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**Toplines**



Kaiser Family Foundation

***Health Poll Report Survey:  
Voters on Health Care and the 2006  
Elections***

***October 2006***

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## **Methodology**

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey: Voters on Health Care and the 2006 Elections* was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative sample of 1,200 adults ages 18 and older – including 1,052 self-reported registered voters – was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between October 5 and October 10, 2006. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Most results reported here are shown based on the general population (noted as “ALL”) and based on those who reported they are registered voters (noted as “RV”), although for some questions, just the general population is shown.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on all registered voters and for results based on all respondents. For results based on smaller subsets of voters, the margin of sampling error is somewhat higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (\*). “Vol.” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Here's my first question... What will be the single most important issue in your vote for Congress this year...? **(READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-6, READ 'SOMETHING ELSE' LAST)**

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	
28	30	The war in Iraq
14	15	Health care
14	15	The economy
13	13	The U.S. campaign against terrorism
11	10	Immigration
6	5	Gas prices
1	1	All of the above <b>(VOL.)</b>
5	6	Something else
2	1	Not planning to vote <b>(VOL.)</b>
5	5	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

3. Next, I'm going to read you three things that might influence your vote in the upcoming Congressional elections. Please tell me which of the following will be most important when you decide who to vote for. Is it... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	
35	37	Your perception of the candidates' leadership abilities, character, values, experience (or)
34	35	The candidates' stands on the issues (or)
26	24	Your perception of what is happening in the nation as a whole (or)
2	1	Not planning to vote <b>(VOL.)</b>
3	2	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

4. Will your vote for Congress be based... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	
65	67	More on your views of the candidates running in your district (or)
28	28	More on the performance of President Bush and the Republican-led Congress (or)
2	1	Not planning to vote <b>(VOL.)</b>
5	4	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

**ROTATE QUESTIONS 5 AND 6**

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you think Congress has paid [**ROTATE**: too much, too little/too little, too much] or about the right amount of attention to domestic issues like the economy, education and health care?

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	
5	5	Too much
75	76	Too little
16	16	About the right amount
4	3	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

6. Based on what you know or have heard, do you think Congress has paid [**ROTATE**: too much, too little/too little, too much] or about the right amount of attention to international and national security issues like Iraq, Iran and terrorism?

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	
27	27	Too much
38	39	Too little
28	28	About the right amount
7	7	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

10. Next, I'm going to read you a list of specific health care issues. For each one, please tell me how important it will be in your vote for U.S. Congress this year. Will it be extremely important in deciding your vote, very important, somewhat important, or not important? (First,) **(INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE)**. How important will this issue be in determining your vote for Congress? (Extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important?)

		<u>Extremely Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Not voting</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. The cost of health care and health insurance	ALL	41	41	12	5	1	1
	RV	41	40	13	4	*	1
b. Medical malpractice	ALL	13	28	31	23	1	3
	RV	12	27	32	25	1	2
c. Prescription drug benefits for seniors	ALL	31	38	22	9	1	*
	RV	30	37	23	9	*	*
d. Stem cell research	ALL	17	28	27	23	1	5
	RV	18	27	27	25	*	4
e. The number of Americans without health insurance	ALL	38	37	15	7	1	2
	RV	39	36	16	7	*	1
f. Abortion	ALL	21	25	19	30	1	4
	RV	22	24	19	30	*	4
g. Medicare	ALL	29	37	22	10	1	1
	RV	28	35	24	10	*	1
h. Problems with health care quality	ALL	26	38	21	13	1	1
	RV	26	37	22	14	*	1

11. You named several health care issues as being extremely important to your vote for U.S. Congress this year. If you had to choose, which of these would you say is the MOST important in determining your vote? Is it... **(READ ITEMS RATED EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN Q10)?**

<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	
20	20	The cost of health care and health insurance
17	18	The number of Americans without health insurance
7	7	Abortion
6	5	Prescription drug benefits for seniors
5	5	Medicare
4	4	Stem cell research
3	3	Problems with health care quality
2	1	Medical malpractice
1	1	None of these/Other <b>(VOL.)</b>
34	34	None rated extremely important
1	1	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

12. I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. (First/Next,) how closely did you follow this story **(INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE)?** (Did you follow this story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?)  
(Note: data shown for all respondents)

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. The conflict in Iraq	57	27	10	5	1
b. News that Wal-Mart plans to sell low-priced generic prescription drugs	25	25	21	27	2
c. A recommendation issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that teens and adults should be regularly tested for HIV	18	22	23	34	3
d. The death of Steve Irwin, the "Crocodile Hunter"	28	26	26	18	1
e. The recent outbreak of E. Coli linked to U.S.-grown spinach	45	30	14	10	*
f. The five-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks	38	30	20	11	*
g. News about the upcoming Congressional elections	32	33	20	15	1
h. A report from the Institute of Medicine criticizing the way the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) handles drug safety	19	26	23	30	2
i. A study that found health insurance costs are rising at a faster rate than wages	39	25	15	19	2

13. Are you NOW self-employed, working full-time for an employer, working part-time for an employer, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?  
(Note: data shown for all respondents)

11 Self-employed  
38 Full-time for an employer  
9 Part-time for an employer  
22 Retired  
12 Not employed  
3 Homemaker (VOL.)  
2 Student (VOL.)  
3 Disabled (VOL.)  
\* **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

14. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or (Medicaid)? **USE VARIANT WORDING IN CALIFORNIA:** (Medi-Cal)  
(Note: data shown for all respondents)

81 Yes, insured  
18 No, not insured  
1 Don't know/Refused

15. Next, I'm going to read you a list of things that some people worry about and others do not. I'd like you to tell me how worried you are about each of the following things. (First/Next,) how worried are you about...**(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**

		<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Smwt. Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance	ALL	47	27	13	12	1
	RV	46	29	14	12	*
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	ALL	39	24	17	19	1
	RV	36	25	18	20	1
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	ALL	33	29	18	20	1
	RV	30	30	18	21	1
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	ALL	37	21	15	26	1
	RV	34	21	16	28	*
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	ALL	23	23	29	25	1
	RV	20	23	31	25	*
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	ALL	23	27	25	24	*
	RV	20	28	26	26	*
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	ALL	45	27	13	14	1
	RV	43	28	14	14	1
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	ALL	14	14	21	49	2
	RV	14	14	22	49	1
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	ALL	30	15	20	34	1
	RV	27	15	21	37	*
<b><i>Item J based on those who are employed</i></b>						
j. Losing your job	ALL	24	17	21	38	1
	RV	22	17	21	40	1
<b><i>Item K based on those who are employed and insured</i></b>						
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	ALL	16	13	18	52	1
	RV	15	13	18	53	1
<b><i>Items L &amp; M based on those who are insured</i></b>						
l. Losing your health insurance coverage	ALL	32	18	16	33	1
	RV	31	18	17	34	1
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what treatment is best for you	ALL	36	30	14	20	1
	RV	35	30	13	20	1

**DEMOGRAPHICS (data shown for all respondents):**

**(READ)** Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

**D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX**

- 48 Male
- 52 Female

**D2. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE)**

- 19 18-29
- 37 30-49
- 24 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 2 Refused
  
- 56 Total Under 50
- 41 Total 50 and older

**D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/Democrat, Republican], or Independent?**

- 25 Republican
- 34 Democrat
- 33 Independent
- 4 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
- 1 Other party (VOL.)
- 2 Don't know/Refused

**D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/Democrat, Republican], or Independent?**

**D3b. Do you lean more towards the [ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS D3: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]?**

Party ID including Leaners

- 36 Republican/Lean Republican
- 49 Democrat/Lean Democrat
- 16 Refused to Lean

D4. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

- 83 Yes
- 17 No
- 1 Don't know/Refused

D5. Would you say you'll definitely vote in the congressional election this November, probably vote, or might you skip this one?

***Based on registered voters (n=1,052)***

- 76 Definitely vote
- 19 Probably vote
- 4 Might skip
- 1 Definitely won't vote (**VOL.**)
- 1 Don't know/Refused

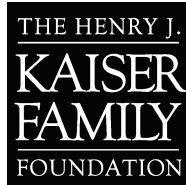
D6. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (**DO NOT READ**)

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 9 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 17 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- 1 Refused

D7. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 55 Married
- 6 Living with a partner
- 9 Divorced
- 2 Separated
- 9 Widowed
- 16 Never been married
- 2 Undesignated

- D8. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?
- D9. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic?)**
- 71 White, Non Hispanic
  - 27 Total Non-White
    - 10 Black or African-American
    - 12 Hispanic
    - 2 Asian
    - 3 Other or mixed race
  - 2 Undesignated
- D10. Last year -- that is, in 2005 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**
- 17 Less than \$20,000
  - 13 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
  - 18 \$30,000 to less than \$50,000
  - 15 \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
  - 9 \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
  - 11 \$100,000 or more
  - 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
  - 12 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused



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