Voters’ Health Care Priorities
Survey of California Likely Voters

California Voters Say Fixing Health Care Is a Top Priority

• California voters say health care is one of the top-two issues informing their vote this November.
• About 9 in 10 say improving health care should be a “top” or “major” priority for elected officials and they want them to do more to improve health care.
• California voters desire lower health fees and want their out-of-pocket costs to be more predictable.
• They want politicians and the private sector industry leaders to focus on policy reforms that make the health care system more affordable and the cost more transparent to consumers.

Voters want health care to be a priority

| How much improving health care is a current priority to your elected representatives |  |
|---|---|---|
| 27% | 30% | 35% |

| How much improving health care should be a priority to your officials |  |
|---|---|---|
| 45% | 39% | 13% |

The most important issues on voters’ minds

- The economy: 55% (49%)
- Health care: 54% (49%)
- Immigration: 31% (30%)
- The environment: 27% (16%)
- Unemployment: 17% (22%)
- Education: 12% (17%)

Voters are frustrated by health costs

- Percentage of voters frustrated by the following:
  - Insurance costs, like premiums, copays and deductibles: 68%
  - Hospital fees and unexpected hospital bills: 63%
  - Insurance networks are too narrow, covering too few doctors and specialists: 56%
  - Out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs: 54%

Voters want transparency in costs

- Percent of voters who want more of the following:
  - 77% Clarity on out of pocket costs at hospitals
  - 75% Clarity on what health care providers and medicines are covered by your insurance
  - 72% Clarity on out of pocket costs for prescriptions
  - 71% Information on how often and why specific health treatments prescribed by a doctor are denied by insurers

Broad support for real solutions

- Percentage of voters want the following changes:
  - 88% Pharmacists should be able to inform customers at the point-of-sale of ways to save money on a prescription
  - 82% Pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, and health insurers should be more transparent about the cost and access to health care
  - 80% Pharmaceutical companies should have to provide information about drug costs and financial assistance available to patients
  - 73% Hospitals and clinics should be required to show how much they are marking up the costs for standard treatments

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted October 4-11, 2018 on behalf of Consumers for Quality Care. A sample of 254 likely voters in California were interviewed online.