

Voters Side with Conservatives on Health Care, Energy and Fiscal Issues

National Survey of Likely Voters Shows Independents and Republicans Urging Repeal of New Health Care Reform Law

Washington, D.C. (July 7, 2010) – In three key policy areas – health care, energy, and fiscal issues – conservative policies proved to be more popular than liberal ones being advanced by President Obama and Congressional Democrats, according to the latest Resurgent Republic national survey of likely voters. In particular, the predictions of increased support for the health care reform law, once voters learned more about it, were proved inaccurate by the survey.

This survey finds that voters support an argument urging repeal of the new health care reform law by a 53 to 41 percent margin, even when juxtaposed against a strong populist message that “we should stand up to the insurance companies, not give in to them.” Independents agree that the health care law should be repealed by a 52 to 39 percent margin, compared to a 77 to 21 percent margin among Republicans. Democrats oppose repealing the law by a 61 to 33 percent margin.

“With Independent voters siding overwhelmingly with Republican voters again in our latest survey, conservative and market-oriented policies now consistently trump the liberal and government-oriented policies pursued by President Obama and the Democrats in Congress,” said Ed Gillespie, Resurgent Republic Board Member.

Other notable findings from the survey were that voters agree that offshore drilling should continue by a 56 to 37 percent margin, with 44 percent of Democrats in agreement (50 percent oppose). Independents agreed with continued drilling by a 56 to 36 percent margin and Republicans by a 71 to 24 percent margin. Despite living closer to the oil spill, voters in the South agree that offshore drilling should continue by a 60 to 33 percent margin, compared to a 56 to 40 percent margin in the West, a 54 to 36 percent margin in the Midwest, and a 53 to 42 percent margin in the Northeast.

On fiscal issues, voters agree, by a 54 to 38 percent margin, that “we should freeze total federal spending at 2010 levels for the next five years,” even against a counter argument that “freezing total federal spending at 2010 levels for five years is irresponsible. That would require either not paying guaranteed benefits like Social Security and Medicare, or making drastic cuts in the defense budget.” Independents agree that we should freeze federal spending for five years by a 52 to 35 percent margin.

Voter concern about deficits is also evident in support for a balanced budget amendment and a constitutional convention to pass a balanced budget amendment. These voters agree by a 54 to 37 percent margin that we should adopt a balanced budget amendment because “it is the only way we will instill some fiscal discipline in politicians and stop them from bankrupting the country,” despite a counter argument that a balanced budget “could force draconian cuts in Medicare and national defense, and hurt the government’s ability to respond to emergencies like 9-11.” Voters also agree that state legislatures should call for a convention to adopt a balanced budget amendment by a 46 to 39 percent margin, and agree that we should require a super majority of two-thirds to approve new spending by a 57 to 36 percent margin.

“Voters seem not only to be rejecting big government policies in response to the actions of the Obama Administration and the Democratic Congress, but also seem ready to embrace conservative policies,” concluded Whit Ayres, Resurgent Republic Board Member. “That movement is driven by Independents, who have been moving away from liberal policy choices for more than a year.”

Through a steady stream of national polls and focus groups, Resurgent Republic helps policy makers, think tanks, interest groups and others advocate for policies that are consistent with conservative principles. More information, including the key findings and full memo, can be found at www.resurgentrepublic.com.

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