WPA intelligence

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: CHRIS WILSON, MIKE YELOVICH
SUBJECT: STATE OF HEALTH CARE IN TEXAS
DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2022

A new poll released last week by WPA Intelligence and conducted on behalf of the Texas Consumer Association shows that likely voters are opposed to the increased health care costs imposed by HB 1919 and are likely to support legislators who vote to repeal the bill.
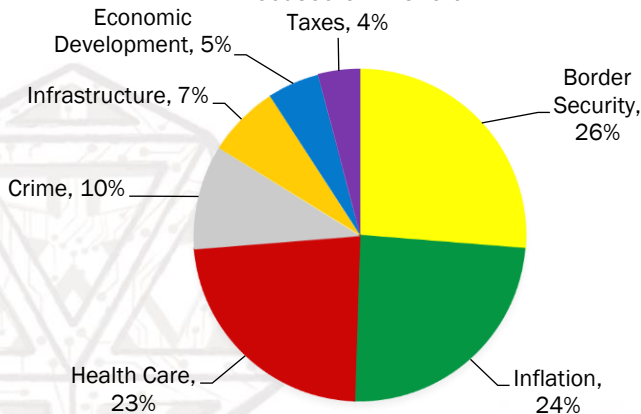
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A vast majority (80%) of likely voters say it is very or somewhat important to be able to receive affordable and accessible health care coverage from their employer. Only 22% of likely voters – and just 10% of Republican voters – are interested in government-only solutions to health care. Fewer than a quarter (23%) of likely voters say legislators should focus on health care, and only 2% of Republicans. Three quarters (75%) of Republicans blame big drug companies or the government for the rising cost of health care. Voters strongly value affordability: given the choice, more than 70% of likely voters would rather have a less expensive prescription that they need to pick up at a certain pharmacy, and only 12% would rather have a more expensive prescription they could pick up at any pharmacy.

LIKELY VOTERS SAY HEALTH CARE IS IMPORTANT, BUT NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE
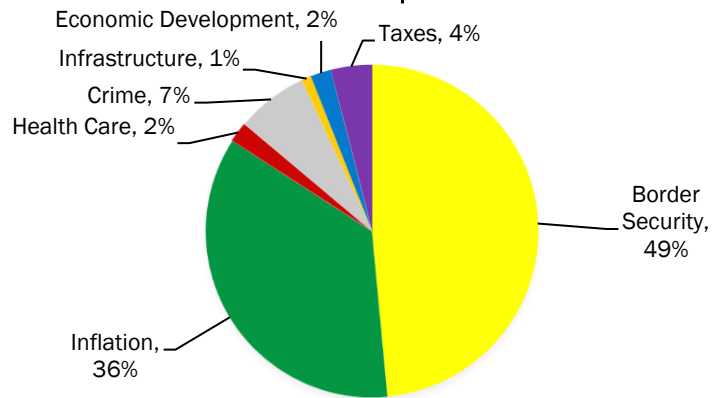
A vast majority (80%) of likely voters say it is very or somewhat important to be able to receive affordable and accessible health care coverage from their employer. However, only 22% of likely voters – and just 10% of Republican voters – are interested in government-only solutions; 64% say the market should play a role in lowering health care costs for Texans.

When asked what issue areas lawmakers should be most focused on in 2023, border security (26%) and inflation (24%) top the list, with 77% of voters preferring lawmakers focus on issues outside of health care. Only 2% of Republicans think lawmakers should be most focused on health care in the 2023 legislative session.

Issue Lawmakers Should be Most Focused on – Overall

- Economic Development, 5%
- Taxes, 4%
- Infrastructure, 7%
- Border Security, 26%
- Crime, 10%
- Health Care, 23%
- Inflation, 24%

Issue Lawmakers Should be Most Focused on – Republicans

- Economic Development, 2%
- Taxes, 4%
- Infrastructure, 1%
- Crime, 7%
- Health Care, 2%
- Border Security, 49%
- Inflation, 36%

LIKELY VOTERS THINK BIG DRUG COMPANIES AND BIG GOVERNMENT ARE THE PROBLEM

68% of likely voters say big drug companies or the government are most responsible for the rising cost of health care and prescription drugs. Among Republican voters, that increases to 75%. Only 1% of voters say pharmacy benefit managers are most responsible.

Big drug companies	35%
The government	33%
Health insurance companies	18%
Health care providers	7%
Pharmacy benefit managers	1%
Other	7%
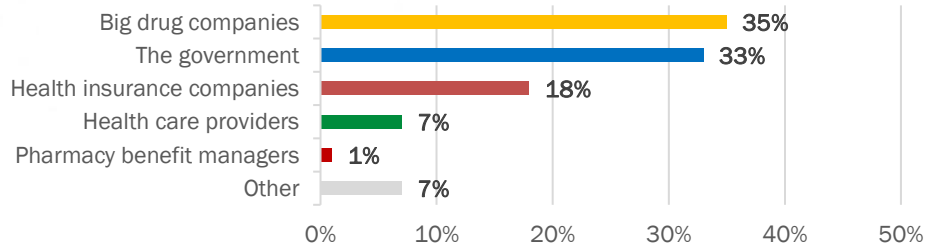
## LIKELY VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY VALUE AFFORDABILITY

Given the choice, more than 70% of likely voters would rather have a less expensive prescription that they need to pick up at a certain pharmacy, and only 12% would rather have a more expensive prescription they could pick up at any pharmacy.

LIKELY VOTERS WANT SOLUTIONS THAT LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS, NOT PROTECTIONISM

70% of likely voters say it's more important for lawmakers to consider legislation stopping big drug companies from setting sky-high prices for prescription drugs. Only 11% say it's more important to regulate how employers work with health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers on health care coverage.

Regulating how employers work with health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers on health care coverage for employees, 11%

Not Sure, 19%

Stopping big drug companies from setting sky high prices for prescription drugs, 70%
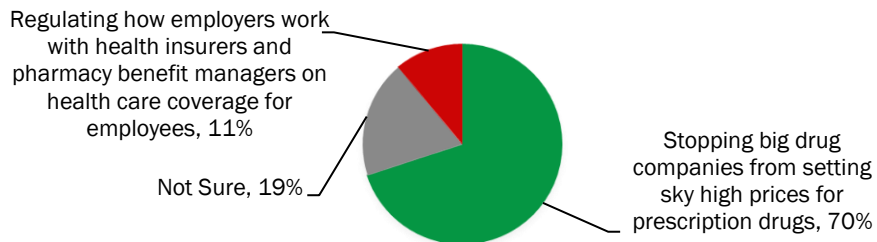
84% of likely voters say it's more important for lawmakers to consider legislation lowering cost of prescription for patients, regardless of how they get their prescriptions. Just 2% say it's more important for lawmakers to protect pharmacy profits, even if means higher patient costs.

Not Sure, 13%

Protecting pharmacy profits, even if it means higher patient costs, 2%

Lowering cost of prescriptions for patients, regardless of which pharmacy they go to, 84%
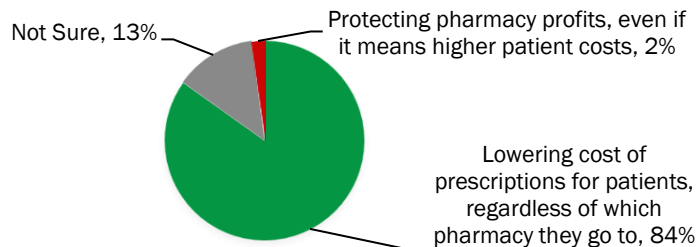
Only 14% of voters oppose repealing HB 1919 and 57% of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a legislator who voted to repeal HB 1919.

METHODOLOGY

WPAi conducted a poll of n=820 likely voters in Texas. Data was collected between September 12–15, 2022 with 69% of interviews being conducted via SMS and 31% via IVR. WPAi selected a random sample of registered voters from the Texas voter file using Probability Proportionate to Size sampling (PPS) using a recently built turnout model. The sample for this survey was stratified based on geography, age, gender, partisanship, and ethnicity. This methodology allows us to avoid post-survey "weighting" which can reduce the reliability of survey results. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.4% at the 95% confidence level.

ABOUT WPA INTELLIGENCE

WPA Intelligence is a leading provider of survey research, predictive analytics and application-based data management technology. WPAi clients win at a rate that exceeds the industry standard by double-digits.

WPAi has been the data team behind the RNC voter scores program, the polling/data team for the 2016 Cruz for President effort, the providers of data strategy for the Las Vegas Raiders relocation and, most recently, the team behind the analytics and polling for Glenn Youngkin's 2021 Virginia Gubernatorial campaign.

WPAi has been nationally recognized for providing cutting-edge intelligence to help our clients win. The American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) has awarded WPAi with eleven Pollies including Best in Show. In 2022, CEO Chris Wilson and Vice President Amanda Iovino were awarded Pollster of the Year for our polling and analytics work on the Youngkin for Governor Campaign. We have also been recognized by Campaigns & Elections' Reed Awards for the Best Use of Data Analytics/Machine Learning, Best New Research Technique, Best Application of AI Technology to Optimize Targeting, and Best Data Analytics Solutions.

The cornerstone of WPAi is our personnel. Our methodological approaches are dictated by advanced statistical guidelines as determined by our PhD-led team of researchers and data scientists. Our team has consistently been recognized as some of the best in the industry: CEO Chris Wilson was named Campaigns & Elections' Technology Leader of the Year; Amanda Iovino, Vice President, Matt Knee, Vice President and Director of Analytics, Trevor K. Smith, Ph.D., Chief Research Officer, and Conor Maguire, Principal and Managing Director, each have been recognized amongst the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC)'s prestigious 40 Under 40 list.