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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: INTERESTED PARTIES**  
**FROM: ELIZABETH HARRINGTON, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES**  
**JEFF HORWITT, HART RESEARCH**  
**CC: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK**  
**DATE: AUGUST 9, 2024**  
**SUBJECT: KEY FINDINGS – MICHIGAN STATEWIDE SURVEY**

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**KEY FINDINGS**

1. **Half (50%) of voters in Michigan say their state has gotten off on the wrong track.** This is consistent with voters nationally (49% wrong track) when asked about their state.
2. **The most important issue to voters in Michigan is consistent with what is most important to voters nationally – inflation and the cost of living (43% first choice / 59% combined 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> choices).** The top issues consistently across most demographic audiences in Michigan are the cost of living, protecting democracy, and immigration/border security.

Access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage is a top 3 issue for voters ages 18-44 (9% first choice / 25% combined 1st/2nd choices), those with a college and above education (9% first choice / 23% combined 1st/2nd choices), and Medicaid beneficiaries (8% first choice / 24% combined 1st/2nd choices).

3. **8 in 10 voters (84%) in Michigan say a candidate’s position on access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage is important to them when deciding who to vote for, including 48% who say a candidate’s position is very important to them.** Majorities of Republicans (72%), Independents (82%) and Democrats (96%) say a candidate’s position on access to affordable comprehensive health care is an important factor in their vote decision.
4. **A majority of Michigan voters (54%) do not believe the health care system is meeting the needs of most Michigan residents.** Conversely though, 7 in 10 voters (70%) say the health care system is meeting the needs of their family.
5. **The most important health care issue for Michigan voters is addressing health insurance costs: 1) Out-of-pocket health insurance costs, such as copays & deductibles (28% first choice / 54% combined 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> choices), and 2) The cost of monthly health insurance premiums (21% first choice / 40% combined 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> choices).** Out-of-pocket health insurance costs is the top health care issue for voters ages 45-64 (34% first choice), White voters (32% first choice), Republicans (32% first choice), and Independents (28% first choice).

- 6. Majorities of voters across party say these should be high or very high priorities to improve the health care system at the state level:**
- a. Making sure all health insurance plans cover medical tests, screenings, preventive care and treatments recommended by a patient's doctor (82% very high/high priority all voters, 73% Republicans, 82% Independents, 92% Democrats).
  - b. Lowering the cost of what residents pay monthly and out-of-pocket for health insurance premiums, copays, and deductibles (75% very high/high priority all voters, 66% Republicans, 69% Independents, 85% Democrats).
  - c. Ensuring all residents have access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage (72% very high/high priority all voters, 53% Republicans, 77% Independents, 90% Democrats).
- 7. Medical debt is prevalent in Michigan. Majorities (62%) of voters report they or an immediate family member currently have or have had medical debt.** Virtually all voters (97%) believe medical debt is experienced by at least a few people in Michigan, including 72% who say it is experienced by many.
- 8. More than 6 in 10 Michigan voters (64%) say access to medical care is a problem where they live.** This includes 23% saying it is a “major problem” where they live. The groups most likely to say access to medical care is a problem where they live include Medicaid beneficiaries (77% total problem), those who live outside of the Detroit and Grand Rapids media markets (71% total problem), and voters ages 18-44 (69% total problem).
- 9. Access to affordable health coverage is an even bigger problem in the communities where they live for voters in Michigan (80% total problem/37% major problem).** The groups most likely to say access to affordable health coverage is a problem where they live include Medicaid beneficiaries (96% total problem), Democratic voters (90% total problem) and those living in the Grand Rapids media market (86% total problem).
- 10. There is overwhelming support for all the health care policy proposals we tested. A majority of voters “strongly support” each of the five policy proposals. Majorities of Michigan voters across party support each of the health care policy proposals we tested.**

<i>Ranked by %Total Support – All Voters</i>	<b>All Voters</b>	<b>GOP</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Dem</b>
Ensuring patients who qualify receive the full benefits from financial assistance or drug discount programs	<b>89%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>97%</b>
Increasing and expanding patient access to services and programs that address medical debt	<b>88%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>96%</b>
Increasing federal funding for cancer research for the discovery of new treatments, therapies, and cures	<b>87%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>96%</b>
Increasing federal funding to make cancer screenings and diagnostic tests free for patients	<b>86%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>98%</b>
Making permanent the enhanced premium tax credits the federal government provides to help working adults who qualify purchase an Affordable Care Act Marketplace health insurance plan	<b>79%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>95%</b>

**11. Majorities of Michigan voters say they would be more likely (59%) to vote for a political candidate who supports this proposal to make permanent the ACA enhanced premium tax credits. Only 12% say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supports it and 29% say it would not impact their vote one way or the other.**

- Majorities of Democrats (84%), Black voters (76%), women (65%), voters ages 65+ (64%), and Independents (58%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported making permanent the enhanced premium tax credits.
- A plurality of Republican voters (43%) say a candidate's support for this proposal would not have an impact on their vote, while 35% say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate that supports it and 22% say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate that supports it (a +13 net positive impact).

## **METHODOLOGY**

*On behalf of American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates conducted a Michigan statewide mixed mode survey (phone and text-to-web) of N=600 registered voters. This survey was conducted as a statewide survey in Michigan with regional and demographic statewide quotas based on the Census and voter file population statistics. This survey includes N=30 interviews that were conducted July 11-16, 2024 in the state as part of ACS CAN's national telephone survey of registered voters, with the remaining N=570 interviews conducted July 17-21, 2024 via a mix of phone interviewing and text-to-web interviewing. The statewide survey results have a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points.*