



Latino Policy Coalition

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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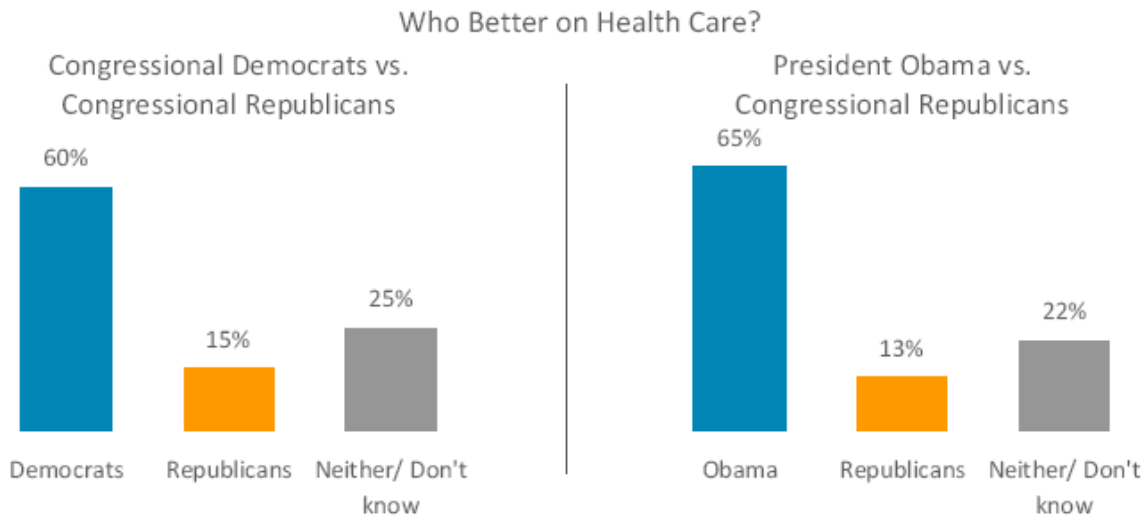
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Latino Health Care Poll Indicates Republicans May be Risking Future Voter Support

Sacramento, CA – Latino voters across all party affiliations, agree that the health care system needs a complete overhaul or major reform (80% Latino Democrats, 53% Latino Republicans, and 72% Latino Independents).

According to the Latino Policy Coalition’s (LPC) nationwide survey, respondents were supportive of key features of President Obama’s proposed health care reform plan: (63%) were in favor of a plan that includes lowering insurance costs, creating a public option, bringing in greater competition, and making health care more affordable.

Overwhelming support for health care reform is not new among Latino voters. In a 2006 LPC poll 88% agreed that government should guarantee affordable care and 70% agreed that the best way to increase health care coverage was to offer people individualized health care options. Now, only three years later when asked who they trust more to address health care and prescription drugs, Latino voters responded trusting President Obama, over Republicans by a stunning margin of 52 points and by a margin of 45 points in favor of Congressional Democrats.



“Latino families, like most Americans, have been suffering for decades under the current health care system,” said LPC Chair Jim Gonzalez. “This data is a clear warning signal to the Republican Party who is perceived as not offering any solutions to America’s fastest growing ethnic voting bloc.”

Among key findings was a head-to-head matchup of arguments, for and against, a health care plan that includes a “public option” being advanced by Democratic leaders vs. a plan described as “socialized medicine”. Latino voters as a whole were not swayed from their support (80% Latino Democrats, 49% Latino Independents, and 23% Latino Republicans.) (This hotly contested element of the proposed health care reform package promises to offer Americans the option of paying for healthcare coverage through the government. The option would expand health care coverage and offer a safety net to the 47 million Americans currently going without. The public option proposal seeks to make the health insurance market more competitive.)

Joshua Ulibarri, of Lake Research Partners noted that “Republican opposition to reform has cost them support among Latino voters, and they risk losing further support if they remain so entrenched against health care reform and other Obama priorities.”

“Last week the LPC poll showed that Republicans were skating on thin ice with Latino voters by opposing the Sotomayor confirmation. This week’s analysis of the data infers that Republicans may be on their way to committing ritual political suicide by opposing the public option element of health care reform.” Gonzalez concluded.

About the Latino Policy Coalition

The Latino Policy Coalition is a national non-partisan non-profit consortium of the country's leading Latino research organizations and scholars. These organizations are dedicated to measuring through nationwide polls public policy issues affecting the Latino community. Chaired by former SF Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, the LPC's mission is to help define Latino community concerns on key contemporary issues in order to stimulate public policy debate among local, state and national elected officials.

METHODOLOGY

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached 1,000 Latino/a registered voters in the 23 states with the highest Latino population density. A quarter of the interviews were conducted in Spanish. These states include: CA, TX, FL, NY, IL, AZ, NJ, NM, CO, GA, NV, NC, WA, MA, VA, PA, CT, MI, OR, MD, IN, OH, and WI. The survey was conducted July 23 through July 28, 2009. Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from files of registered voters. The data were weighted slightly by age and education. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

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