



# Foes of new health system more likely to vote Nov. 2

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By **Richard Wolf**, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The nation's new health care law regained support among more Americans this month, but opponents are more motivated to vote in November, a non-partisan poll out Monday finds.

As some initial provisions took effect six months after its enactment, the law was favored by 49% to 40% in the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) monthly tracking poll. That margin shrunk to 46%-45% among likely voters. One in four of those polled said they want it repealed outright.

Among other findings:

- **Democrats** remain the more trusted party on health care and Medicare by a 3-2 ratio. A **Republican** takeover of Congress would make the health care system worse, 36% said, while 31% said things would improve.
- Four in 10 **Republicans** said they were more likely to vote because of the law, compared with three in 10 Democrats. Seniors continued to oppose the law, 49% to 38%, and to view the parties equally on health care issues.

As the economy and unemployment dominate the congressional elections, the health care law passed in March is a distant second in voters' minds, the poll found.

Americans are more confused than anything else. More than half of those polled said they were confused about the law, more than at any time since April. Nearly half said they were disappointed; one in three said they were angry.

Even so, the uptick in favorability from August, when Americans were roughly split in the poll, could help Democrats. But the added motivation of opponents could help Republicans.

The White House is taking the results in stride. "We've made slow but steady progress as health reform has come on line and people have seen what it does for them personally," says Dan Pfeiffer, communications director.

Opponents note most polls continue to show strong opposition to the law among those most motivated to vote. "The intensity is on the 'anti' side," says Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies at the conservative [Cato Institute](#). "Intensity is what matters. Intensity is what gets people to vote. Intensity is what gets people to write checks."

Proponents of the law attribute the mixed results to months of negative attacks by Republicans in Congress and interest groups bent on repealing or rolling back the law. "Too many people underestimated the tenacity and the resiliency and the harshness of the attacks," says [Ralph Neas](#), CEO of the National Coalition on Health Care. "I'm confident the trend lines will continue to get better and better over time. The longer the law is in place — and I think that will be forever — the more popular it will be."

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