
Toplines



**HARVARD UNIVERSITY
JOHN F. KENNEDY
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT**

National Public Radio/Kaiser Family Foundation/Kennedy School of Government

Congressional Election Tracking Survey

November 2002

Congressional Election Tracking Survey

Methodology

The NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Congressional Election Tracking Survey is part of an ongoing project of National Public Radio, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Representatives of the three sponsors worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and to analyze the results, with NPR maintaining sole editorial control over its broadcasts on the surveys. The project team includes:

From NPR: Marcus D. Rosenbaum, Senior Editor/Special Projects; Jeanne Naujeck, Assistant Editor.

From the Kaiser Family Foundation: Drew Altman, President and Chief Executive Officer; Matt James, Senior Vice President of Media and Public Education and Executive Director of kaisernetwork.org; Mollyann Brodie, Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Media Research; and Elizabeth Hamel, Research Associate.

From the Kennedy School: Robert J. Blendon, a Harvard University professor who holds joint appointments in the School of Public Health and the Kennedy School of Government; Stephen R. Pelletier, Research Coordinator for the Harvard Opinion Research Program; and John M. Benson, Managing Director of the Harvard Opinion Research Program

The results of this project are based on a nationwide telephone survey conducted between October 23 and October 27, 2002 among a representative sample of 1,007 respondents 18 years of age or older. The survey work was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research. For results based on the total sample (n=1,007) there is 95% confidence that the error attributed to sampling and other random effects is +/- 3.2 percentage points.

Respondents were asked three questions in order to determine if they could be classified as likely voters:

- Are you currently registered to vote? [Must answer "yes"]
- Are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote in the November election for US Congress for your district (probably or almost certain)? [Must answer "almost certain" or "probably"]
- Did you vote in the 2000 election for President between Al Gore and George W. Bush? [Must answer "yes"]

Sixty-four percent of the entire sample is likely voters. For results based on the likely voter sample (n=641) the margin of sampling error is 4.1 percentage points.

An asterisk () indicates a response of less than 1%.*

EA-1. Looking ahead to the November election for US Congress from your district, what issue will be most important to you in deciding who to vote for? (PROBE: Is there another issue that will be almost as important to you?)

	10/27/02 Total	Likely voter
Economy/Jobs	17	21
Education	14	12
Terrorism/War with Iraq	7	10
Taxes	8	9
Health care/Medicare	7	9
No issue	13	7
Don't know	23	21

EA-2. Now, thinking specifically about health care... What health care issue, if any, will be most important to you in deciding how to vote for US Congress? (PROBE: Is there another health care issue that will be almost as important to you?)

	10/27/02 Total	Likely voter
Prescription Drug Costs	21	25
Health Care Costs	18	18
Expanding Insurance Coverage	16	18
Medicare/Medicaid/Care for Elderly	13	14
Patient's Bill of Rights	2	2
No Issue	14	12
Don't know	18	15

EA-3. Which of the following statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the health care system in this country?

	On the whole, the health care system works pretty well and only minor changes are needed to make it work better	There are some good things about our health care system, but major changes are needed to make it work better	The American health care system has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it	Don't know
10/27/02 Total	22	51	25	3
Likely voter	23	56	20	2

EA-4. Now I'm going to read you a list of health care issues you might or might not consider important in deciding how to vote for a candidate for US Congress. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it will be very important in deciding your vote, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important in deciding your vote. How important will (READ FIRST ITEM) be in deciding your vote? Will it be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?
How about (READ NEXT ITEM)?

10/27/02 Total	-----IMPORTANT-----			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. Helping control the cost of health care	95	79	16	3	2	2	2
b. Protecting the privacy of medical records	86	61	25	13	8	5	1
c. Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans	84	53	31	13	9	4	4
d. Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	93	75	18	6	4	3	1
e. Helping make Medicare more financially secure	93	71	21	6	4	2	1
f. Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage	91	69	22	7	5	2	2

Likely Voter	-----IMPORTANT-----			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. Helping control the cost of health care	94	78	17	4	2	2	1
b. Protecting the privacy of medical records	86	60	26	13	9	5	1
c. Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans	84	51	33	13	9	3	3
d. Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	93	74	19	7	4	3	*
e. Helping make Medicare more financially secure	92	70	22	7	5	2	1
f. Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage	90	67	23	9	6	3	*

(Asked of respondents who rated more than one issue as very important; N=906 total; 614 likely voter)

EA-5. You said the following issues will be very important to your vote. Which ONE of these do you think will be the MOST important in deciding your vote?

	10/27/02 Total	Likely voter
Helping control the cost of health care	28	31
Protecting the privacy of medical records	6	6
Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans	5	6
Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	20	19
Helping make Medicare more financially secure	12	13
Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage	26	22
None of these	1	1
Don't know	2	3

(Asked of respondents who mention one issue as very/most important; N=931 total; 632 likely voter)

EA-6. If a candidate for Congress DISAGREED with you on what to do about that (most/very) important issue, would that make it likely that you would vote against him or her, or do you think other issues are probably more important in deciding how to vote for Congress?

	Would make it likely that you would vote against him or her	Other issues are probably more important in deciding how to vote for Congress	Don't know
10/27/02 Total	30	61	9
Likely voter	30	63	7



The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: 650-854-9400 Fax: 650-854-4800

Washington Office:
1450 G Street N.W., Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-347-5270 Fax: 202-347-5274

www.kff.org

Additional copies of this publication are available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org or by calling the Foundation's Publication Request Line at 1-800-656-4533.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is an independent, national health philanthropy dedicated to providing information and analysis on health issues to policymakers, the media, and the general public. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.