

# Polling on Funding Universal Care

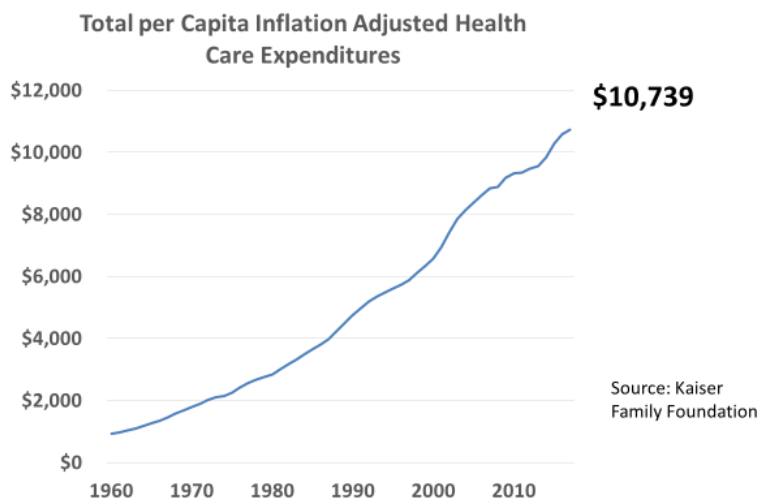
JULY 2019

Full poll report available at [www.VariedStrengths.com](http://www.VariedStrengths.com)

W.GEORGE - OREGON HEALTH CARE POLL 2019

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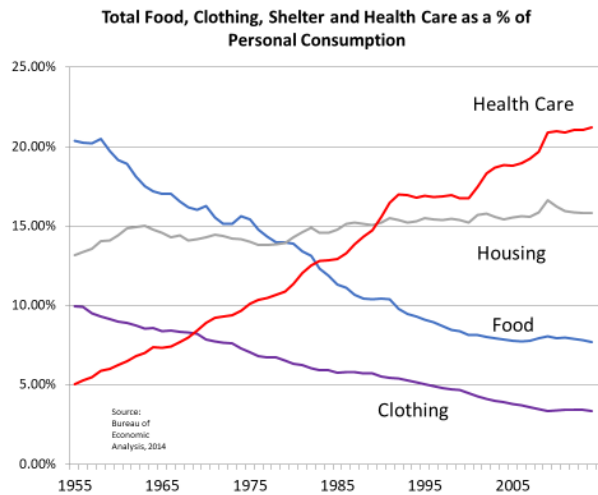
This summer Elway Research conducted a statewide poll of Oregon voters on the subject of universal health care. It is likely that this is the first poll which has concentrated on the funding of universal care. The poll was commissioned and conducted independently of any party, candidate, or advocacy group.



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Kaiser Family Foundation calculated that in 2017 spending on health care had risen to \$10,739 per person. If you are not paying this much every year for each person in your household, be thankful, because others are paying much more. With over 4 million people in Oregon about \$40 billion is currently being spent on health care.



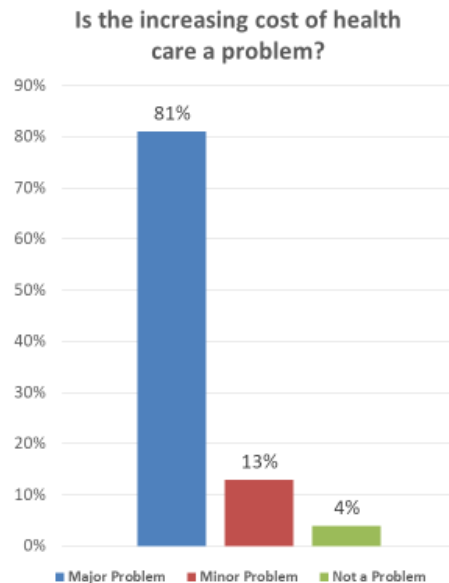
Health care is already the dominant expense of individuals and governments and increased spending will largely be accomplished by reduction of our standard of living in other areas.

<b>SAMPLE:</b>	402 Registered Voters in Oregon
<b>SAMPLE FRAME:</b>	Registered Voter List
<b>MARGIN OF SAMPLING ERROR:</b>	±5% at the 95% level of confidence
<b>DATA COLLECTION:</b>	Mixed mode 202 Land line telephone with live interviewers 100 Cell phone with live interviewers 100 completed the survey online
<b>FIELD DATES:</b>	July 17-21, 2019
<b>PARTY REGISTRATION</b>	Democrat <b>35%</b> Republican <b>25%</b> Other <b>40%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The questions are presented here as they were asked in the interview</li> <li>• The figures in bold type are percentages of respondents who gave each answer.</li> <li>• The data have been statistically adjusted by age and party ID</li> <li>• Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.</li> </ul>	

After evaluating a number of very capable polling firms, Elway Research of Seattle Washington was selected based on their national reputation and their proposed methodology. The poll was completed in July 2019 with an error margin of +/- 5%. Oregon voters were contacted at random via landline or cell phone.

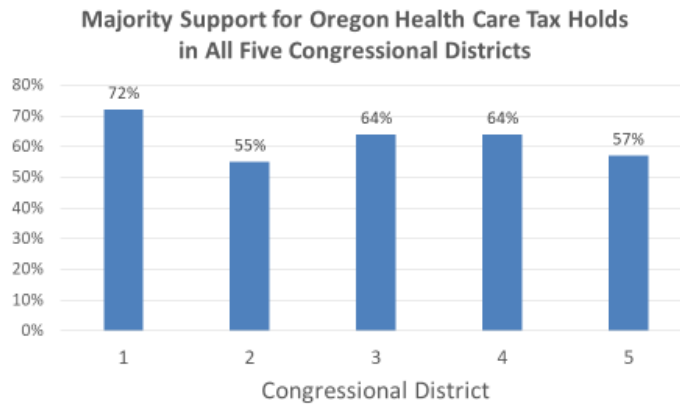
The poll consisted of 24 questions including 16 questions about health care and eight questions to establish demographics. Key findings are summarized below.

- When poll respondents were asked various questions about cost, complexity, access, quality, and the association of health care with employment, 81% identified the increasing cost to individuals, governments, and businesses as a major problem. This is about as unanimous as voters get.



- In considering possible solutions, 75% of voters identified universal care as desirable.
- 66% said they would be inclined to support a ballot measure as defined in the following question:
 

“I am going to describe a proposal that could be placed on the ballot. It would establish full, lifetime health care – including vision, dental, and hearing – for every person in Oregon. Under this plan you would pay no direct medical costs – that is, no private insurance premiums, co-pays, or deductibles. Instead, you would pay a new state health care tax, and a state agency would pay all medical costs.”
- 62% said they would definitely or probably vote yes, even after it was explained to them that a health care tax to fund universal care in Oregon would need to be two to three times as large as the Oregon income tax which funds state government, but that typical households would pay less than they currently pay in premiums and other out-of-pocket health care expenses, and that for people with employer provided health care benefits, employers would continue to pay as they do now.



1. Suzanne Bonamici
2. Greg Walden
3. Earl Blumenauer
4. Peter DeFazio
5. Kurt Schrader

Majority support for universal health care funded by a state health care tax held across all five of Oregon's five congressional districts.

These results show a significantly higher support for a health care tax than has been shown nationally.

## Why does this poll show higher support?

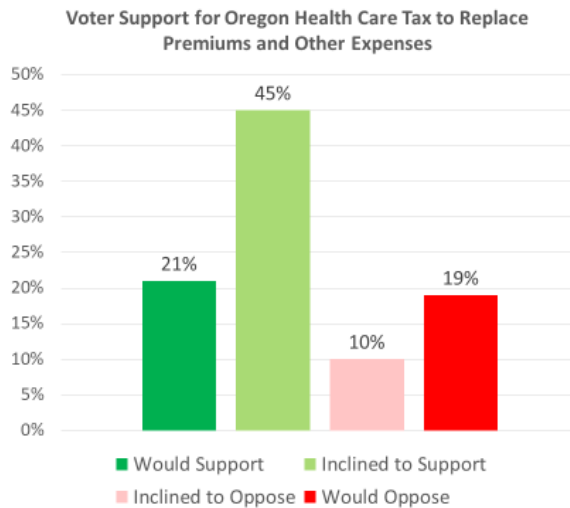
The problem approach?

Language of the questions?

Oregon voters are different from national voters?

State vs. federal program?

It is not actually known why Oregon Voters showed higher support.



Voters are not fully convinced about a health care tax to fund universal care in Oregon, but of those whose who could go either way, support leads opposition by four to one.

## ELWAY CONCLUSIONS

“It is easier to tell a pollster that one favors a new health care tax than it is to actually vote for one. Still, with 6 in 10 respondents open to a measure that would eliminate or replace private insurance, establish a new state agency and a new health care tax to fund it, these findings indicate that Oregon voters are ready to have that discussion.”

Much more information is contained in the full poll report, which can be found at [www.VariedStrengths.com](http://www.VariedStrengths.com).

Additional demographic splits and graphics can be obtained from the poll sponsor, Warren George at [george@peak.org](mailto:george@peak.org).