	47	35
Don’t know/ Refused	12	8	12	15

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public’s Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Table 8: The Public’s Views about Eliminating the Federal Deduction for State and Local Taxes Americans Pay to Lower Tax Rate People Pay, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	47	65	33	49
Oppose	43	26	60	43
Don’t know/ Refused	10	9	7	8

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public’s Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

PART IV: OPIOID ABUSE

In the POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health poll, a majority of the public (53%) sees the problem of opioid addiction to prescription pain medication as a major problem in the country, but not a national emergency (Table 9). In addition, taking increased national action to reduce the number of deaths from opioid abuse is a second-tier priority for the public, cited by 24% as an extremely important priority for Congress and President Trump (Table 1).

Table 9: The Public's Views about How Much of a Problem Opioid Abuse Is in the Country, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
National emergency	28	29	34	28
Major problem but not an emergency	53	52	54	53
Minor problem	11	15	7	12
Not a problem at all	5	3	3	4
Don't know/ Refused	3	1	2	3

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

When asked who they think is mainly responsible for the growing problem of prescription painkiller or opioid abuse, the public blames doctors who inappropriately prescribe painkillers (33%) and people who sell prescription painkillers illegally (28%) the most. Only one in ten (10%) believe people who take prescription painkillers are mainly responsible for the opioid abuse problem (Table 10).

Table 10: The Public's Views about Who Is Mainly Responsible for Problem of Prescription Painkiller or Opioid Abuse, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Doctors who inappropriately prescribe painkillers	33	34	43	29
People who sell prescription painkillers illegally	28	33	23	29
Pharmaceutical companies that sell prescription painkillers	13	6	16	18
People who take prescription painkillers	10	13	7	9
The FDA, which approves prescription painkillers before they can be sold	7	5	7	6
Other/None of these (vol)	3	3	2	4
Don't know/ Refused	6	6	2	5

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Although almost all attention has been focused on potential federal government spending to try to deal with the problem of opioid abuse, the public is divided on what level of government should be primarily responsible for paying for opioid abuse treatment programs aimed at reducing the problem. About four in ten (41%) think the federal government should be mainly responsible, but 33% believe state government and 20% think local government should be. Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans (52% to 29%) to believe the federal government should be mainly responsible (Table 11).

Table 11: The Public's Views about Which Level of Government Should Be Primarily Responsible for Paying for Programs Aimed at Reducing Opioid Abuse, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Federal government	41	29	52	42
State government	33	40	29	32
Local government	20	25	14	20
Don't know/ Refused	6	6	5	6

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

As to President Trump's recent announcement on his proposed national response to the opioid abuse problem, a significant proportion of the public is not very aware of his proposal. Most of the public do not share the view sometimes expressed in the media that the President's proposed program does too little to respond to the problem. Only 27% believe the President's proposed program does too little, 10% that it does too much, and 41% that it is about right. Democrats are significantly more likely than Republicans (47% to 13%) to think the proposed program does too little (Table 12).

Table 12: The Public's Views about President Trump's Proposed Program to Respond to the Opioid Abuse Problem, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Does too little	27	13	47	20
Does too much	10	3	5	16
Is about right	41	63	32	40
Don't know/ Refused	22	21	16	24

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

At a moment when Congress is considering proposed new spending on treatment programs for opioid addiction, it is important to note that only about half of the public (49%) believes there is a treatment for prescription painkiller addiction that is effective for a long period of time (Table 13).

Table 13: The Public’s Views about Whether There Is a Treatment for Prescription Painkiller Addiction That Is Effective for a Long Period of Time, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
There is an effective treatment	49	42	56	46
There is not	34	35	29	39
Don’t know/ Refused	17	23	15	15

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This may be one reason the public is divided over whether the government should require health insurance plans to provide extensive coverage for these opioid abuse treatment programs. About half favor such a requirement (48%), while nearly the same proportion (49%) are opposed. While a majority of Democrats (58%) favor such a requirement, a majority of Republicans are opposed (61%) (Table 14).

Table 14: The Public’s Views about Government Requiring Health Insurance Plans to Provide Extensive Coverage of Opioid Addiction Treatment Programs, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	48	36	58	46
Oppose	49	61	41	50
Don’t know/ Refused	3	3	1	4

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public’s Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

Of importance in the debate is the fact that a large majority (65%) of the public prefers the principle of treatment over incarceration (28%) for people found possessing prescription painkillers or opioids obtained without a prescription, even though there is a question in many people's minds about the effectiveness of treatment (Table 15).

Table 15: The Public's Views about Treatment vs. Incarceration for People Found Possessing Prescription Painkillers or Opioids Obtained Without a Prescription, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Should be placed in treatment program without jail time	65	47	74	65
Should serve jail time	28	40	22	29
Don't know/ Refused	7	13	4	6

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

As to Narcan, which is part of various public commissions' discussion of ways to respond to the opioid addiction problem in emergency situations, the public is divided. While 45% favor letting adults buy Narcan, a drug that can prevent people from dying by reversing acute opioid overdoses, from pharmacists at chain or retail pharmacies without a prescription, 52% are opposed. A majority of Democrats (56%) favor such a proposal, while a majority of Republicans (54%) are opposed (Table 16).

Table 16: The Public's Views about Whether Adults Should Be Allowed to Obtain Narcan from Pharmacists Without a Prescription, by Party Identification

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	45	39	56	42
Oppose	52	54	44	55
Don't know/ Refused	3	7	*	3

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, The Public's Priorities for Congress and President Trump in the Post-Thanksgiving Period, November 15 – 19, 2017. Base: U.S. adults.

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 1,009 randomly selected adults, ages 18 and older, via telephone (including cell phones and landlines) by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. The interviewing period was November 15 – 19, 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 ± 3.7 percentage points. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is ± 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 survey-derived 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

***Politico*/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Poll**

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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) **November 15 – 19, 2017**, among a nationally representative sample of **1,009 U.S. adults**. The margin of error for total respondents is ± 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is ± 5.3 percentage points. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com.

Priorities

POLQ1. The country faces a number of critical domestic issues. Here is a list of some things Congress and President Trump could work on during the rest of the year, keeping in mind that they 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=524)

- a. Reducing federal taxes on individuals and businesses

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	21	35	9	20
Very important priority	28	33	26	27
Only somewhat important priority	16	18	15	14
Should not be a priority	32	13	43	36
Don't know/Refused	3	1	7	3

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

- b. Taking action to lower prescription drug prices

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	30	28	39	25
Very important priority	31	30	32	30
Only somewhat important priority	21	17	19	25
Should not be a priority	17	25	10	18
Don't know/Refused	1	*	-	2

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

- c. Increasing spending on the nation's infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and airports

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	23	20	20	26
Very important priority	30	27	34	30
Only somewhat important priority	19	19	25	15
Should not be a priority	26	32	19	27
Don't know/Refused	2	2	2	2

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

- d. Renegotiating NAFTA, a trade agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, to provide more protection for US-based jobs

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	15	12	11	20
Very important priority	32	41	29	26
Only somewhat important priority	19	17	15	23
Should not be a priority	31	25	41	29
Don't know/Refused	3	5	4	2

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

- e. Investigating Russia's involvement in the 2016 U.S. presidential election

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	19	4	35	19
Very important priority	14	9	22	14
Only somewhat important priority	10	9	9	9
Should not be a priority	55	78	31	55
Don't know/Refused	2	-	3	3

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

- f. Increasing hurricane relief aid to Puerto Rico

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	31	19	43	30
Very important priority	31	24	39	33
Only somewhat important priority	14	21	9	13
Should not be a priority	22	34	9	22
Don't know/Refused	2	2	*	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

g. Increasing spending on national defense

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	17	34	5	15
Very important priority	24	34	16	25
Only somewhat important priority	11	12	15	9
Should not be a priority	45	17	63	48
Don't know/Refused	3	3	1	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

h. Enacting stricter gun laws

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	29	8	47	24
Very important priority	16	11	14	20
Only somewhat important priority	10	4	12	14
Should not be a priority	42	72	25	40
Don't know/Refused	3	5	2	2

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

i. Taking increased national action to reduce the number of deaths from opioid abuse

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	24	27	23	25
Very important priority	32	28	36	28
Only somewhat important priority	15	14	14	18
Should not be a priority	25	26	24	25
Don't know/Refused	4	5	3	4

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

j. Renewing funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, a combined federal-state program that funds health insurance for low-income children who are not in Medicaid

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	36	13	48	37
Very important priority	35	39	37	33
Only somewhat important priority	13	18	9	14
Should not be a priority	13	26	5	13
Don't know/Refused	3	4	1	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

- k. Passing legislation to allow more oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, or ANWR

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	6	11	5	4
Very important priority	13	24	5	15
Only somewhat important priority	9	15	6	10
Should not be a priority	67	43	82	69
Don't know/Refused	5	7	2	2

(Asked of half-sample C; n=506)

- l. Limiting unauthorized immigration into the U.S

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	21	38	15	16
Very important priority	20	32	9	22
Only somewhat important priority	13	13	8	16
Should not be a priority	43	15	65	44
Don't know/Refused	3	2	3	2

(Asked of half-sample D; n=503)

- m. Renewing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, or DACA, which grants temporary legal status to people brought to the US illegally as children

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	17	5	20	18
Very important priority	27	22	39	22
Only somewhat important priority	16	17	12	21
Should not be a priority	37	55	26	37
Don't know/Refused	3	1	3	2

(Asked of half-sample C; n=506)

- n. Fixing the current problems in the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	28	33	32	26
Very important priority	27	29	24	28
Only somewhat important priority	13	14	13	12
Should not be a priority	30	22	30	34
Don't know/Refused	2	2	1	*

(Asked of half-sample D; n=503)

- o. Trying again to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Extremely important priority	20	40	5	18
Very important priority	19	28	8	21
Only somewhat important priority	10	10	11	10
Should not be a priority	48	21	75	47
Don't know/Refused	3	1	1	4

Tax Policy

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

POLQ2. From what you have heard or read about it, do you favor or oppose the new Republican tax proposal?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
Total	26	45	29
Reps	49	16	35
Dems	4	76	20
Inds	26	43	31

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

POLQ3. If it is enacted, do you think the Republican tax proposal will help you or your family financially or not?

(If Help, ask)

POLQ4. Do you think it will help a lot or a little?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes, the Republican tax proposal will help you or your family financially	29	52	14	26
Help a lot	12	25	3	10
Help a little	17	27	11	16
No, the Republican tax proposal will not help you or your family financially	54	26	76	56
Don't know/Refused	17	22	10	18

POLQ5. Congress is considering a proposal to lower the tax rate people pay in exchange for also reducing or eliminating some tax deductions and credits. Would you favor or oppose...?

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

- a. Reducing the tax deferral for retirement accounts like 401(k)s

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
Total	50	38	12
Reps	60	32	8
Dems	41	47	12
Inds	52	35	13

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

- b. Eliminating the federal deduction for state and local taxes Americans pay

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
Total	47	43	10
Reps	65	26	9
Dems	33	60	7
Inds	49	43	8

ACA

(Asked of respondents ages 18 through 64 who have health insurance; n=580)

POLQ6. Thinking about the coming year, do you think your health insurance premiums will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

(If Increase, ask)

POLQ7. Do you think your premiums will increase a lot or a little?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Health insurance premiums will increase	51	48	52	53
Increase a lot	24	24	26	24
Increase a little	27	24	26	29
Health insurance premiums will decrease	3	3	2	4
Health insurance premiums will stay about the same	43	46	45	41
Don't know/Refused	3	3	1	2

(Asked of respondents ages 18 through 64 who have health insurance and think their health insurance premiums will increase in the coming year; n=328)

POLQ8. If your premiums do increase, which of the following would you blame most?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Doctors and hospitals in your state	7	13	8	4
Insurance companies	32	37	23	37
Pharmaceutical companies	11	7	9	13
Your state's governor and state legislature	6	5	5	7
President Trump and the Republicans	26	4	45	24
The Democrats	14	35	3	11
Don't know/Refused	4	-	7	4

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

POLQ9. Recently President Trump has made a number of significant changes to reduce the scope of the Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare. Some people say that President Trump made these changes just to undermine the ACA. Others say he made these changes to try to bring Democrats and Republicans together to enact an alternative plan. Which comes closer to your own view?

	Changes made to undermine the ACA	Changes made to try to bring Democrats and Republicans together	Don't know/Refused
Total	47	43	10
Reps	16	77	7
Dems	74	20	6
Inds	49	40	11

Opioids

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

POLQ10. Which ONE of the following do you think is mainly responsible for the growing problem of prescription painkiller or opioid abuse?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
People who take prescription painkillers	10	13	7	9
Doctors who inappropriately prescribe painkillers	33	34	43	29
Pharmaceutical companies that sell prescription painkillers	13	6	16	18
People who sell prescription painkillers illegally	28	33	23	29
The US Food and Drug Administration, which approves prescription painkillers before they can be sold	7	5	7	6
Other/None of these (Vol.)	3	3	2	4
Don't know/Refused	6	6	2	5

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

POLQ11. Last month, President Trump declared opioid abuse as a public health emergency and outlined a program to respond to the problem. Do you think his proposed program does too much, too little, or is it about right?

	Does too much	Does too little	Is about right	Don't know/Refused
Total	10	27	41	22
Reps	3	13	63	21
Dems	5	47	32	16
Inds	16	20	40	24

(Asked of respondents 11/16-19/17 only; n=656)

POLQ12. Would you describe the problem of opioid addiction to prescription pain medications in this country as a national emergency, a major problem but not an emergency, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

	A national emergency	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem	Don't know/Refused
Total	28	53	11	5	3
Reps	29	52	15	3	1
Dems	34	54	7	3	2
Inds	28	53	12	4	3

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

POLQ13. Do you think the amount of money President Trump is proposing that the federal government spend on treatment programs for people addicted to prescription painkillers or opioids is too high, too low, or about right?

	Too high	Too low	About right	Don't know/ Refused
Total	18	19	44	19
Reps	11	6	63	20
Dems	19	33	32	16
Inds	21	16	44	19

(Asked of half-sample A; n=524)

POLQ14. Which level of government should be primarily responsible for paying for programs aimed at reducing the number of people abusing prescription painkillers or opioids?

	The Federal government	State government	Local government	Don't know/ Refused
Total	41	33	20	6
Reps	29	40	25	6
Dems	52	29	14	5
Inds	42	32	20	6

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

POLQ15. To the best of your knowledge, is there a treatment for prescription painkiller addiction that is effective for a long period of time, or isn't there such a treatment?

	Yes, there is a treatment	No, there isn't such a treatment	Don't know/Refused
Total	49	34	17
Reps	42	35	23
Dems	56	29	15
Inds	46	39	15

(Asked of half-sample B respondents who say that there is a treatment for prescription painkiller addiction that is effective for a long period of time; n=225)

POLQ16. Do you think that most people who receive treatment for prescription painkiller addiction can be successfully treated within one month, longer but within a year, or is treatment often required for a year or more?

	Within one month	Longer but within a year	A year or more	Don't know/Refused
Total	8	35	53	4
Reps	8	39	49	4
Dems	5	36	59	-
Inds	9	35	48	8

**POLQ15/POLQ16 Combo Table
Based on half-sample B; n=485**

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes there is a treatment	49	42	56	46
Within one month	4	4	3	4
Longer but within a year	17	17	20	16
A year or more	26	21	33	22
Don't know how long	2	*	*	4
No, there isn't such a treatment	34	35	29	39
Don't know/Refused	17	23	15	15

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

POLQ17. Many health insurance plans provide only limited coverage for drug treatment programs for people addicted to prescription painkillers or opioids. Some have suggested that the government require health insurers to provide more extensive coverage for these treatment programs. This might add to the cost of health insurance premiums for most policyholders. Do you favor or oppose the government requiring health insurers to provide more extensive coverage for these treatment programs?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
Total	48	49	3
Reps	36	61	3
Dems	58	41	1
Inds	46	50	4

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

POLQ18. Do you think most people found possessing prescription painkillers or opioids obtained without a prescription should serve jail time or should they be placed in a treatment program without jail time?

	Should serve jail time	Should be placed in treatment without jail time	Don't know/ Refused
Total	28	65	7
Reps	40	47	13
Dems	22	74	4
Inds	29	65	6

(Asked of half-sample B; n=485)

POLQ19. A drug called Narcan or Naloxone can prevent people from dying by reversing acute opioid overdoses. Adults in some states can buy this drug from pharmacists at many chain or retail pharmacies. Other states don't allow this because they think it might encourage use of opioids. Do you favor or oppose letting adults buy this drug from pharmacists at chain or retail pharmacies without a prescription?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
Total	45	52	3
Reps	39	54	7
Dems	56	44	*
Inds	42	55	3