



**KEY FINDINGS FROM TELEPHONE SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN THE SIX
DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AND 36
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WHERE DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS VOTED ‘NO’ ON THE HOUSE-PASSED HEALTH CARE
REFORM BILL**

March 19, 2010

KEY FINDINGS:

- 1. There is a significant difference in attitudes between those voters who live in the six Democratic leadership congressional districts and those voters who live in the 36 ‘no’ vote Democratic congressional districts.**
 - President Obama has a net negative job approval rating in the 36 ‘no’ vote Democratic districts (42% approve/54% disapprove) compared to a large net positive rating in the six Democratic leadership districts (65% approve/29% disapprove).
 - By a two-to-one margin voters in the 36 ‘no’ vote Democratic districts ‘strongly disapprove’ of the job President Obama is doing (21% strongly approve/41% strongly disapprove).
 - Senator McCain carried the 36 ‘no’ vote Democratic districts in the 2008 presidential election (46% McCain/41% Obama), while President Obama carried the six Democratic leadership districts by a larger margin (24% McCain/65% Obama).
 - Voters’ interest in the 2010 elections, and their vote intensity level, is higher in the 36 ‘no’ vote Democratic districts (68%) than in to the six Democratic leadership districts (57%).

2. This survey data shows the Democratic leadership is in a much more comfortable position on health care reform than those Members of Congress in the 36 ‘no’ vote Democratic congressional districts.

The situation in the 36 ‘no’ vote Democratic districts:

- Opposition to the proposed House health care reform bill is very high (35% Support/60% Oppose).
 - Intensity of opposition is significant. Nearly half of voters say they ‘strongly oppose’ the bill. By more than a two-to-one margin voters ‘strongly oppose’ the bill (18% strongly support/47% strongly oppose).
 - Opposition to the health care reform bill is higher among Independents (27% support/65% oppose).
 - Opposition is also higher among the 40% of voters most closely following the health care reform discussion in Congress (30% support/68% oppose).
- The plurality of voters say if their Democratic Member of Congress* votes to pass the current health care bill they would be less likely to vote for them in November (23% more likely to vote/43% less likely to vote).
 - The data are even worse among some key voter groups:
 - Seniors (27% more likely to vote/50% less likely to vote)
 - Independents (14% more likely to vote/47% less likely to vote)
 - Suburban voters (22% more likely to vote/47% less likely to vote)
 - Voters who are currently undecided on the generic congressional ballot (11% more likely to vote/45% less likely to vote)
 - The majority of voters most interested in the November elections say they are less likely to vote for their Democratic Member of Congress if they vote to pass the current health care bill (22% more likely to vote/52% less likely to vote). These voters are 68% of the survey’s sample and are the people who will most likely make up the pool of voters in 2010.

The situation in the six Democratic leadership districts:

- Voters in these districts support the House health care reform bill (62% support/30% oppose).
- The plurality of these voters say their Member of Congress’s vote on the health care reform bill will make no difference in how they vote in 2010 (34% more likely/23% less likely/40% no difference). However, in these districts a vote ‘yes’ on the health care reform bill is a net positive.

* Respondents were asked about their specific Member of Congress by name in this question.

- 3. Voters' expectations about the proposed House health care reform bill are very negative in the 36 'no' vote Democratic districts compared to voters in the six Democratic leadership districts being more neutral to slightly negative.**
- Roughly half of voters in the 36 'no' vote Democratic districts say if the health care reform bill is passed the quality of their health care will get worse (15% will get better/49% will get worse/33% stay the same) compared to the majority of voters in the six Democratic leadership districts saying it will stay the same (19% will get better/25% will get worse/52% stay the same).
 - A majority of voters in the 36 'no' vote Democratic districts say if the health care reform bill is passed the cost of their health care will increase (57% will increase/11% will decrease/25% stay the same) compared to voters in the six Democratic leadership districts who are more split on this question (40% will increase/17% will decrease/38% stay the same).
 - Roughly seven in ten voters in the 36 'no' vote Democratic districts say if the health care reform bill is passed the federal deficit will increase (69% increase/7% decrease/20% stay the same). On this measure, voters in the six Democratic leadership districts agree (48% increase/21% decrease/24% stay the same).
- 4. If the health care reform bill is passed in Congress, for those Members in the 36 'no' vote Democratic districts a 'yes' vote could easily have a negative impact on their bid for re-election. A 'yes' vote in the six Democratic leadership districts has no impact on people's vote intention.**

What a 'yes' vote on health care reform means in the 36 Democratic districts:

- Voters are more likely to say they will vote Republican in November if a health care reform bill is passed.
 - At the beginning of the survey voters were asked a standard generic congressional ballot question. Republicans hold a slight advantage in the 36 'no' vote Democratic districts (43% Republican/37% Democrat/17% undecided).
 - At the end of the survey voters were asked for whom they would vote in November if the health care reform bill passed Congress and is signed into law by President Obama... 'The Republican candidate who proposes repealing and overturning the health care reform bill' or '(insert name of incumbent Democratic Member of Congress) who votes to pass the health care reform bill.'

- The generic ballot shifts to a significant double digit margin advantage with half of voters saying they would vote for the Republican candidate (50% Republican/38% Democrat/8% undecided).

	Generic Congressional Ballot	Impact of Health Care Reform on Generic Congressional Ballot
Republican	43%	50%
Democrat	37%	38%
Undecided	17%	8%

What a ‘yes’ vote on health care reform means in the six Democratic leadership districts:

- A ‘yes’ vote in the six Democratic leadership districts has no impact on people’s vote intention.
 - On the generic congressional ballot at the beginning of the survey, Democrats hold a sizeable advantage in these districts (26% Republican/59% Democrat/11% undecided).
 - At the end of the survey, there is little to no shift in the generic congressional ballot in the six Democratic leadership districts (27% Republican/61% Democrat/9% undecided).

	Generic Congressional Ballot	Impact of Health Care Reform on Generic Congressional Ballot
Republican	26%	27%
Democrat	59%	61%
Undecided	11%	9%

METHODOLOGY:

Public Opinion Strategies conducted two telephone surveys.

- 1) A survey among 800 registered voters in 36 Democratic congressional districts from March 16-17, 2010. The margin of error is $\pm 3.46\%$. The 36 Democratic congressional districts surveyed were where Democratic Members of Congress voted ‘no’ on the House-passed health care reform bill.
- 2) A survey among 450 registered voters in the six Democratic leadership congressional districts on March 18, 2010. The margin of error is $\pm 4.6\%$.

Please see the table on the following page which lists out all of the districts surveyed.

36 'No' Vote Democrats	DISTRICT
Bright, Bobby Neal	AL-2
Davis, Artur Genestre	AL-7
Ross, Michael Avery	AR-4
Markey, Betsy	CO-4
Boyd, F. Allen	FL-2
Kosmas, Suzanne M.	FL-24
Barrow, John Jenkins	GA-12
Marshall, Jim	GA-8
Minnick, Walt	ID-1
Chandler, Albert Benjamin	KY-6
Melancon, Charles J.	LA-3
Kratovil, Frank M. Jr.	MD-1
Peterson, Collin Clark	MN-7
Skelton, Isaac Newton	MO-4
Childers, Travis Wayne	MS-1
Taylor, Gary Eugene	MS-4
Shuler, Heath	NC-11
McIntyre, Mike	NC-7
Kissell, Larry	NC-8
Adler, John Herbert	NJ-3
Teague, Harry	NM-2
McMahon, Michael E.	NY-13
Murphy, Scott	NY-20
Bocchieri, John A.	OH-16
Boren, David Daniel	OK-2
Holden, Thomas Timothy	PA-17
Altmire, Jason	PA-4
Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie	SD (AL)
Davis, Lincoln Edward	TN-4
Gordon, Barton Jennings	TN-6
Tanner, John S.	TN-8
Edwards, Thomas Chester	TX-17
Matheson, James David	UT-2
Nye, Glenn C.	VA-2
Boucher, Frederick Carlyle	VA-9
Baird, Brian Norton	WA-3

Democrat Congressional Leaders	DISTRICT
Miller, George	CA-7
Pelosi, Nancy	CA-8
Waxman, Henry	CA-30
Hoyer, Steny	MD-5
Clyburn, James	SC-6
Rangel, Charles	NY-15