



KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Post Election Survey: Priorities for the 106th Congress

CHART 1

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS

Percent who say, in an open ended question, that each of the following issues needs to be addressed by the government...

	1/93	2/94	2/95	4/96	1/97	1/98
Education	10%	6%	10%	14%	15%	14%
Social Security	*	*	*	*	12%	6%
Economy/Jobs	45%	26%	17%	23%	17%	12%
Taxes	7%	6%	12%	11%	12%	16%
Health Care	31%	45%	25%	19%	15%	16%
Crime/violence	3%	36%	21%	16%	16%	13%
Federal deficit	19%	8%	22%	22%	15%	12%
Welfare	2%	7%	16%	13%	15%	8%

CHART 2

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR PRESIDENT AND NEW CONGRESS TO ADDRESS, BY PARTY

Percent, by party, who say in an open ended question that each of the following issues is the most important to address...

	Total Voters	Voted Republican	Voted Democrat
Education	15%	10%	19%
Social Security	13%	9%	16%
Health Care	12%	10%	15%
Clinton/Lewinsky impeachment	11%	15%	8%
Economy/jobs	10%	9%	13%
Foreign Policy/Iraq	8%	7%	7%
Taxes	6%	8%	5%
Deficit/budget	5%	8%	3%

Note: Top eight choices of voters.

Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Post Election Survey, January 1999 (conducted November 1998).

CHART 3

VOTERS' TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS

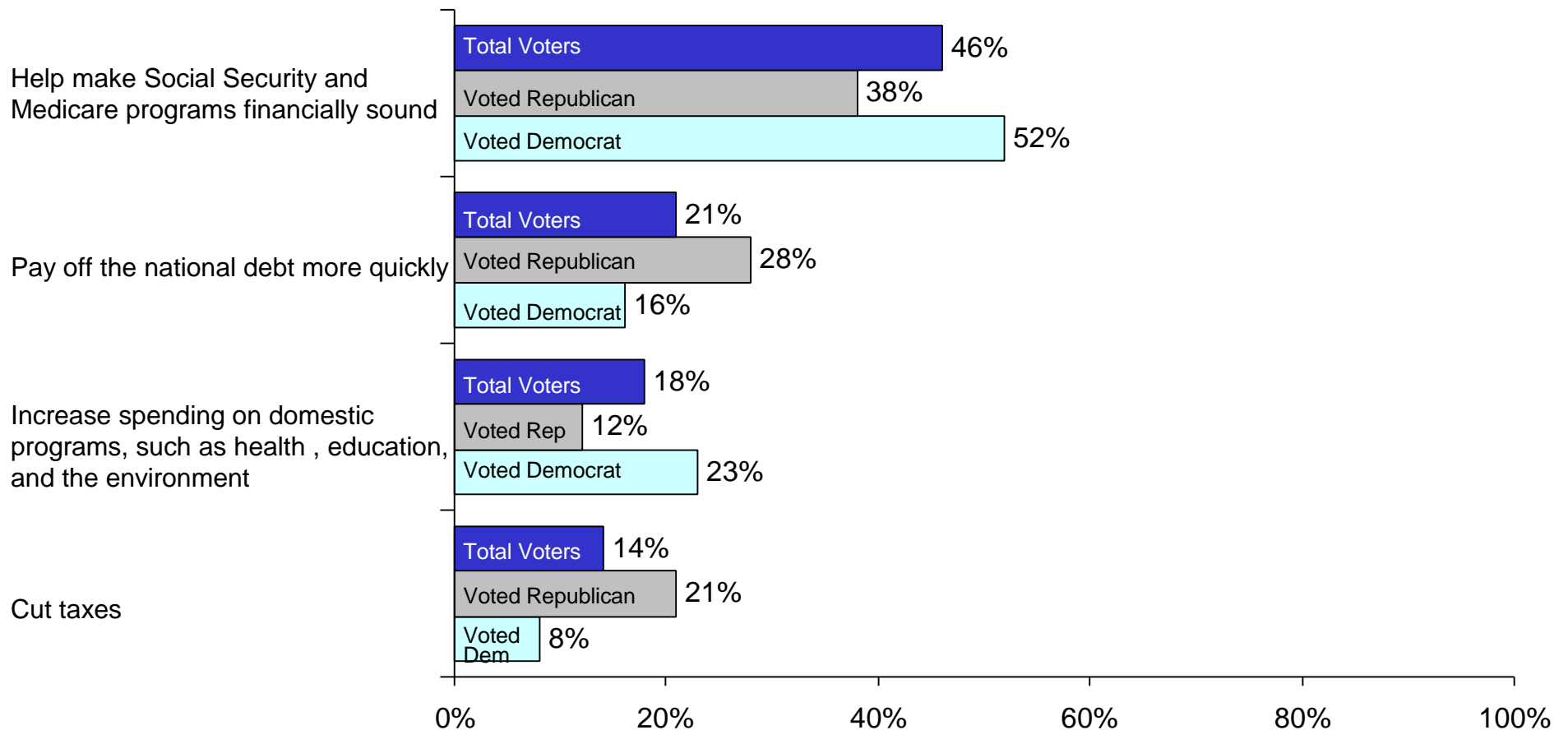
Percent who say each of the following issues is “A Top Priority”
(Issues receiving response of 50% or more).

<u>TOTAL VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTED REPUBLICAN</u>	<u>VOTED DEMOCRAT</u>
Make Social Security financially sound (80%)	Make Social Security financially sound (74%)	Make Social Security financially sound (86%)
Make Medicare financially sound (73%)	Make Medicare financially sound (65%)	Make Medicare financially sound (79%)
Help uninsured get health insurance (61%)	Tougher anti-crime laws (60%)	Help uninsured get health insurance (73%)
Tougher anti-crime laws (60%)	Cutting taxes (56%)	HMO/managed care reform (65%)
Federal education standards for public schools (55%)	Ban late-term abortions (50%)	Federal education standards for public schools (63%)
HMO/managed care reform (54%)		Tougher anti-crime laws (59%)
Cutting taxes (50%)		Raise minimum wage (58%)
		Passing tougher gun control laws (53%)

CHART 4

VOTERS' PREFERENCES ON HOW TO USE THE BUDGET SURPLUS

Percent who say surplus money should be used to...



Note: None/other (vol), Don't know/refused not shown.

Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Post Election Survey, January 1999 (conducted November 1998).

CHART 5

VOTERS' TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS

Percent who say each of the following issues is "A Top Priority"
(Issues receiving response of less than 50%).

<u>TOTAL VOTERS</u>	<u>VOTED REPUBLICAN</u>	<u>VOTED DEMOCRAT</u>
Raising the minimum wage (42%)	Help uninsured get health insurance (48%)	Stricter environmental regulations (46%)
Tougher gun control laws (41%)	Federal education standards for public schools (43%)	Cutting taxes (44%)
Ban late-term abortion (39%)	HMO/managed care reform (42%)	Anti-tobacco laws to reduce teen smoking (44%)
Stricter environmental regulations (37%)	Campaign finance reform laws (39%)	Laws to protect gays and lesbians from hate crimes (42%)
Campaign finance reform laws (37%)	Tougher gun control laws (29%)	Campaign finance reform laws (39%)
Anti-tobacco laws to reduce teen smoking (34%)	Anti-tobacco laws to reduce teen smoking (27%)	Ban late-term abortions (30%)
Laws to protect gays and lesbians from hate crimes (28%)	Raise minimum wage (25%)	Limiting affirmative action (22%)
Limiting affirmative action (22%)	Stricter environmental regulations (25%)	Using tax money for school vouchers (15%)
Using tax money for school vouchers (20%)	Using tax money for school vouchers (25%)	
	Limiting affirmative action (24%)	
	Laws to protect gays and lesbians from hate crimes (15%)	

CHART 6

VOTERS' ATTITUDES ABOUT PRIVATE INVESTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Percent who favor/oppose a proposal to allow people to invest some of their Social Security payroll contributions in the stock market, which means that when people retire, their benefits could either be higher or lower than expected depending on the stock market's performance.

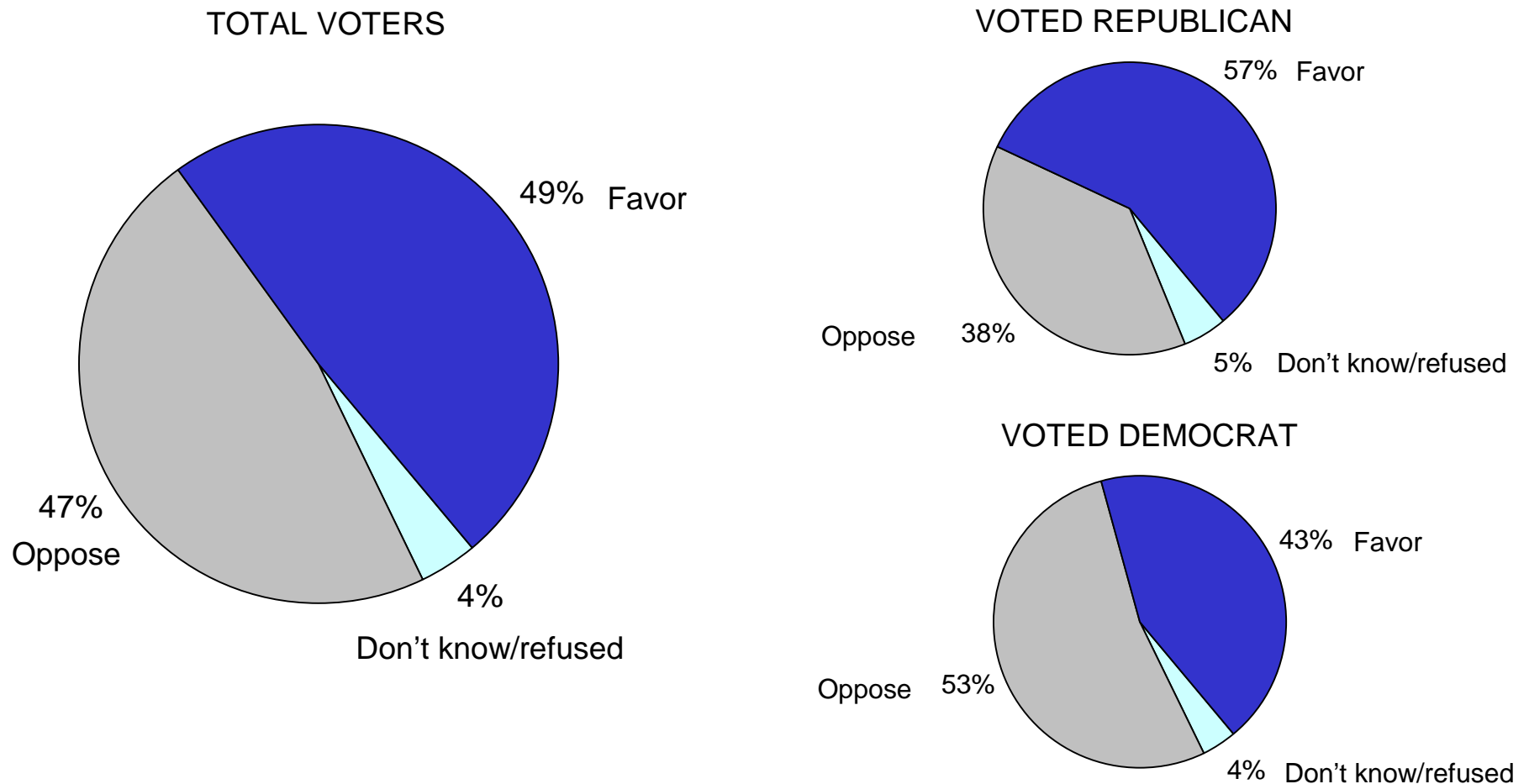


CHART 7

VOTERS' VIEWS ON MEDICARE REFORM PROPOSALS

Percent who favor the following proposals to reform Medicare...

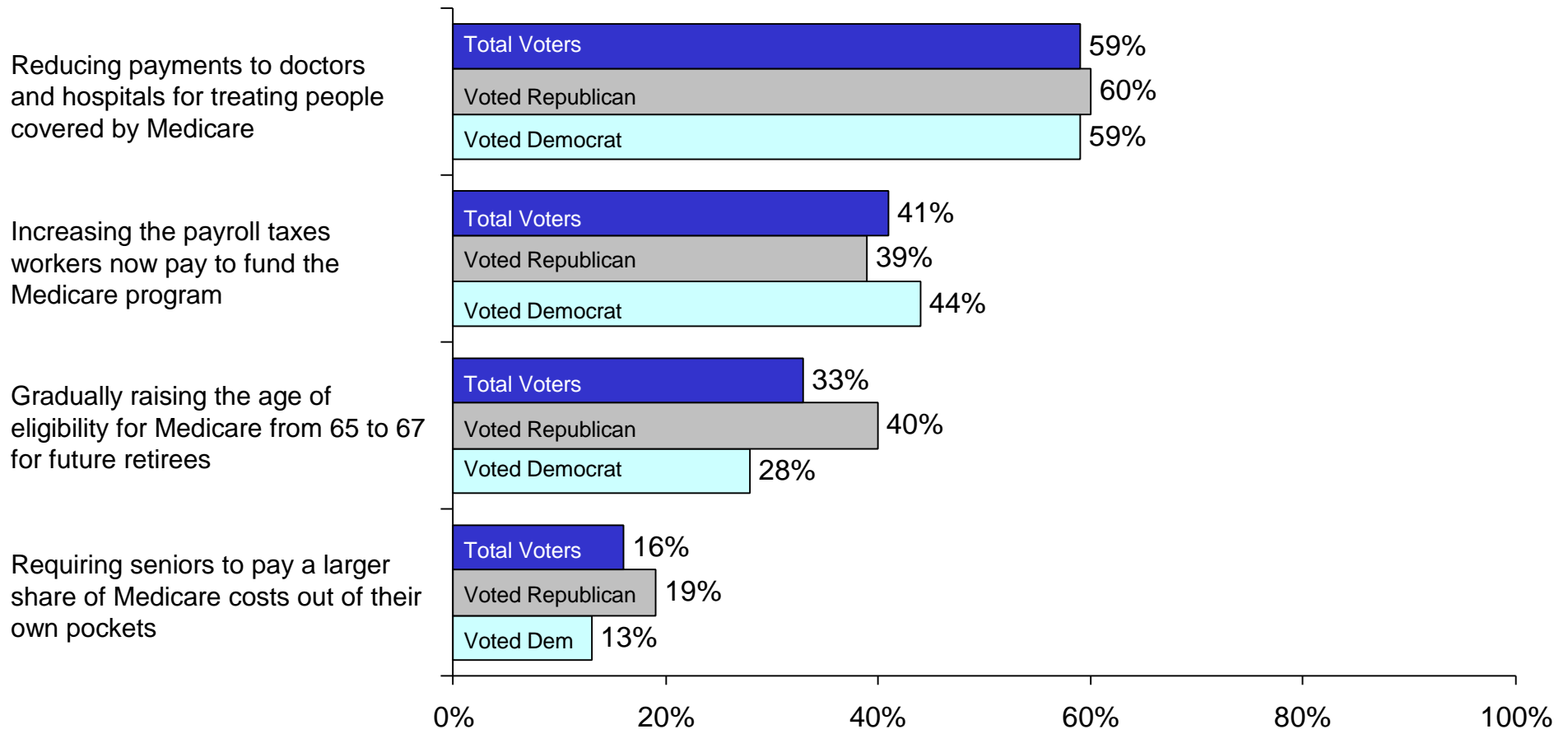
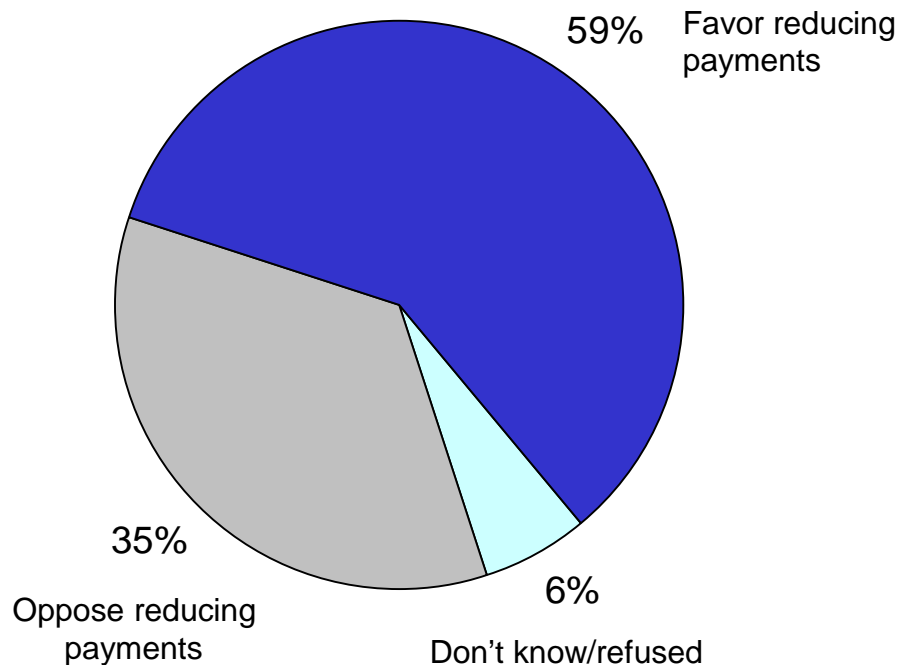


CHART 7A

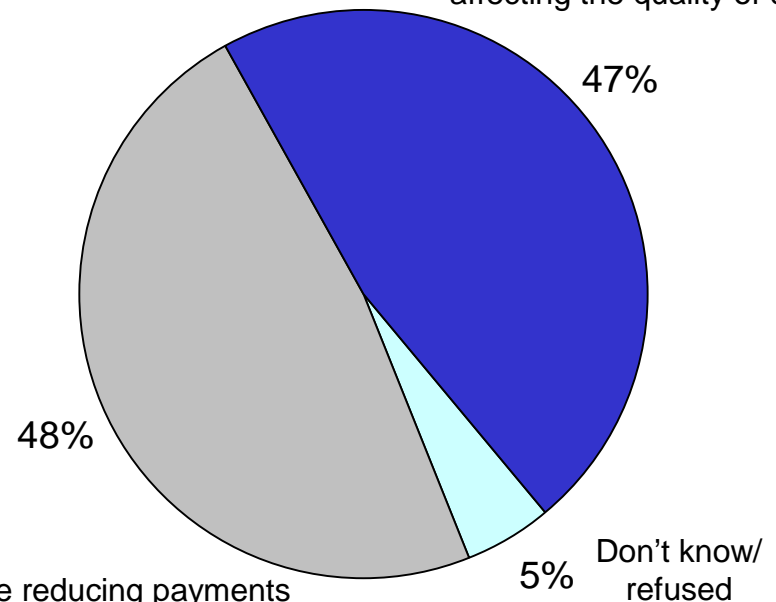
...BUT EARLIER SURVEY SHOWS SUPPORT DROPS WITH ARGUMENTS

A majority of Americans initially support reducing payments to doctors and hospitals for treating Medicare patients, in an effort to help deal with Medicare's financial problems.



But, when given the pro and con arguments, support drops to less than half for reducing payments.

Favor reducing payments because doctors and hospitals are being paid too much and payments have been reduced before without affecting the quality of care

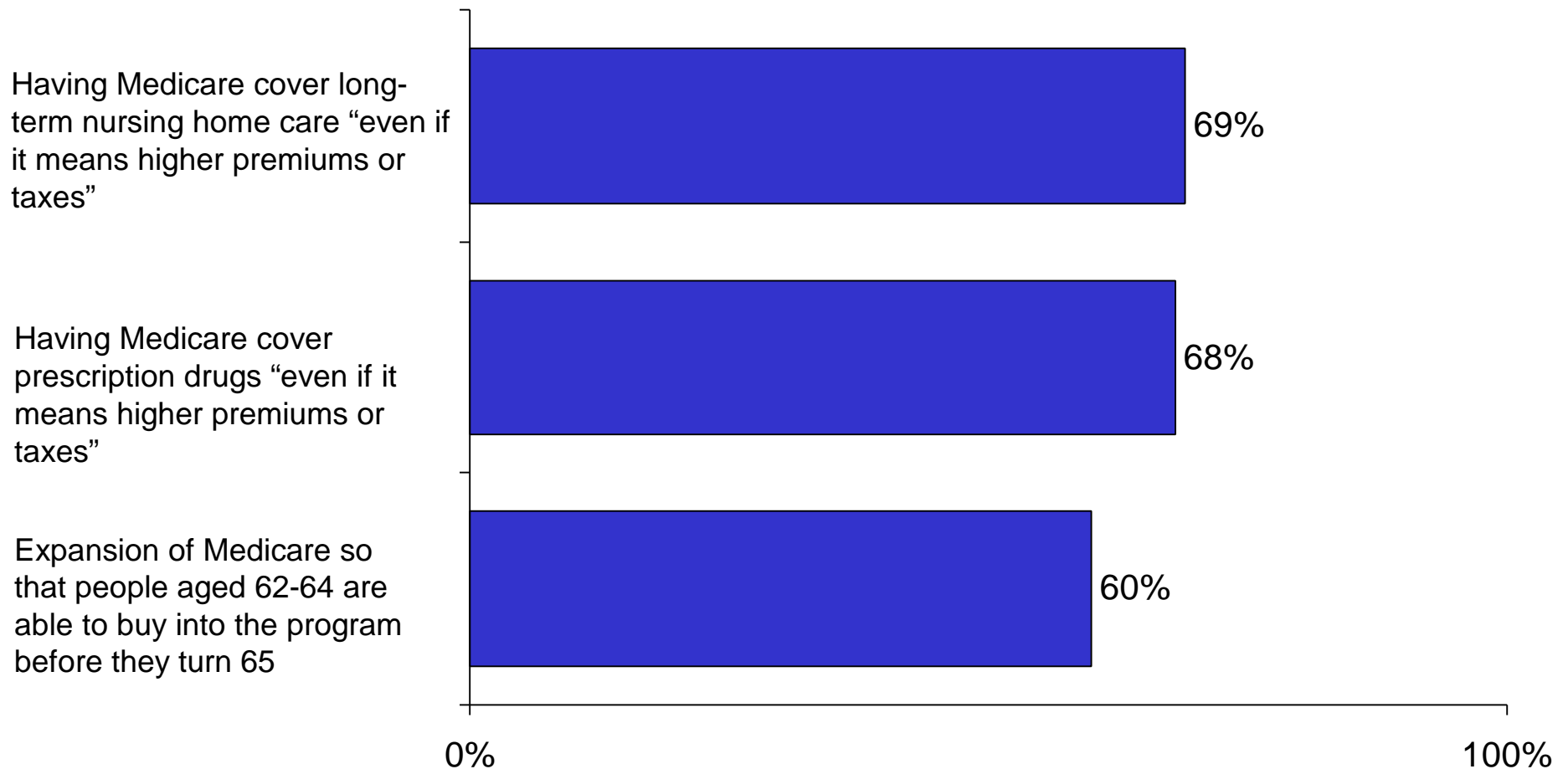


Oppose reducing payments because it will cause the quality of care to go down, and many doctors might stop accepting Medicare patients.

CHART 7B

...IN FACT, PUBLIC SUPPORTS EXPANSIONS OF MEDICARE PROGRAM RATHER THAN REDUCTIONS

Percent of Americans who favor each proposal
when arguments for and against are presented...

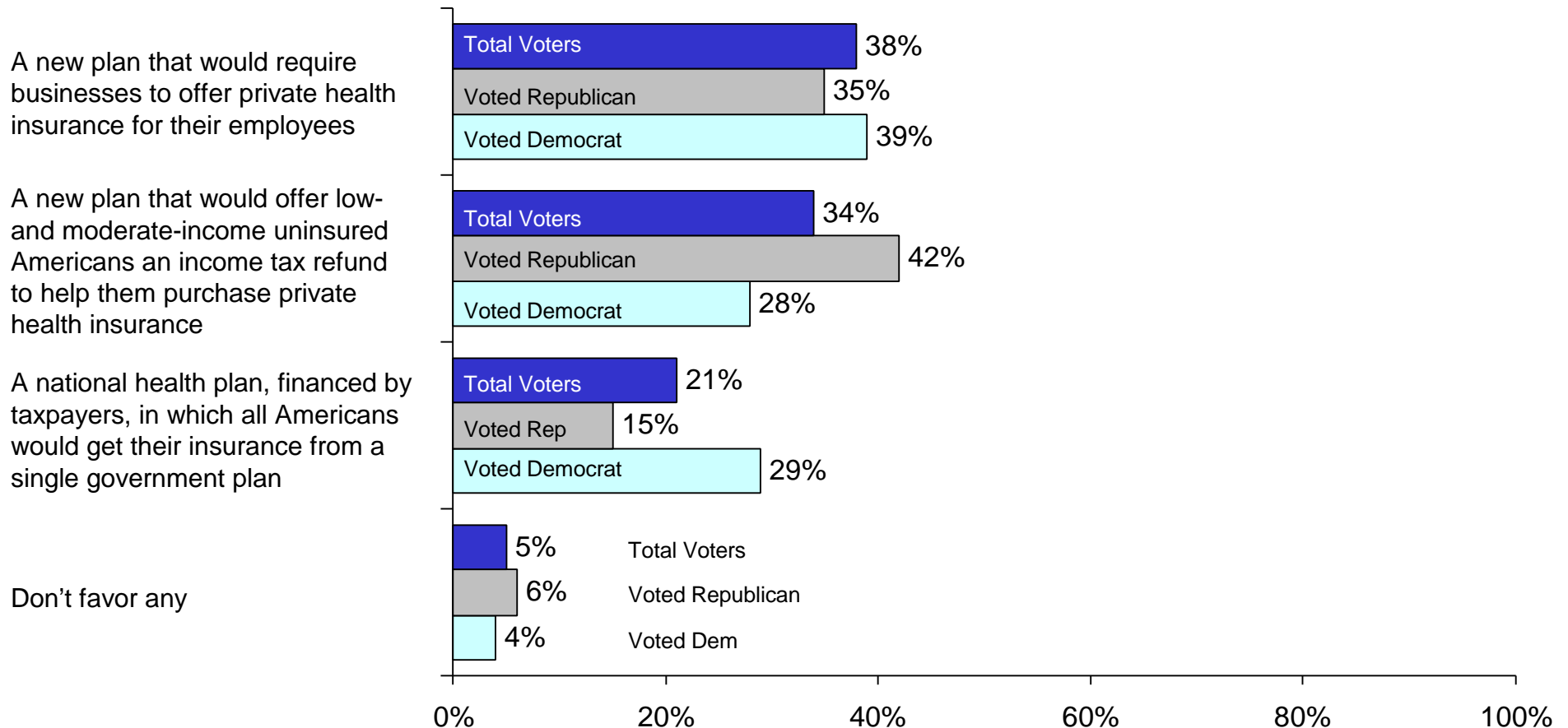


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health National Survey on Medicare, October 20, 1998 (conducted Aug-Sept 1998).

CHART 8

VOTERS' PREFERENCES AMONG PLANS TO GUARANTEE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR MORE AMERICANS

When given a choice among the three, percent who choose each as the most preferred...



Note: Don't know/refused not shown.

Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Post Election Survey, January 1999 (conducted November 1998).

CHART 9

VOTERS' WILLINGNESS TO PAY MORE TO HELP UNINSURED AMERICANS

Percent who are willing to pay more in premiums or taxes to increase the number of Americans who have health insurance...

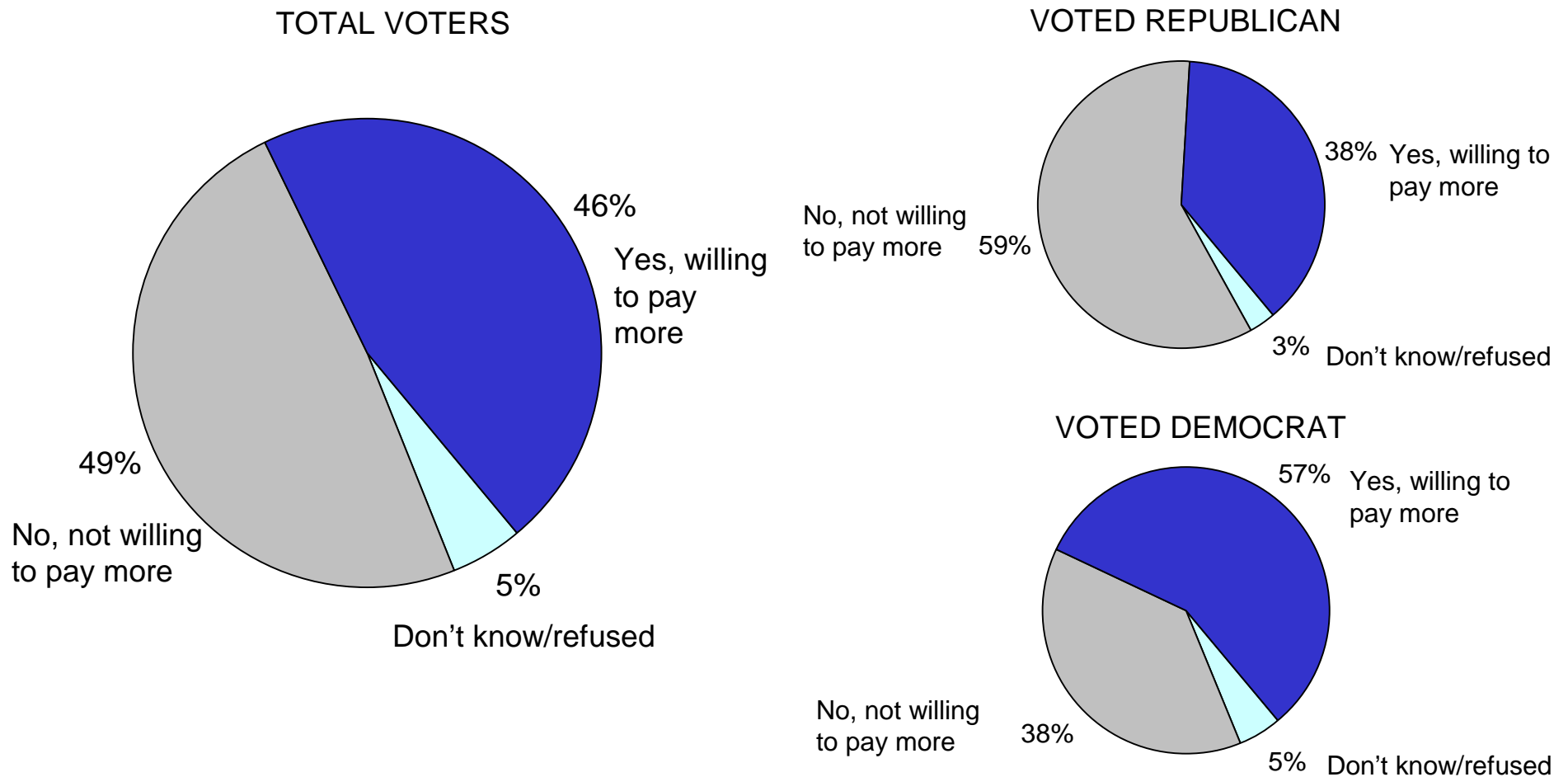


CHART 10

VOTERS' VIEWS ON HMO/MANAGED CARE REFORM

Percent who favor/oppose a proposed law requiring HMOs/managed care plans and health insurance companies to provide people with more information about their plan, make it easier for people to see specialists, allow appeals to independent reviewers, and give people the right to sue their health plan...

Favor this law even if it would increase health insurance premiums by about \$20 per month (approx. \$200 per year per family)...

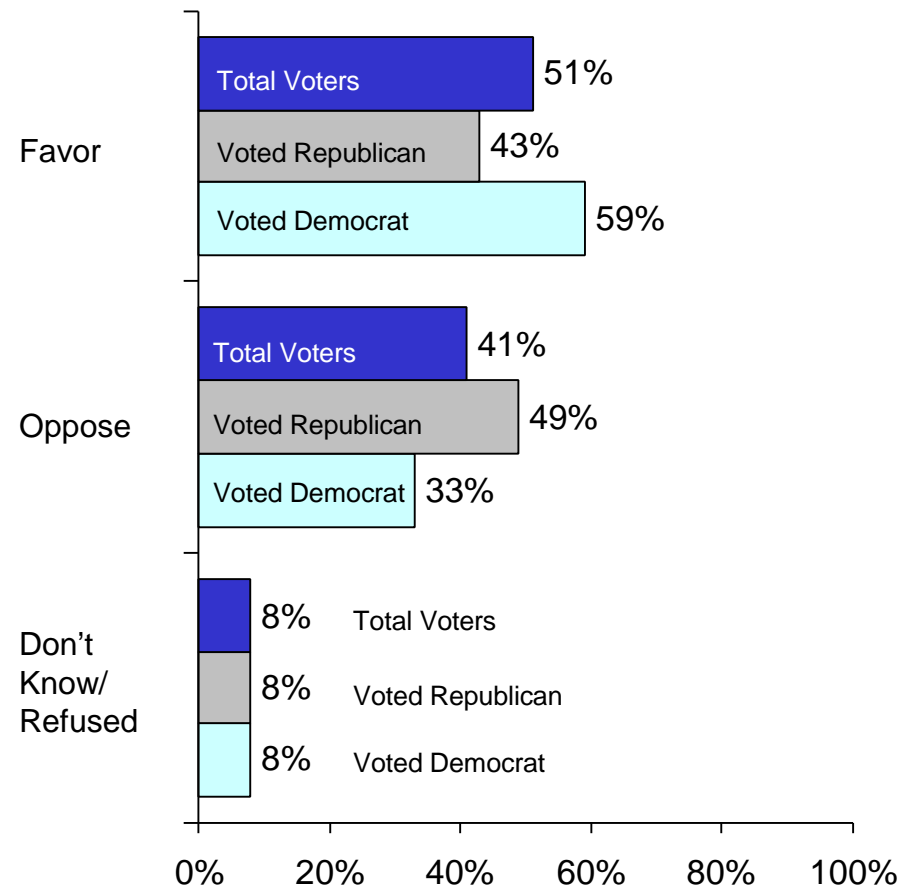
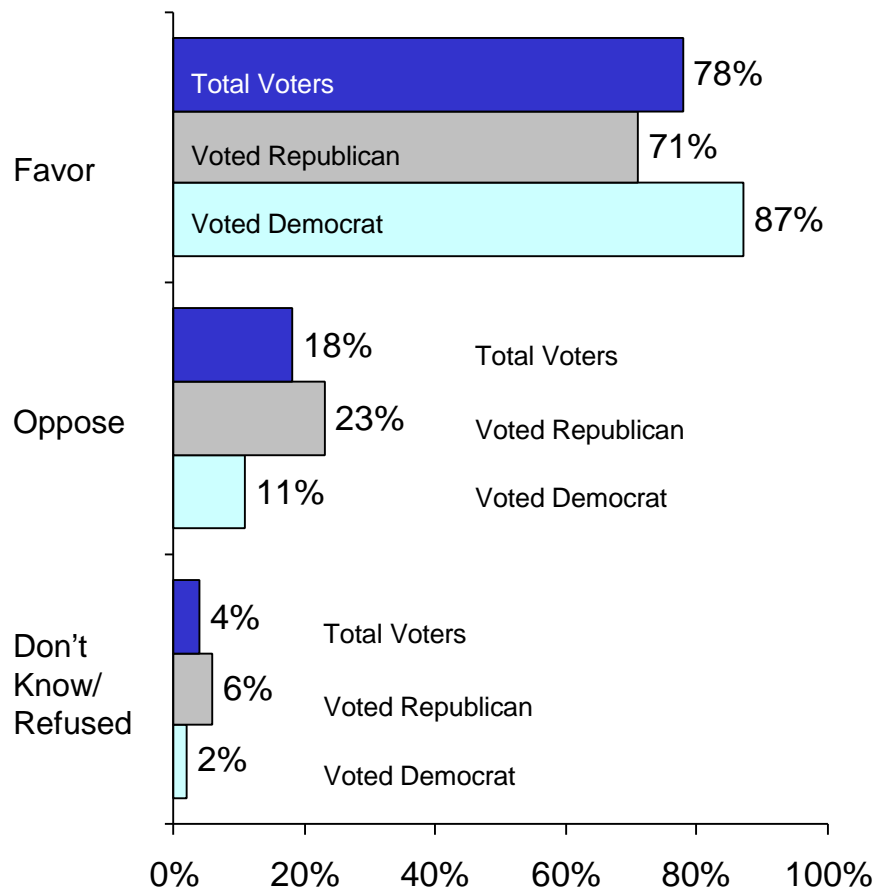
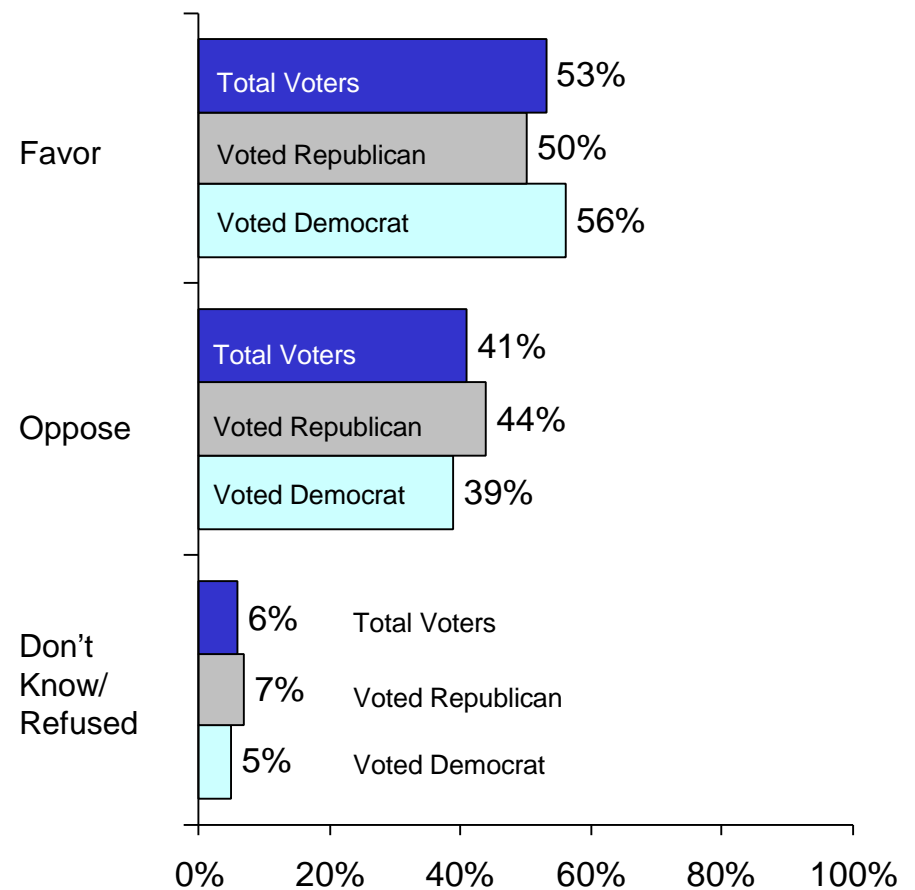
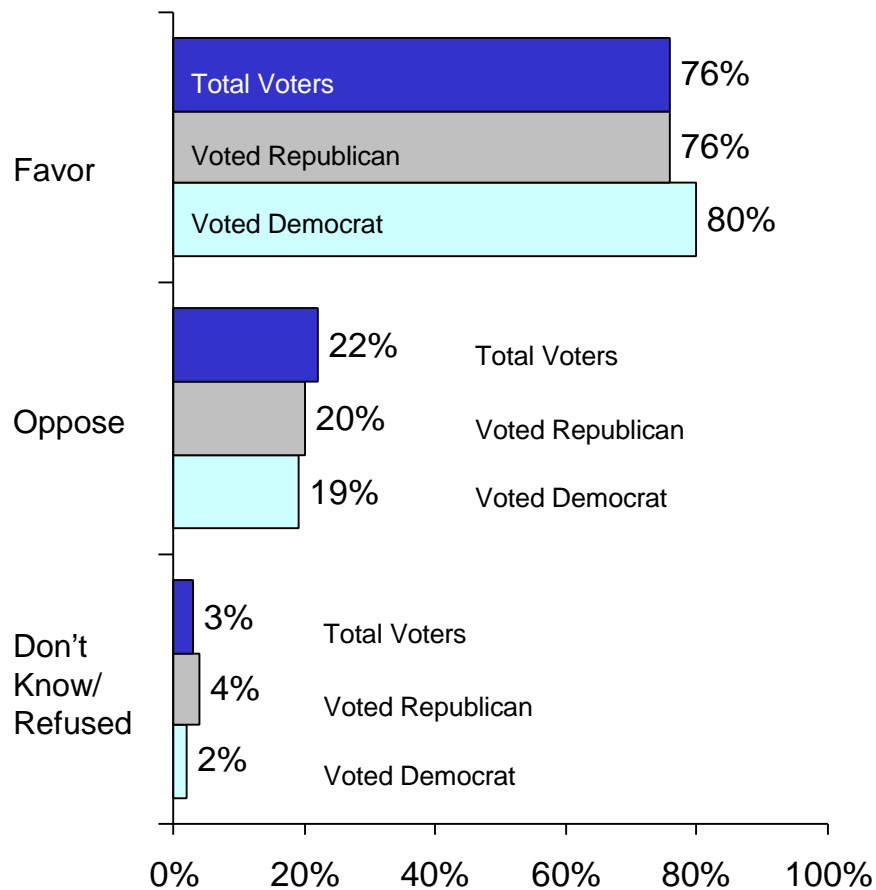


CHART 11

VOTERS' VIEWS ON PROPOSED LAW TO ALLOW PATIENTS TO SUE MANAGED CARE PLANS

Percent who favor/oppose proposed law that would allow patients to sue HMOs, managed care plans, and health insurance companies for malpractice, like they can now sue a doctor...

... even if it might increase the cost of people's health insurance premiums



VOTERS' RANKINGS OF FOUR HEALTH ISSUES...

FOR CONGRESS

Percent who say of the four, the one they would most like to see congress do...

Make Medicare financially sound **(37%)**

Help uninsured get health insurance **(31%)**

**Protect patients' rights in HMO/
managed care plans (23%)**

Reduce smoking,
especially among teens **(6%)**

FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILY

Percent who say they are "very concerned" about each

Make Medicare financially sound **(71%)**

**Protect patients' rights in HMO/
managed care plans (69%)**

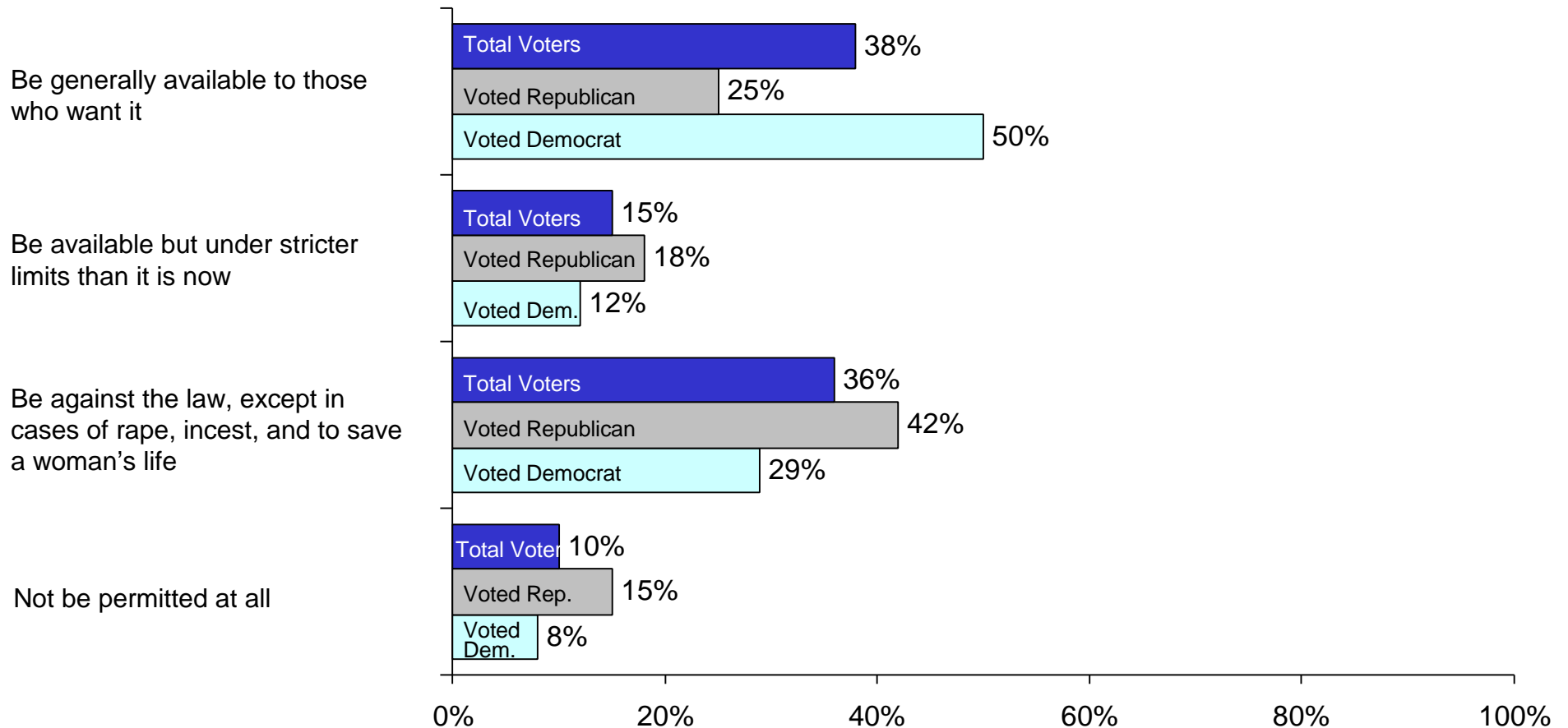
Reduce smoking,
especially among teens **(68%)**

Help uninsured get health insurance **(56%)**

CHART 13

VOTERS' ATTITUDES ABOUT ABORTION

Percent who say abortion should...



Note: Don't know/refused not shown.

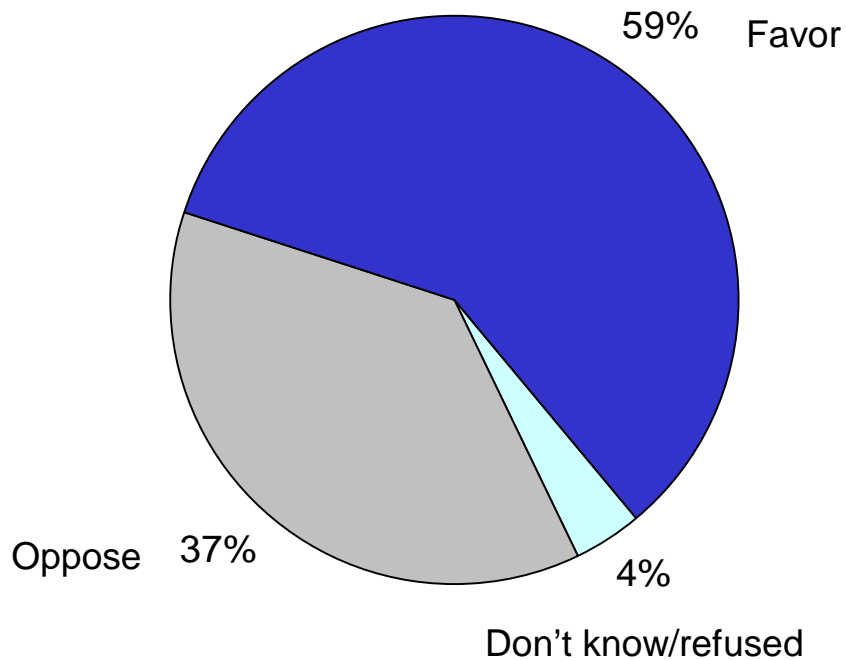
Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Post Election Survey, January 1999 (conducted November 1998).

CHART 14

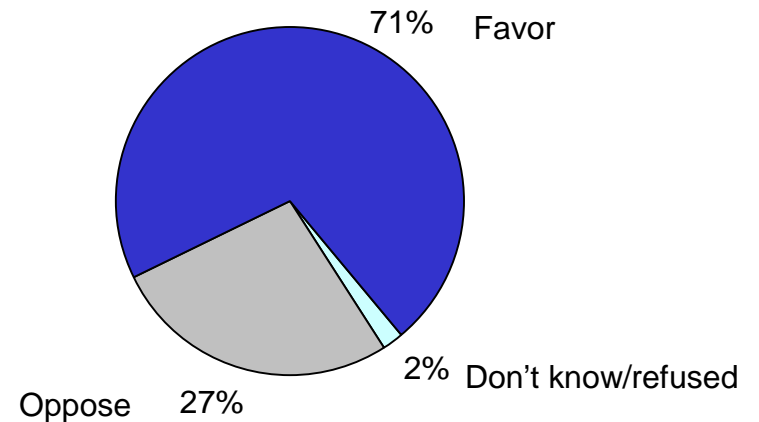
VOTERS' ATTITUDES ABOUT BANNING LATE TERM ABORTIONS

Percent who favor/oppose a law which would make it illegal to perform a specific abortion procedure often referred to as a late term abortion, except when necessary to save the life of the mother

TOTAL VOTERS



VOTED REPUBLICAN



VOTED DEMOCRAT

