



September 1, 2026

Growing Support for Medicare for All

Survey findings

To: Medicare For All PAC

From: GQR

Our recent survey of national and battleground voters suggests growing support for a Medicare for All alternative, driven by the ongoing collapse of the current system. A 60-percent majority supports the MFA system described in this survey, up from 54 percent in a similar, but not identical survey taken last year. In the congressional battleground, an impressive 55 percent support Medicare for All.¹

Nonetheless, some of the same patterns emerge.

Massive support among base voters:

- 94 percent among Democrats;
- 94 percent among self-ascribed somewhat liberals;
- 73 percent support among Black voters;
- 76 percent support among women under age 50; and,
- 75 percent support among voters under age 30.

Impressive support among swing voters and notable support among Republicans:

- 60 percent among Independents;
- 67 percent among moderates;
- 60 percent among non-college women;
- 66 percent among college educated men; and,
- One in five (19 percent) Republicans and Trump voters support MFA.

¹GQR conducted an 18-minute survey among 1200 likely 2026 voters nationwide from August 4-10, 2026. The survey also includes an oversample of voters in battleground congressional districts (550 unweighted). Live phone interviews made up half the respondents, text-to-web made up the other half. Respondents were found through voter file sample. The data are subject to a margin of error of +/- 2.83 percentage points overall at the 95 percent confidence interval; the margin of error is higher among subgroups and online respondents.

What is most obvious in this data set the current system—already discredited in 2025—has sunk even lower in voters' estimation and collapse is moving voters.

- A 70 percent majority criticize for-profit insurance companies, up 8 points in less than a year.
- Prescription drug companies also show higher negatives (73 percent unfavorable).
- One in three voters (32 percent) say they are paying more than \$500 a month for health care, up from 25 percent in 2025.
- Four in ten (38 percent) have been denied coverage by their insurance, 46 percent among people of color.
- One in four (24 percent) face a medical debt of over \$1,000. Among pre-retirement voters—traditionally one of the strongest opponents of a government-run system—this number grows to 33 percent.

In this context, a viable alternative to a status quo that is growing increasingly unacceptable finds more support.

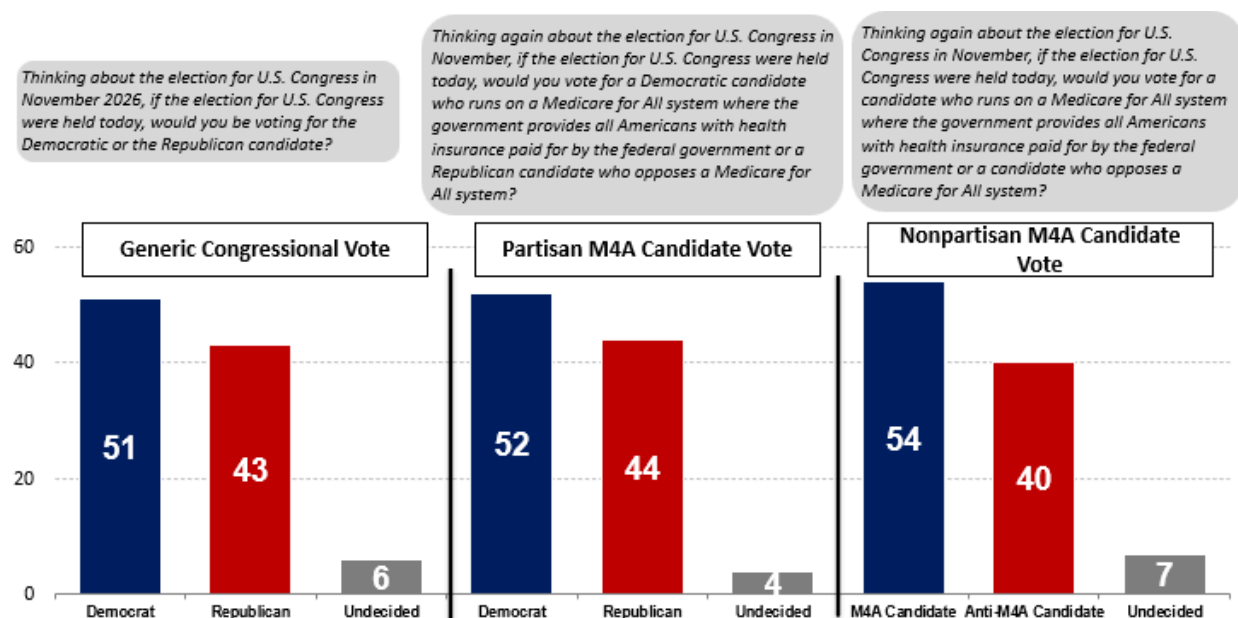
The Political Context

The blue wave is coming...and Republican attempts to red-bait American voters, at least using MFA as a primary proof point, does not seem likely to work.

Donald Trump continues to slide in voters' estimation, drawing a 59 percent negative in this survey, similar to his current average in public polling. Just 40 percent respond favorably. A year ago, he stood at 44 percent positive, 54 percent negative. Among younger voters especially, Trump's standing is in free fall (now 74 percent negative among voters under the age of 50).

The generic margin from a Democratic congressional candidate improves slightly to 51 percent Democratic, 43 percent Republican (51 – 46 percent in 2025). Voters in the more conservative-leaning battleground divide nearly evenly (47 percent Democratic, 46 percent Republican). **Most importantly, for the purpose of this survey, the MFA issue does not diminish the Democratic margin.** A pro-MFA Democrat draws the same margin running against an anti-MFA Republican as a generic Democrat that does not mention our issue. Moreover, **when we strip partisanship out entirely and pair a pro-MFA candidate against an anti-MFA candidate, without mentioning party, the progressive margin grows to 14 points.**

Figure 1. Generic Congressional Vote among Partisan and Nonpartisan Candidates



Majority Support for Medicare for All

Using somewhat altered language, support for Medicare for All now reaches 60 percent, with 40 percent opposing.

Some people have proposed fixing our current health care system with a Medicare for All system, similar to what other countries do, where the government takes the profit motive out of the system by providing all Americans with comprehensive health insurance paid for by the federal government. Everyone would be enrolled in this system and provided an insurance card that would allow you to use the same doctors and hospitals as today and would cover you from birth to death. Taxes will increase for many Americans to help pay for this, but for most, those costs would be offset by not having to pay for health insurance premiums, co-pays or out-of-pocket costs or prescription drugs.

Support in the more conservative battleground districts is also solid at 55 percent favor, 45 percent oppose and runs well ahead of partisanship in these districts.

But perhaps most notably, 68 percent of voters who have \$1,000 or more of medical debt support this version of MFA, as do 71 percent of voters who have been denied treatment by their health insurer. Moreover, among low propensity voters—the kind of voters who sometimes skip midterms and often believe the outcome of elections do not make much of a difference in their lives—support reaches 66% percent.

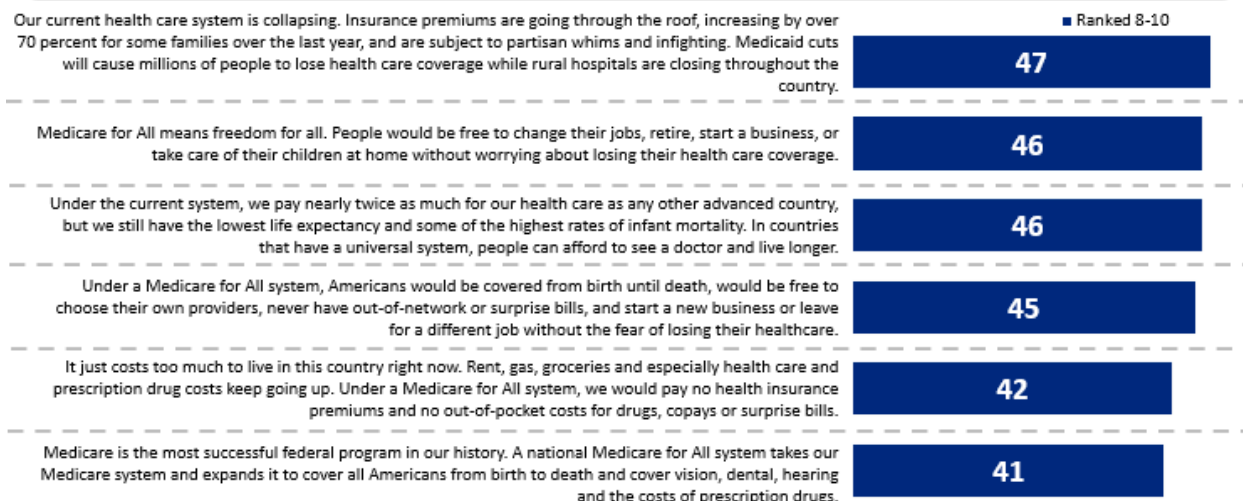
These results demonstrate vividly how the failures and pain generated by our current system play a direct role in voters' support for the alternative. As more voters struggle with medical debt or have their insurer deny coverage prescribed by their doctor, we expect support for a universal system to continue to expand.

Messaging

- Voters have high expectations of what a new universal system can bring them, along with some concerns.
- Medical debt leads the list of advantages, followed closely by the elimination of the profit motive, “allowing doctors to focus on getting people the care they need.” This is a powerful line in a country where four in ten voters report being denied an insurance claim.
- The notion of freedom—to get a new job, to come home and take care of children, to retire—also emerges as a powerful incentive for change.

Figure 2. Arguments in Support of a Universal Health Care System

I am going to read you some arguments people have made SUPPORTING a universal health care system, with your insurance paid for by the federal government. Please rate each argument on a scale of zero to ten. A ten would mean you find the argument very convincing. A zero would mean you find the argument not at all convincing. A five would be a neutral response.



Conclusions and Recommendations

- Medicare for All, at least as tested in this survey, is now a mainstream issue. In addition to (most) public polling,² it has posted majority support in three polls in a row and now reaches 60 percent. The last two polls have shown no evidence the issue exacts a political cost for MFA advocates, and a strong majority holds up after we give both sides an opportunity to make their case.
- The Democratic base has coalesced behind this issue. It is hard to find an issue outside of abortion and hatred for Trump where 94 percent of Democrats come to the same conclusion. That support has proven dispositive in the primary season in 2026 and will prove decisive in the primary season in 2028.
- The collapse of the current system drives this support, as well as the majority support we see among swing voters. In less than a year, the number of people who pay more than \$500 a month for health care has jumped 7 points. Four in ten voters have been denied care by their insurer and among these voters, 71 percent support MFA.

² [Medicare for All Is Popular — Even When Put Up Against Attacks](#)

- Pro-MFA messaging must begin there: our current system is unsustainable, morally and fiscally.
 - It costs too much and denies people the care they need;
 - We aren't getting what we paid for, with worse outcomes than other countries; and,
 - For-profit health insurance companies and big drug companies get richer while we get sicker and poorer.

- And then we sell voters on an alternative.
 - MFA eliminates profit motive and allows doctors to focus on care;
 - MFA provides freedom: freedom from debt, freedom from surprise bills, freedom to choose new jobs; and,
 - MFA will make life in America more affordable.