

# THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY  
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS  
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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### **CALIFORNIA VOTER VIEWS OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (Part 2 of 2):**

**REDUCING THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED RESIDENTS SHOULD BE LAWMAKERS TOP HEALTH CARE PRIORITY; MAJORITIES SUPPORT REFORMING, NOT REPLACING THE STATE'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. PREFERENCE FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED COVERAGE.**

by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

According to the results of a special statewide *Field Poll* funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation, when considering health policy issues in the coming year, voters give top priority for state lawmakers to reduce the number of uninsured residents.

Voters support a range of proposals aimed at expanding health coverage to residents. Majorities prefer to reform rather than replace the current health care system, and display a strong sense of the need to share responsibilities across employers, government and individuals.

Pluralities of voters would rather receive their health care coverage from an employer rather than assuming personal responsibility for this or getting it from the government. There is recognition, however, that this puts employers at a competitive disadvantage to other businesses in the U.S. and overseas that do not provide health coverage.

### **Top health care priorities for state lawmakers to address**

When asked to assess the importance of a number of health policy issues facing California, the proportions of voters rating each issue a "top priority" for state lawmakers to address in the coming year are as follows:

- Reduce the number of people who are uninsured (59%)
- Require that affordable health plans be offered without regard to a person's health status or pre-existing health conditions (55%)
- Increase funding for hospital emergency rooms and trauma centers (51%)
- Increase the number of affordable health plans available (51%)
- Improve the quality of health care services (50%) (*Tables 1a-b*)

Voters attach similar levels of importance to three cost-related health care issues, with slightly less than half of voters rating each as a top priority for state lawmakers. These include...

- Hold down out-of-pocket costs for doctor visits, medical tests and hospital fees (47%)
- Find ways to hold down people's out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs (46%)
- Hold down out-of-pocket costs for health insurance premiums (46%) (*Table 2a-b*)

### **Reform health care system through greater shared employer, government and individual responsibility**

By a greater than two-to-one margin (52% to 24%) voters support reforming the health care system through greater shared employer, government and individual responsibilities rather than replacing the current system with a new government-run system covering all Californians. Another 18% favor relying on free market competition to improve the current insurance system. (*Tables 3a-b*)

Three specific reform proposals aimed at providing greater health coverage for Californians are supported by at least three in four voters state wide.

- Nearly eight in ten (78%) endorse the so-called "pay or play" employer mandate, which calls for requiring employers of twenty or more employees to provide health care insurance for their full-time workers or be required to pay into a state fund that would provide insurance for their employees.
- A 76% majority backs expanding the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people to provide coverage for more people without insurance.
- A similar level of support (75%) exists for the idea of offering part-time workers and other uninsured residents a choice of health plans on a family-by-family basis, with costs shared among employers, government and individuals.

Majorities of voters across virtually all major political and demographic subgroups of the voting population favor each of these three proposals.

Two other health reform proposals are supported by slightly smaller majorities, while another divides voters about evenly.

- Sixty-eight percent favor the idea of requiring that every Californian have health insurance either from their employer or another source, and offering government subsidies to low income residents to assist them in paying for it.
- Six in ten (61%) back the idea of encouraging individuals to put money into a tax-free health savings account to pay for regular health care bills, accompanied by the purchase of a catastrophic insurance policy to pay for major medical bills.

- The idea of consolidating all of the money and resources now spent by employers, individuals, government and insurance companies to operate the current health system and replacing it with a new state-run system covering all residents divides voters, with 47% in favor and 49% opposed.

While there are some variations in the levels of support for the first two of these proposals across political and demographic lines, each is endorsed by majorities across most voter subgroups. However, the idea of replacing the current health insurance system with a government-run system divides voters sharply along political and demographic lines. For example, while six in ten Democrats (61%) support this approach, among Republicans just 26% endorse it. Similarly, while 68% of those who identify themselves as strongly liberal favor creating a government-run health system, just 22% of strong conservatives back the idea. In addition, 72% of those with household incomes of less than \$20,000 support this proposal, compared to just 33% support among voters with household incomes of \$80,000 or more. (*Table 4a-5b*)

When asked what effect the possible enactment of each proposal would have on their own situation, majorities or pluralities of voters see no significant effect. In addition, for every proposal except replacing the current system with a government-run health care system, more voters who believe each proposal would impact their family expect the change would make them better off rather than worse off. A slightly larger proportion of voters believes the idea of changing to a government-run health care system would likely make them worse off (30%) as think it would improve their situation (24%). (*Table 6*)

### **Preference for employer-provided health coverage**

If given the choice, more voters (42%) would choose to receive their health coverage from an employer rather than having personal responsibility for this (26%) or getting it from the government (22%). This view spans most political and demographic subgroups of the voting population. (*Tables 7a-b*)

Even though a plurality favors having employers provide their health care coverage, there is recognition by 66% that this method puts employers at a competitive disadvantage to other businesses in the U.S. and overseas that do not provide health coverage. (*Table 8*)

Voters have varying levels of confidence about whether they have enough information to make the right decisions with regard to what health plans to buy and what health services to use. One in four (27%) say they are very confident in their ability to make the right health care decisions, but more than half (53%) say they only have some confidence, and 19% are not too or not at all confident about this. (*Table 9*)

**Expand community health clinics to provide care for the uninsured**

About two in three voters believe the hospital emergency rooms and trauma care centers in their areas are over-crowded and under-funded, and greater than eight in ten (86%) support the idea (53% strongly) of increasing the number of community health clinics to provide care for uninsured residents instead of at more expensive emergency rooms or trauma centers. (Tables 10-11)

**Support for providing limited types of care at pharmacies and at work sites**

Greater than seven in ten voters think the idea of providing some more limited forms of health care at pharmacies or at the work place would be very or somewhat effective ways to provide greater access to basic health care services. (Table 12)

*(Editor: Data from the survey are summarized in the attached graphics packet. In addition, the marginal results and exact wording of all questions cited in this report are shown in a separate attachment.)*

### **Information About the Survey**

This survey was conducted by *The Field Poll* under a grant from The California Wellness Foundation. *Field Poll* staff benefited from discussions and background information provided by the Foundation and its staff. However, final responsibility for all questions developed and the data analysis presented in this report rested with *The Field Poll*.

The findings are based on a random sample survey of 1,200 California registered voters. Interviewing was conducted November 17- December 12, 2006 in English and Spanish from Field Research Corporation's central location telephone interviewing centers in San Francisco and San Diego. Up to eight attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period.

The sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected at random from a statewide list of registered voters in California. When drawing samples from registration-based lists, *The Field Poll* employs a stratified random selection procedure giving all voters within each of seven regions of the state and within four age categories an equal chance of being selected. Once a voter's name and telephone number are selected, interviews are attempted only with the specific voter selected. Interviews are conducted on either a voter's landline phone or cell phone, depending on the preference of the voter. After the completion of interviewing, results were weighted slightly to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depend upon its sample size. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from findings based on the total sample of 1,200 registered voters are subject to a sampling error of 2.9 percentage points. There are other possible sources of error in any survey other than sampling error. Different results could occur because of differences in question wording, the sequencing of questions, the rigor with which sampling procedures were implemented, as well as through undetected errors or omissions in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

### **About The California Wellness Foundation**

The California Wellness Foundation is an independent, private foundation created in 1992, with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The Foundation prioritizes eight issues for funding: diversity in the health professions, environmental health, healthy aging, mental health, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, women's health, and work and health. It also responds to timely issues or special projects outside these funding priorities.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website, [www.tcwf.org](http://www.tcwf.org). Contact: Ruth Holton-Hodson, director of public policy at (916) 648-9673 or Cecilia Laiché, communications officer at (818) 702-1900.

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## **Field Health Policy Survey** (Part 2):

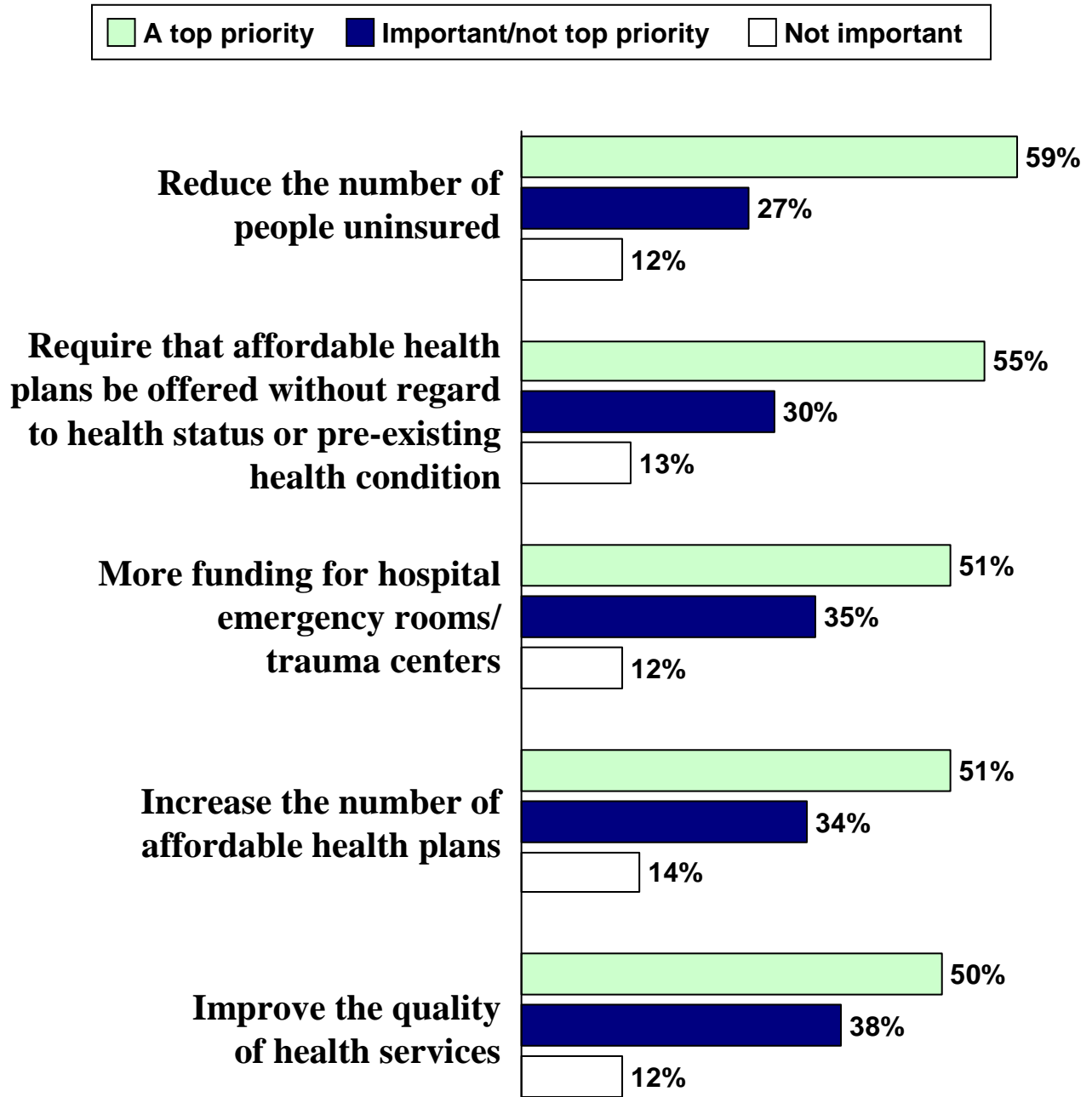
### Health Policy Priorities for State Government; Reaction to Specific Health Reform Proposals

(December 2006)

-Graphics Packet-

Table 1a

# Health issues voters would like state government to address in the coming year



*Note: Differences between 100% and sum of percentages for each item equals proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 1b**

**Health issues voters would like state government  
to address in the coming year  
- by political subgroups -**

	<b><u>% a “top priority”</u></b>				
	<b><u>Reduce number of uninsured</u></b>	<b><u>Offer health plans without regard to health status</u></b>	<b><u>More funding for ERs, trauma centers</u></b>	<b><u>Increase number of affordable health plans</u></b>	<b><u>Improve quality of care</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>59%</u></b>	<b><u>55%</u></b>	<b><u>51%</u></b>	<b><u>51%</u></b>	<b><u>50%</u></b>
<b><u>Party</u></b>					
Democrats	72	67	61	57	58
Republicans	43	37	37	40	36
Non-partisan/others	62	61	54	57	55
<b><u>Political ideology</u></b>					
Strongly conservative	38	39	38	40	35
Moderately conservative	51	51	53	48	54
Middle-of-the-road	61	57	55	53	54
Moderately liberal	76	67	49	49	44
Strongly liberal	80	70	57	67	59
<b><u>Vote for Governor</u></b>					
Schwarzenegger	47	43	41	43	41
Angelides	75	68	63	62	62

**Table 1c**

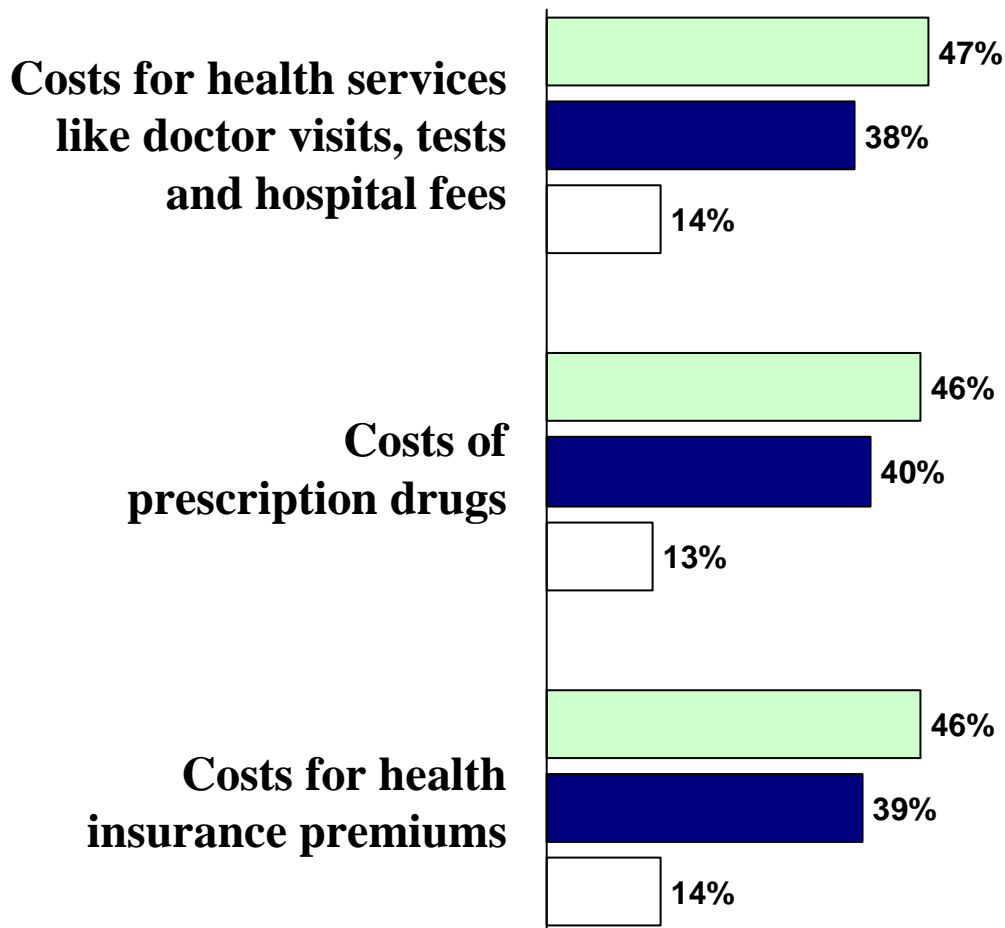
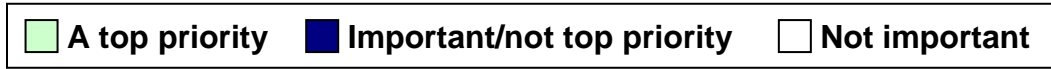
**Health issues voters would like state government  
to address in the coming year  
- by demographic subgroups -**

**% a “top priority”**

	<b><u>Reduce number of uninsured</u></b>	<b><u>Offer health plans without regard to health status</u></b>	<b><u>More funding for ERs, trauma centers</u></b>	<b><u>Increase number of affordable health plans</u></b>	<b><u>Improve quality of care</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>59%</u></b>	<b><u>55%</u></b>	<b><u>51%</u></b>	<b><u>51%</u></b>	<b><u>50%</u></b>
<b><u>Gender</u></b>					
Male	56	50	46	45	46
Female	63	61	56	58	53
<b><u>Age</u></b>					
18 – 39	58	58	51	53	52
40 – 49	58	51	44	50	45
50 – 64	64	58	57	57	51
65 or older	57	51	52	43	50
<b><u>Household income</u></b>					
Less than \$20,000	73	72	71	61	65
\$20,000 - \$39,999	62	63	60	57	58
\$40,000 - \$79,999	61	55	51	52	53
\$80,000 or more	56	46	42	47	38

**Table 2a**

# Importance for state government to find ways to hold down out-of-pocket costs people pay for health care



*Note: Differences between 100% and sum of percentages for each item equals proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 2b**

**Importance for state government to find ways to hold  
down out-of-pocket costs people pay for health care  
- by political subgroups -**

	<b><u>% a “top priority”</u></b>		
	<b><u>Costs of health services</u></b>	<b><u>Costs of prescription drugs</u></b>	<b><u>Costs of health insurance premiums</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>47%</u></b>	<b><u>46%</u></b>	<b><u>46%</u></b>
<b><u>Party</u></b>			
Democrats	52	56	55
Republicans	33	35	33
Non-partisan/others	57	47	48
<b><u>Political ideology</u></b>			
Strongly conservative	33	36	31
Moderately conservative	42	46	42
Middle-of-the-road	51	47	50
Moderately liberal	48	46	43
Strongly liberal	56	61	61
<b><u>Vote for Governor</u></b>			
Schwarzenegger	37	39	37
Angelides	58	59	59

**Table 2c**

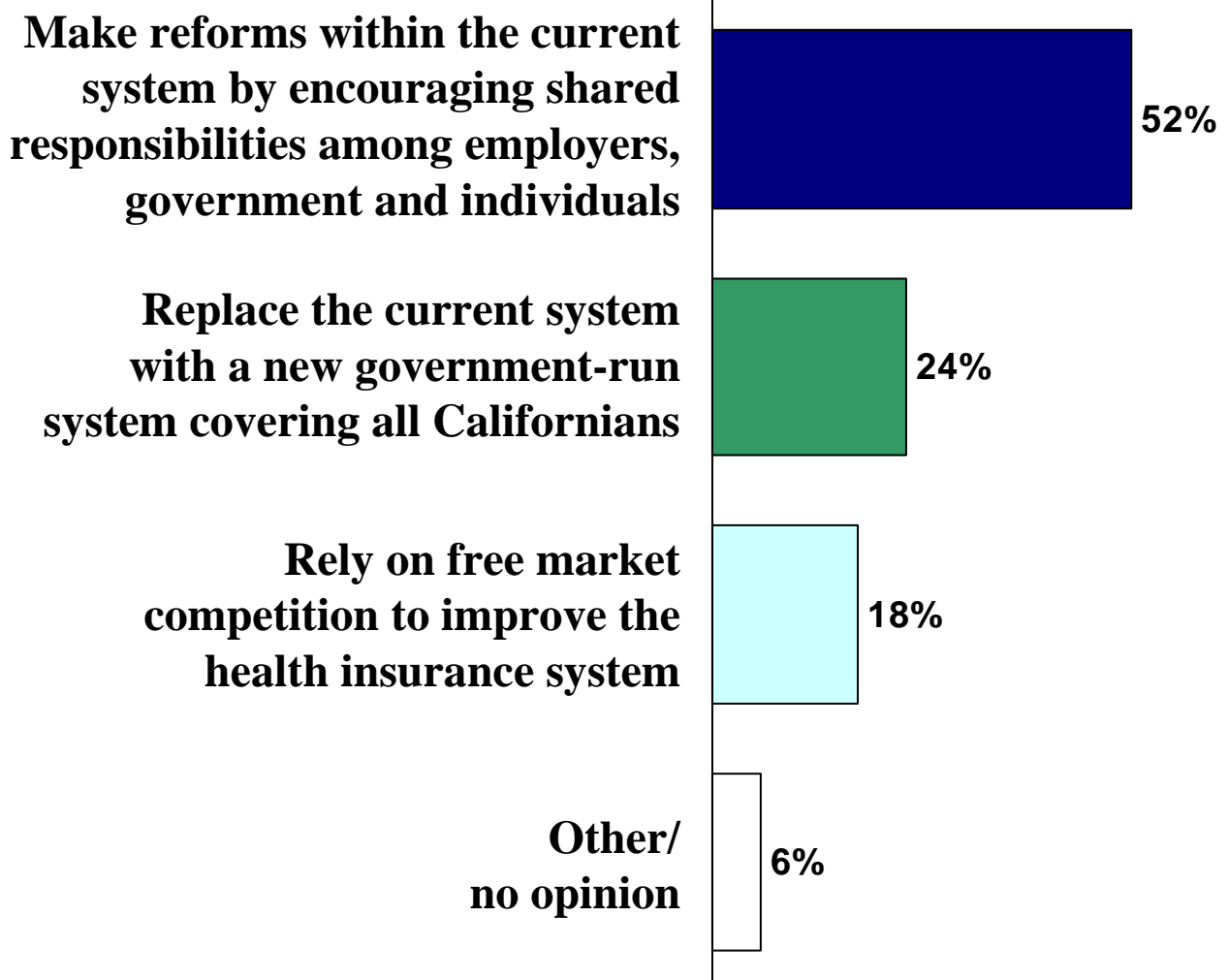
**Importance for state government to find ways to hold down out-of-pocket costs people pay for health care - by demographic subgroups -**

	<b><u>% a “top priority”</u></b>		
	<b><u>Costs of health services</u></b>	<b><u>Costs of prescription drugs</u></b>	<b><u>Costs of health insurance premiums</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>47%</u></b>	<b><u>46%</u></b>	<b><u>46%</u></b>
<b><u>Gender</u></b>			
Male	44	45	42
Female	49	48	50
<b><u>Age</u></b>			
18 – 39	45	39	38
40 – 49	44	39	42
50 – 64	51	55	55
65 or older	47	54	50
<b><u>Household income</u></b>			
Less than \$20,000	65	61	60
\$20,000 - \$39,999	58	55	54
\$40,000 - \$79,999	46	46	48
\$80,000 or more	36	38	37

Table 3a

# Voter preferences regarding how to improve the state's health care system

## Preferred approach for reforming the state's health care system



**Table 3b**

# Voter preferences regarding how to improve the state's health care system - by political subgroups -

	<b><u>Make reforms by encouraging sharing responsibilities</u></b>	<b><u>Replace system with government- run system covering all</u></b>	<b><u>Rely on free market competition</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>52%</u></b>	<b><u>24</u></b>	<b><u>18</u></b>
<b><u>Party</u></b>			
Democrats	52%	32	9
Republicans	53%	11	31
Non-partisan/others	51%	28	16
<b><u>Political ideology</u></b>			
Strongly conservative	43%	10	43
Moderately conservative	54%	19	21
Middle-of-the-road	58%	23	13
Moderately liberal	57%	27	7
Strongly liberal	41%	51	5
<b><u>Vote for Governor</u></b>			
Schwarzenegger	55%	12	27
Angelides	51%	36	8

*Note: Differences between 100% and sum or percentages for each item equals proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 3c**

**Voter preferences regarding how to improve  
the state's health care system  
- by demographic subgroups -**

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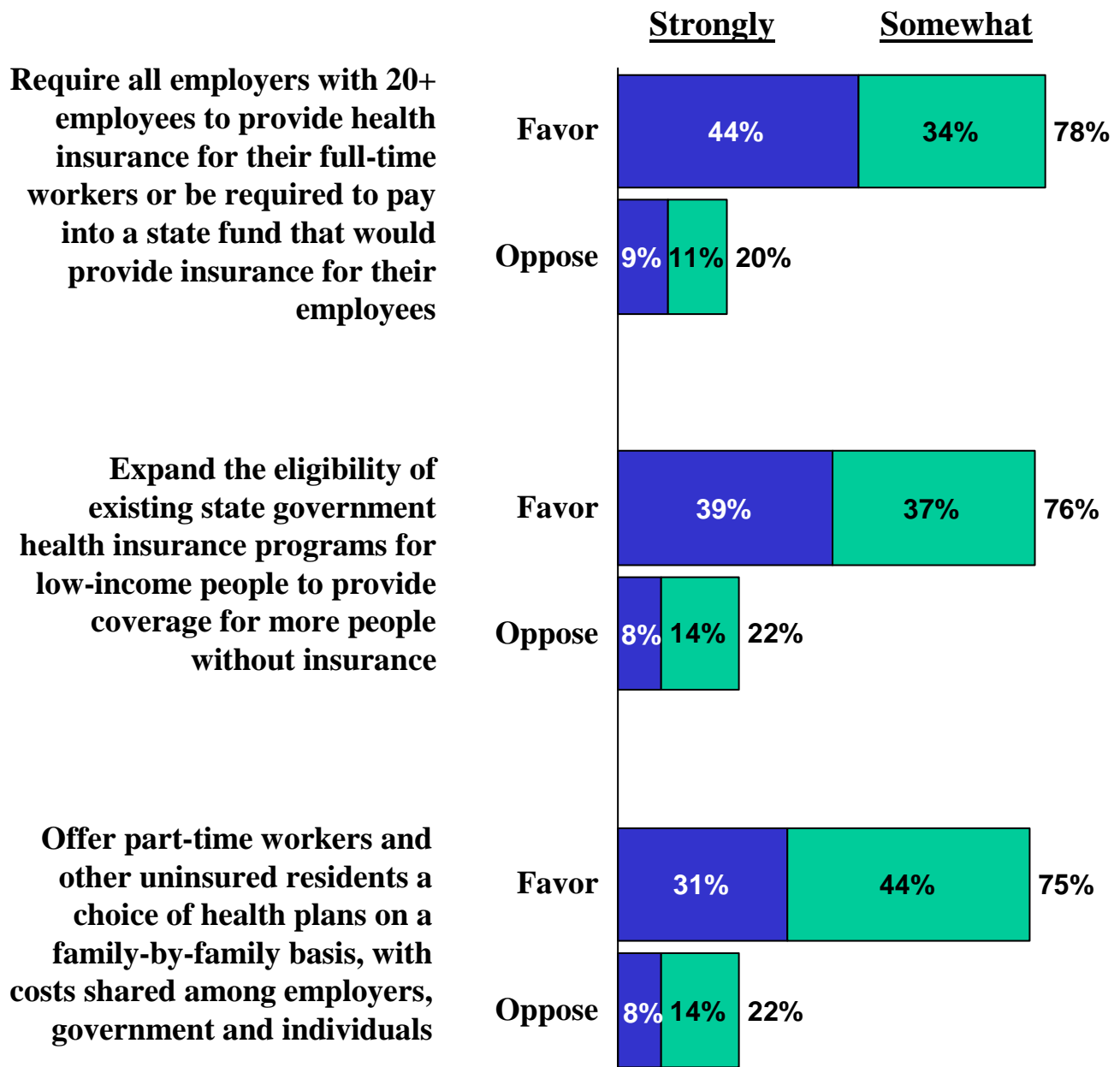
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	<b><u>Make reforms by encouraging sharing responsibilities</u></b>	<b><u>Replace system with government- run system covering all</u></b>	<b><u>Rely on free market competition</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>52%</u></b>	<b><u>24</u></b>	<b><u>18</u></b>
<b><u>Gender</u></b>			
Male	50%	25	21
Female	54%	24	16
<b><u>Age</u></b>			
18 – 39	53%	29	15
40 – 49	58%	18	21
50 – 64	49%	26	18
65 or older	51%	19	20
<b><u>Household income</u></b>			
Less than \$20,000	49%	35	9
\$20,000 - \$39,999	48%	33	13
\$40,000 - \$79,999	54%	25	17
\$80,000 or more	56%	14	25

*Note: Differences between 100% and sum or percentages for each item equals proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 4a**

# Proposals aimed at providing health coverage to more residents: those supported by 75% or more



*Note: Differences between the number of the percentages for each item and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 4b**

**Proposals aimed at providing health coverage to more residents: those supported by 75% or more - by political subgroups -**

– % favor (favor strongly) –

	<b>Employer mandate: pay-or-play</b>	<b>Expand eligibility of existing gov't health insurance programs to insure more low-income people</b>	<b>Cost share to insure part-time workers, others</b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>78% (44)</u></b>	<b><u>76% (39)</u></b>	<b><u>75% (31)</u></b>
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	86 (53)	87 (50)	81 (36)
Republicans	68 (34)	58 (22)	62 (24)
Non-partisan/others	78 (43)	82 (44)	81 (32)
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Strongly conservative	61 (30)	49 (19)	56 (21)
Moderately conservative	77 (48)	66 (35)	66 (30)
Middle-of-the-road	79 (43)	81 (40)	79 (33)
Moderately liberal	93 (57)	93 (47)	86 (34)
Strongly liberal	87 (53)	92 (61)	87 (38)
<u>Vote for Governor</u>			
Schwarzenegger	68 (34)	63 (24)	66 (25)
Angelides	87 (57)	89 (56)	84 (41)

Table 4c

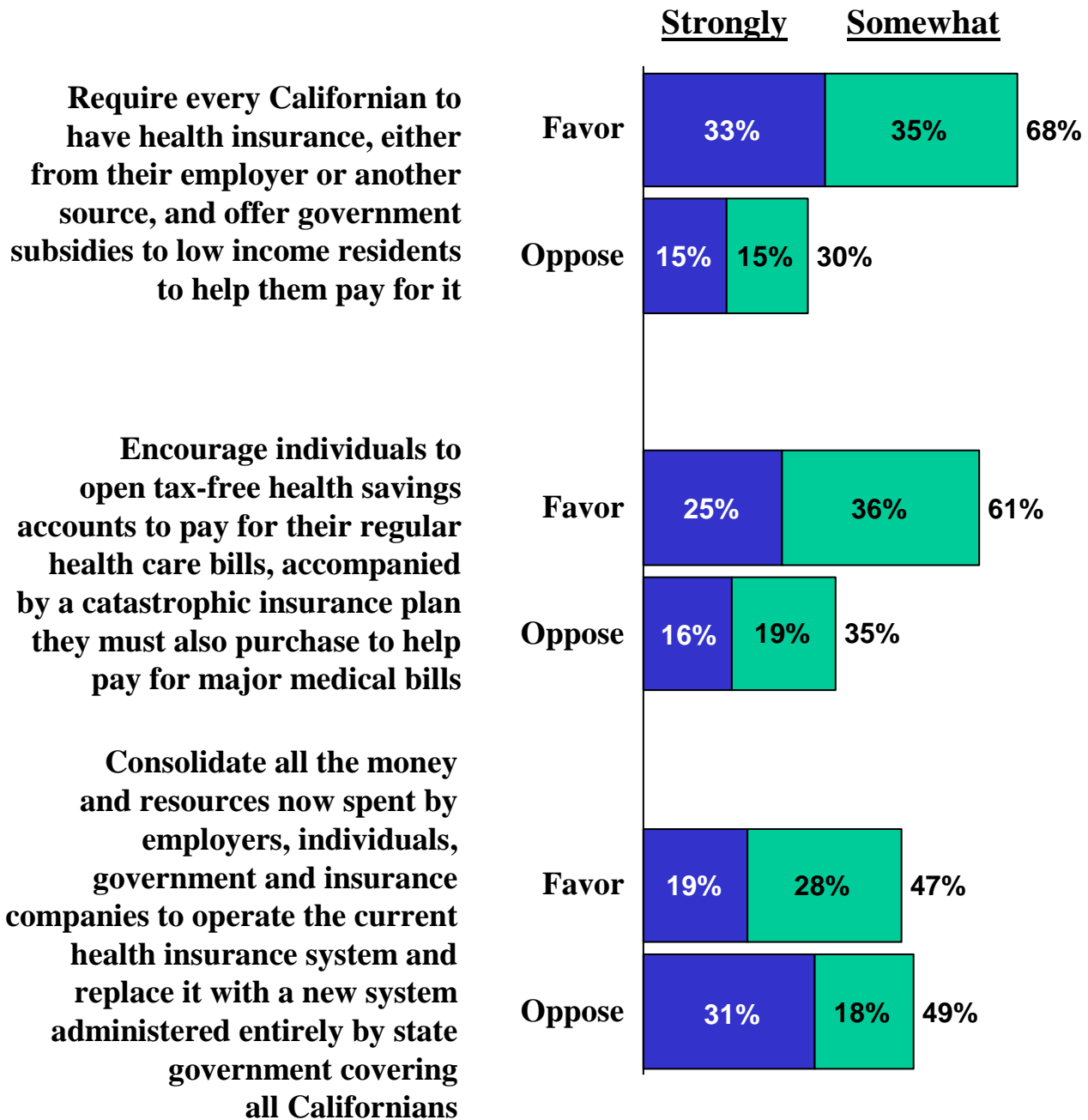
**Proposals aimed at providing health coverage to  
more residents: those supported by 75% or more  
- by demographic subgroups -**

– % favor (favor strongly) –

	<b>Employer mandate: pay-or-play</b>	<b>Expand eligibility of existing gov't health insurance programs to insure more low-income people</b>	<b>Cost share to insure part-time workers, others</b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>78% (44)</u></b>	<b><u>76% (39)</u></b>	<b><u>75% (31)</u></b>
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	72 (38)	73 (35)	73 (30)
Female	83 (50)	79 (42)	76 (32)
<b>Age</b>			
18 - 39	83 (49)	82 (41)	78 (29)
40 – 49	75 (39)	75 (36)	77 (31)
50 – 64	78 (41)	76 (41)	74 (37)
65 or older	72 (40)	66 (35)	67 (28)
<b>Household income</b>			
Less than \$20,000	86 (57)	91 (68)	73 (40)
\$20,000 - \$39,999	81 (54)	81 (51)	81 (40)
\$40,000 - \$79,000	79 (43)	79 (34)	78 (30)
\$80,000 or more	74 (37)	67 (30)	70 (27)

**Table 5a**

# Proposals aimed at providing health coverage to more residents: those supported by 47% to 68%



*Note: Differences between the number of the percentages for each item and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 5b**

**Proposals aimed at providing health coverage to more residents: those supported by 47% to 68% - by political subgroups -**

– % favor (favor strongly) –

	<b>Require all Californians to have <u>insurance</u></b>	<b>Encourage tax-free health savings <u>accounts</u></b>	<b>Replace current system with government-run system <u>covering all</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>68% (33)</u></b>	<b><u>61% (25)</u></b>	<b><u>47% (19)</u></b>
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	79 (42)	56 (22)	61 (25)
Republicans	57 (24)	67 (32)	26 (8)
Non-partisan/others	63 (29)	62 (20)	51 (24)
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Strongly conservative	46 (19)	72 (36)	22 (8)
Moderately conservative	69 (31)	72 (32)	48 (19)
Middle-of-the-road	70 (35)	57 (22)	48 (18)
Moderately liberal	80 (44)	62 (23)	58 (22)
Strongly liberal	80 (38)	48 (16)	68 (35)
<u>Vote for Governor</u>			
Schwarzenegger	56 (25)	66 (31)	31 (10)
Angelides	80 (44)	55 (19)	63 (31)

**Table 5c**

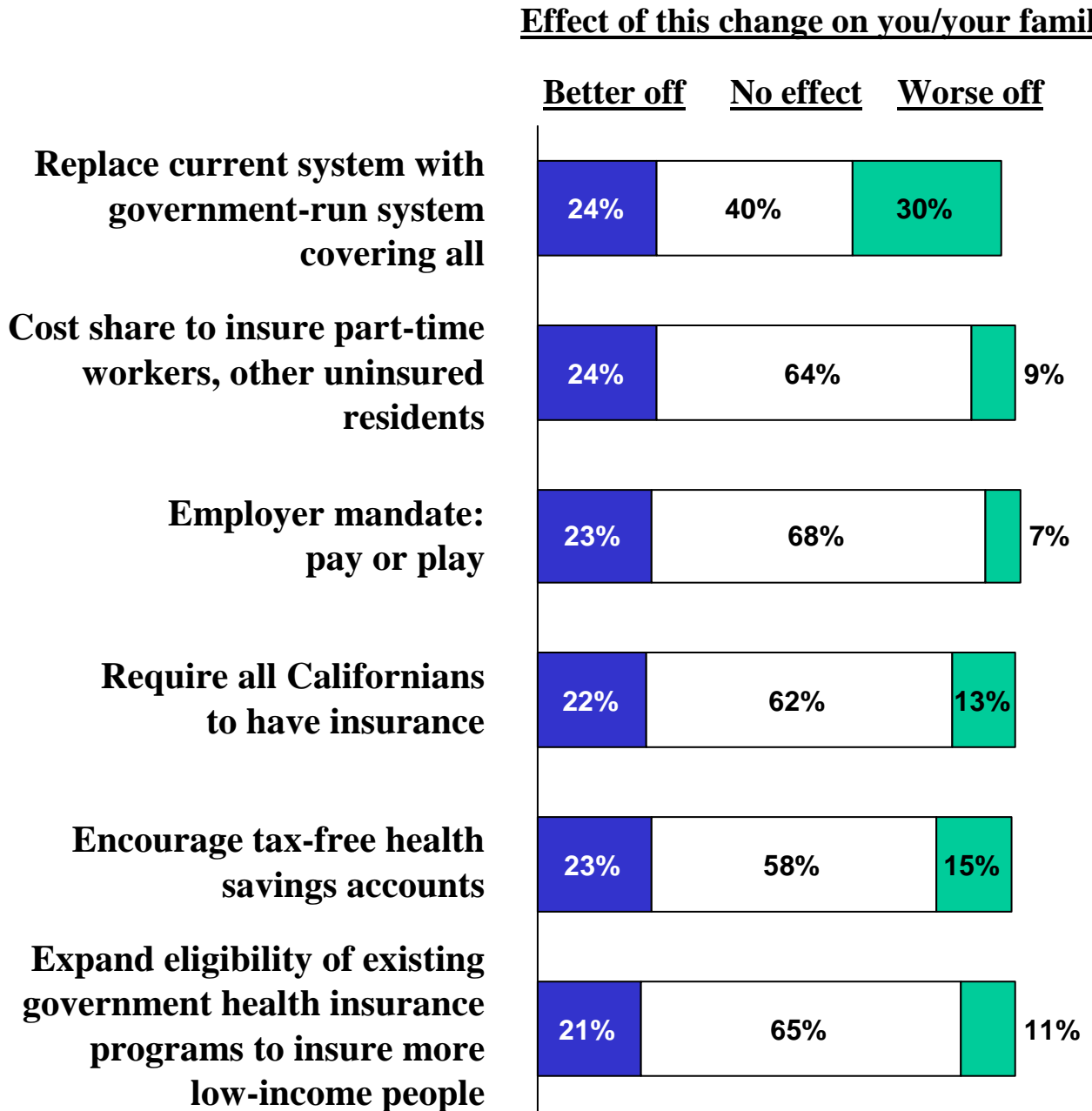
**Proposals aimed at providing health coverage to more residents: those supported by 47% to 68% - by demographic subgroups -**

– % favor (favor strongly) –

	<b>Require all Californians to have insurance</b>	<b>Encourage tax-free health savings accounts</b>	<b>Replace current system with government-run system covering all</b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>68% (33)</u></b>	<b><u>61% (25)</u></b>	<b><u>47% (19)</u></b>
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	65 (30)	63 (26)	48 (19)
Female	70 (35)	59 (25)	45 (19)
<u>Age</u>			
18 – 39	74 (37)	62 (22)	53 (18)
40 – 49	65 (29)	62 (26)	40 (18)
50 – 64	63 (31)	59 (28)	46 (23)
65 or older	66 (32)	61 (27)	42 (16)
<u>Household income</u>			
Less than \$20,000	79 (43)	61 (22)	72 (35)
\$20,000 - \$39,999	76 (43)	60 (24)	57 (28)
\$40,000 - \$79,999	69 (33)	58 (23)	48 (18)
\$80,000 or more	58 (25)	65 (29)	33 (11)

**Table 6**

# Perceived impact that specific health reform proposals would have on voters and their families



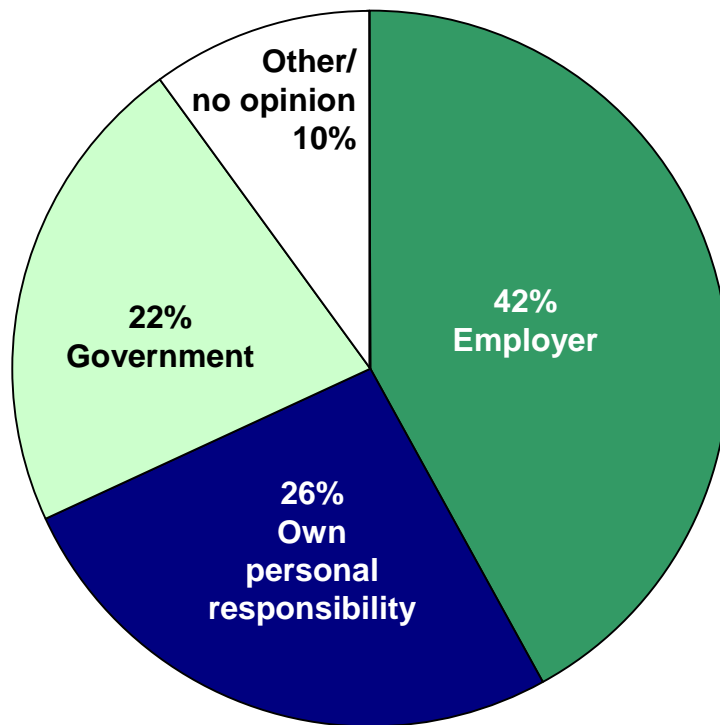
*Note: Differences between the sum of each proposal's percentages and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 7a**

## From whom would voters rather get their health coverage

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### Preferred source of health insurance coverage

**Table 7b**  
**From whom would voters rather get**  
**their health coverage**  
**- by political subgroups -**

	<b><u>An</u></b> <b><u>Employer</u></b>	<b><u>Own personal</u></b> <b><u>responsibility</u></b>	<b><u>Government</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>42%</u></b>	<b><u>26</u></b>	<b><u>22</u></b>
<b><u>Party</u></b>			
Democrats	42%	17	29
Republicans	45%	35	12
Non-partisan/others	39%	29	26
<b><u>Political ideology</u></b>			
Strongly conservative	39%	43	12
Moderately conservative	41%	34	18
Middle-of-the-road	46%	23	21
Moderately liberal	39%	19	33
Strongly liberal	38%	12	39
<b><u>Vote for Governor</u></b>			
Schwarzenegger	42%	37	12
Angelides	43%	15	31

*Note: Differences between the sum of each proposal's percentages and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.*

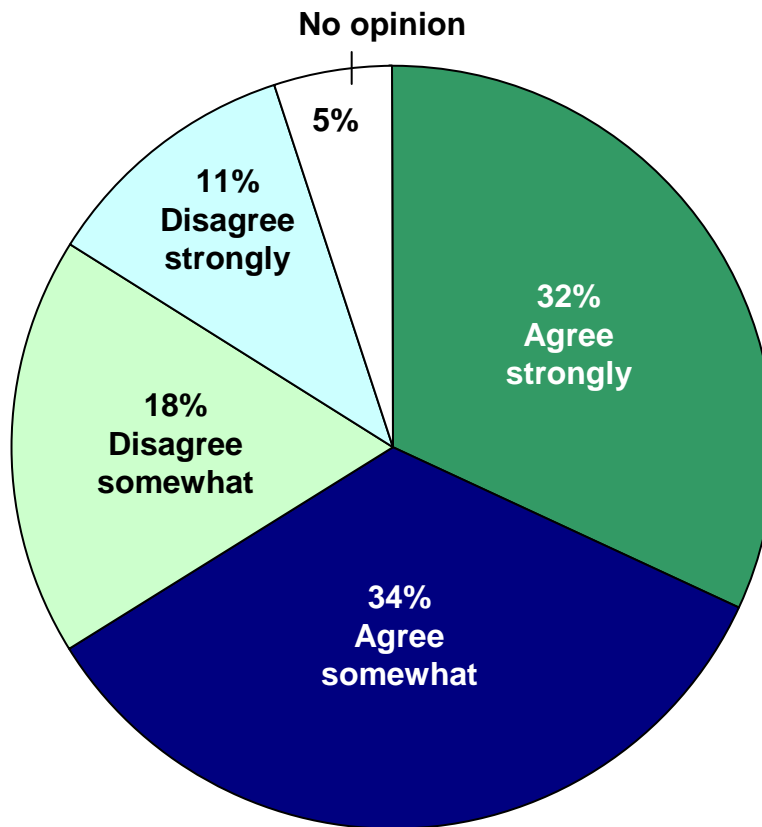
**Table 7c**  
**From whom would voters rather get**  
**their health coverage**  
**- by demographic subgroups -**

	<b><u>An</u></b> <b><u>Employer</u></b>	<b><u>Own personal</u></b> <b><u>responsibility</u></b>	<b><u>Government</u></b>
<b>Total voters</b>	<b><u>42%</u></b>	<b><u>26</u></b>	<b><u>22</u></b>
<b><u>Gender</u></b>			
Male	39%	27	27
Female	46%	26	18
<b><u>Age</u></b>			
18 – 39	48%	24	23
40 – 49	50%	25	21
50 – 64	43%	25	23
65 or older	24%	34	23
<b><u>Household income</u></b>			
Less than \$20,000	18%	24	51
\$20,000 - \$39,999	36%	23	31
\$40,000 - \$79,999	46%	25	20
\$80,000 or more	52%	29	11

*Note: Differences between the sum of each proposal's percentages and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.*

**Table 8**

# Does providing health care coverage to employees put businesses at a competitive disadvantage?



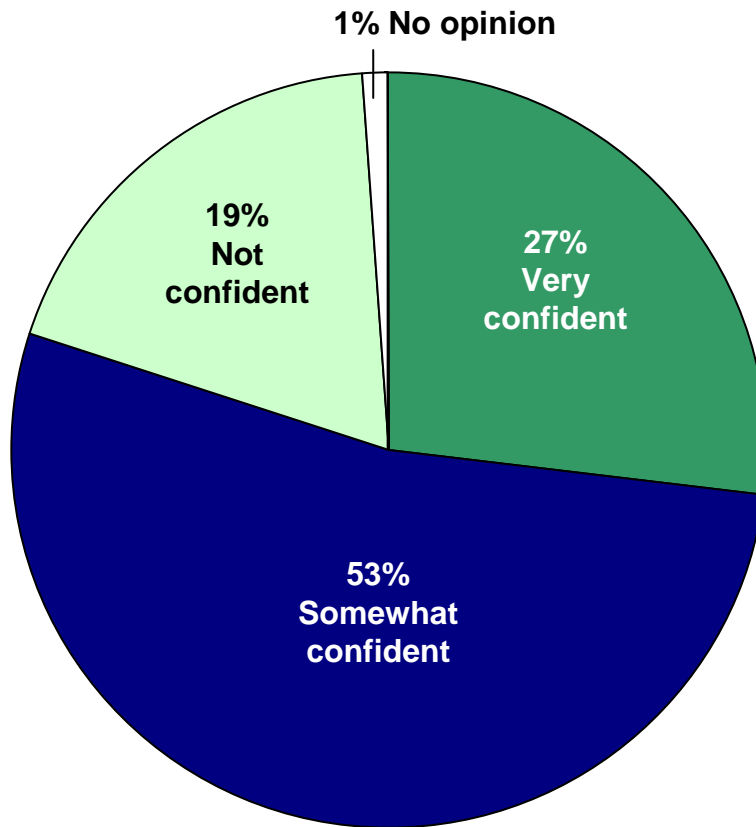
**“Businesses who pay for the health care coverage of their workers are operating at a competitive disadvantage to other businesses in the U.S. and overseas that do not provide health care coverage.”**

**Table 9**

**Varied levels of voter confidence in making the right decisions about what health plans to buy or what health services to use**

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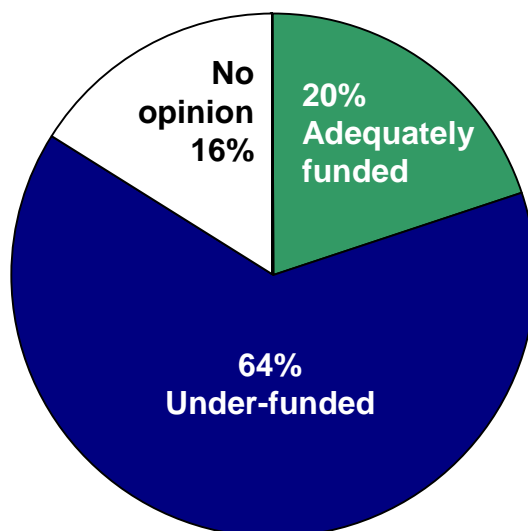
**Confidence voters have in making the right decisions about what health plans to buy or what health services to use**

Table 10

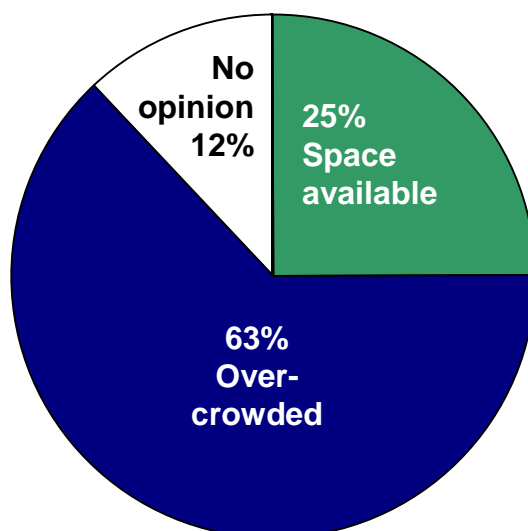
## Adequacy of the health safety net: Hospital emergency rooms, trauma care units and community health centers

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### Perceptions of the level of funding of ERs, trauma centers in your community



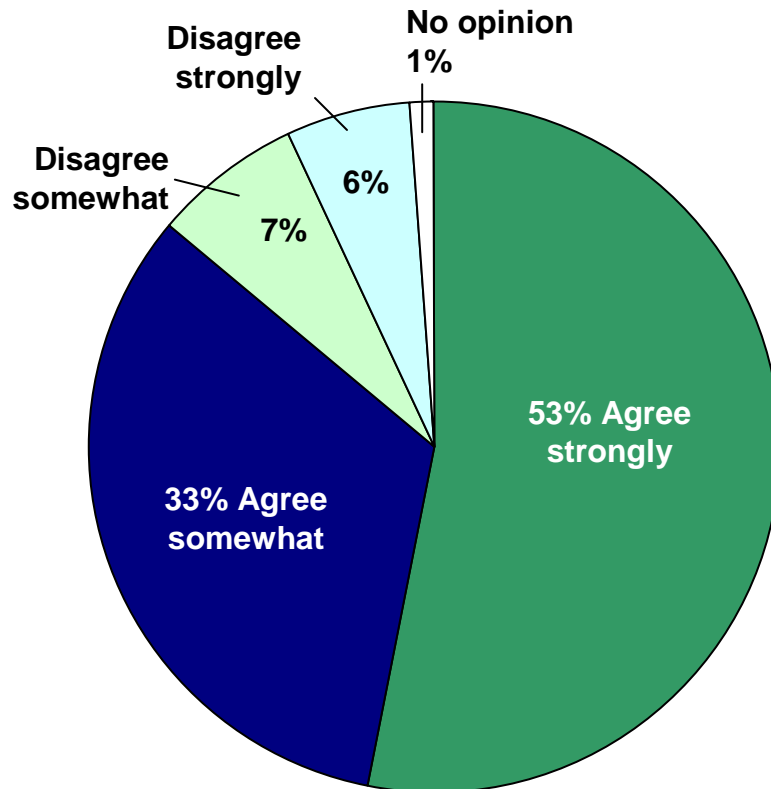
### Perceptions of the space/capacity of ERs, trauma centers in your community

Table 11

## Broad support for increasing the number of community health clinics

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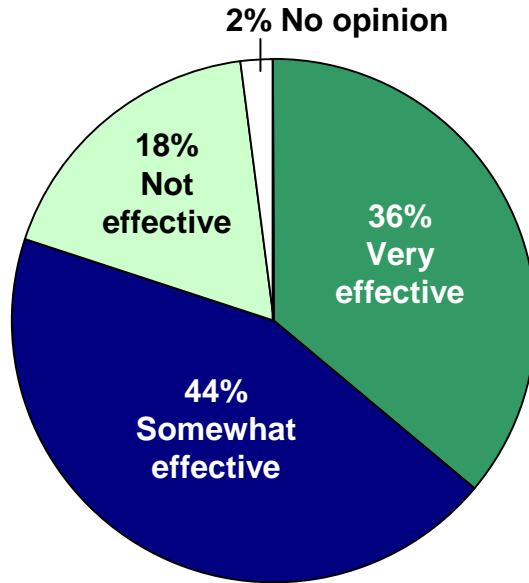
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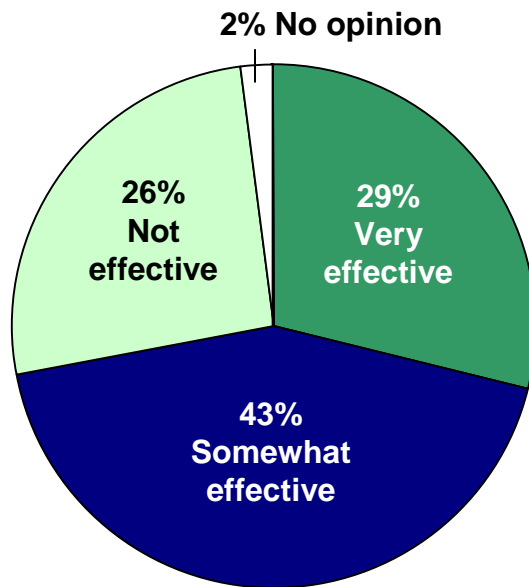
**“Increase the number of community health centers available to uninsured residents so they can obtain routine care there instead of at more expensive hospital emergency or trauma centers.”**

**Table 12**

## Reactions to other proposals aimed at expanding access to basic health care services



### Open more private health clinics within pharmacies



### Open more private health clinics at the work place

# THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY  
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS  
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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### Field Health Policy Survey (Part 2): Health Policy Priorities for State Government; Reaction to Specific Health Reform Proposals

#### – Marginal Results to Questions Asked –

I am going to read some issues facing the health care system in California today. For each, please tell me how important you feel it is for state government to address this issue in the coming year. (ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER) In your opinion should this be one of their top priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important or should not be done at all?

	TOP PRIORITY	IMPORTANT BUT NOT A TOP PRIORITY	NOT TOO IMPORTANT	SHOULD NOT BE DONE	NO OPINION
a1. finding ways to hold down people's out-of-pocket costs for healthcare services, such as doctors' visits, diagnostic tests and hospital fees .....	47%	38	9	5	1
a2. finding ways to hold down people's out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs .....	46%	40	9	4	1
a3. finding ways to hold down people's out-of-pocket costs for health insurance premiums .....	46%	39	10	4	1
b. improving the overall quality of health services available....	50%	38	8	4	*
c. reducing the number of people without health insurance.....	59%	27	6	6	2
d. increasing the number of affordable health plans available ..	51%	34	9	5	2
e. providing more funding for hospital emergency rooms and trauma care units .....	51%	35	7	5	2
f. requiring insurance companies to offer affordable health plans to everyone regardless of their health status or any pre-existing health condition .....	55%	30	6	7	2

\* Less than 1/2 of 1%

I am going to read some statements about the health care system and for each, please tell me whether you agree or disagree. **(ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER)** Do you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly?

	<u>AGREE STRONGLY</u>	<u>AGREE SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>DISAGREE SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>DISAGREE STRONGLY</u>	<u>NO OPINION</u>
1. businesses who pay for the health care coverage of their workers are operating at a competitive disadvantage to other businesses in the U.S. and overseas that do not provide health care coverage to their employees .....	32%	34	18	11	5
2. increase the number of community health centers available to uninsured residents so they can obtain routine care there instead of at more expensive hospital emergency or trauma centers .....	53%	33	7	6	1

A number of proposals have been made about ways to change the health care system in California. I am going to read some of these proposals and for each, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it. **(ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER)** Do you favor this strongly, favor somewhat, oppose somewhat or oppose this strongly?

**(EACH ITEM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED-UP BY:)**

If this change were made, do you think you and your family would be better off, worse off or wouldn't it have much effect on you?

	<u>Q7</u>					<u>Q8</u>			
	<u>FAVOR STRONGLY</u>	<u>FAVOR SMWHT</u>	<u>OPPOSE SMWHT</u>	<u>OPPOSE STRONGLY</u>	<u>NO OPIN</u>	<u>BETTER OFF</u>	<u>WORSE OFF</u>	<u>NO EFFECT</u>	<u>NO OPIN</u>
( ) a. consolidate all the money and resources now being spent by employers, individuals, government and insurance companies to operate the current health insurance system and replace it with a new system, administered entirely by state government and covering all Californians .....	19%	28	18	31	4	24%	30	40	6
( ) b. require all employers with 20 or more employees to provide health insurance for their full-time workers, or be required to pay into a state fund that would provide insurance for their employees.....	44%	34	11	9	2	23%	7	68	2
( ) c. expand the eligibility of existing state government health insurance programs for low-income people, such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, to provide coverage for more people without health insurance.....	39%	37	14	8	2	21%	11	65	3
( ) d. require every Californian to have health insurance, either from their employer or another source, and offer government subsidies to low-income residents to help them pay for it .....	33%	35	15	15	2	22%	13	62	3
( ) e. encourage individuals to put money into a tax-free health savings account that they would use to pay for their regular health care bills and accompany this with a catastrophic (CAT-AS-TROF-IC) insurance plan they must also purchase to help pay for major medical bills ...	25%	36	19	16	4	23%	15	58	4
( ) f. offer part-time workers and other uninsured residents a choice of health plans on a family by family basis, with costs shared among employers, government and individuals .....	31%	44	14	8	3	24%	9	64	3

Which of the following statements is closer to your view of what California should do to improve the state's health care system:

- 1. Rely on free market competition to improve the current health insurance system ..... 18%
  - 2. Make reforms within the framework of the current health insurance system, by encouraging shared responsibilities by employers, government and individuals..... 52
  - or-
  - 3. Replace the current system with a new system administered entirely by state government and covering all Californians ..... 24
- NEITHER.....2
- NO OPINION .....4

Do you think you and your family would be better off if you were to get health insurance coverage through an employer, from the government or having personal responsibility for getting your own coverage?

	EMPLOYER ..... 42%
	GOVERNMENT ..... 22
	INDIVIDUAL ..... 26
	OTHER (SPECIFY) ..... 2
	NO OPINION ..... 8

If changes were made to the existing health care system which gave you more influence over decisions about what health plans to buy or what health services to use, how confident are you that you would have enough information to make the right decisions – very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

	VERY CONFIDENT ..... 27%
	SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT ..... 53
	NOT TOO CONFIDENT ..... 15
	NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT ..... 4
	NO OPINION ..... 1

The next few questions are about hospital emergency rooms, trauma care units and community health centers who must by law provide emergency and other needed health services to anyone, even if they are uninsured or have no means to pay.

Do you think the health centers like these in your area are adequately funded to meet all their needs or are they underfunded?

	ADEQUATELY FUNDED..... 20%
	UNDERFUNDED..... 64
	DON'T KNOW ..... 16

Do you think the health centers like these in your area have space available to meet patient demand or are they over-crowded?

	SPACE AVAILABLE..... 25%
	OVER-CROWDED ..... 63
	DON'T KNOW ..... 12

Another idea is to open more private health clinics within the pharmacies of major stores like Wal-Mart, CVS, and Walgreens. Such clinics would be staffed with a nurse-practitioner and provide only limited types of health care. How effective do you think this would be in providing Californians with greater access to basic care – very effective, somewhat effective, not too effective or not at all effective?

	VERY EFFECTIVE ..... 36%
	SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE ..... 44
	NOT TOO EFFECTIVE ..... 12
	NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE ..... 6
	NO OPINION ..... 2

Another idea is to encourage more large employers to open private health clinics at the work place. Such clinics would be staffed with a nurse practitioner and provide only limited types of health care. How effective do you think this would be in providing Californians with greater access to basic care – very effective, somewhat effective, not too effective or not at all effective?

	VERY EFFECTIVE ..... 29%
	SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE ..... 43
	NOT TOO EFFECTIVE ..... 18
	NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE ..... 8
	NO OPINION ..... 2