

Health Care in the 2006 Elections



Methodology

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers on behalf of SEIU/Americans for Health Care. The survey reached 800 voters nationwide and was conducted November 5th – 7th 2006.

The data were weighted by gender, party identification, region, age, education, race, and union status. The margin of error is +/- 3.5%.

Key Findings

- ✓ **Health care is a major concern for voters and was a powerful issue in this election.**
- ✓ **Rising health care costs are the most intense economic concern for voters.**
- ✓ **Health care has increased in salience since 2004. Voters are also more likely to say it was not discussed enough by the candidates compared to 2004.**
- ✓ **Voters are more worried about politicians not taking action on health care than they are about too much government or taxes.**

Key Findings

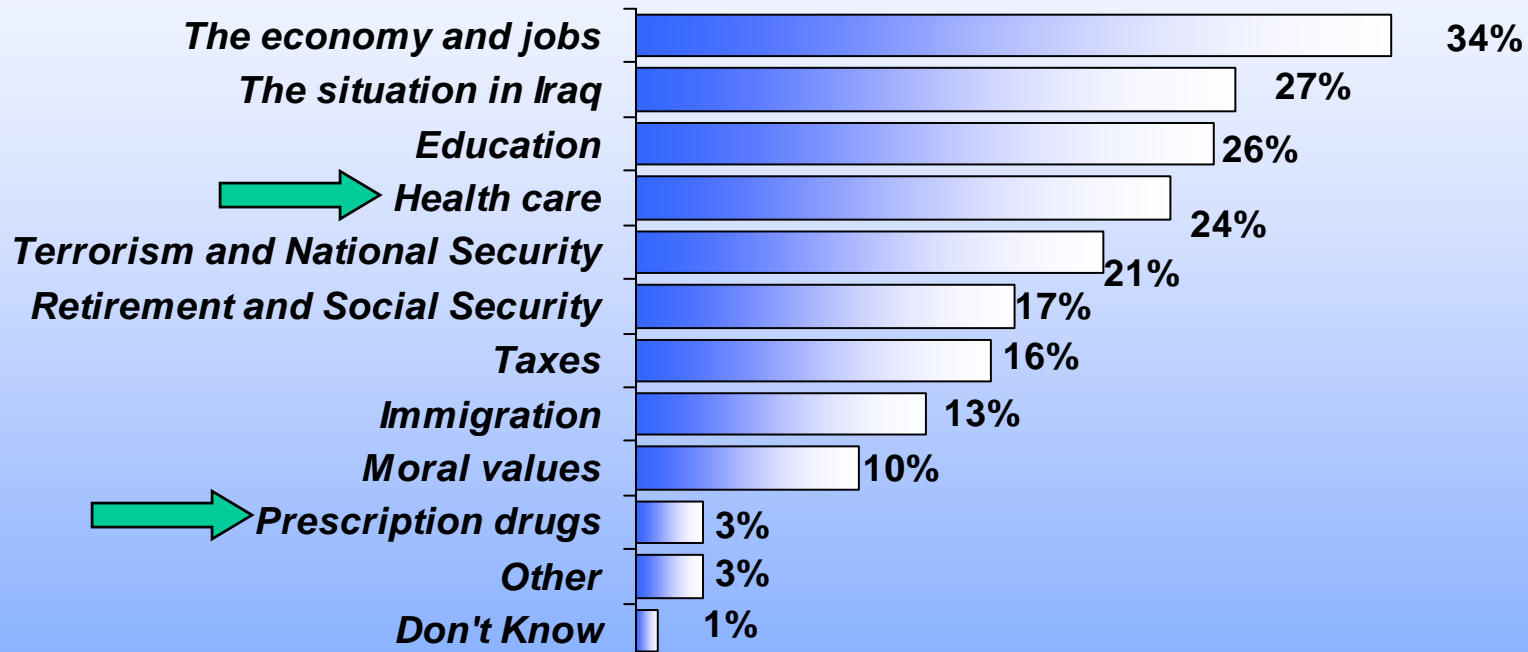
- ✓ **Voters strongly support action on health care in the new Congress.**
- ✓ **Voters want Congress to focus on getting something done on health care rather than partisan attacks. They want large and small businesses at the table.**
- ✓ **Yet, worries about changing things too much remains a vulnerability for health care reform.**

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**CONTEXT: Health care and
prescription drugs are a top issue
priority for voters.**

Health care including prescription drugs is near the top of the issue agenda for voters.



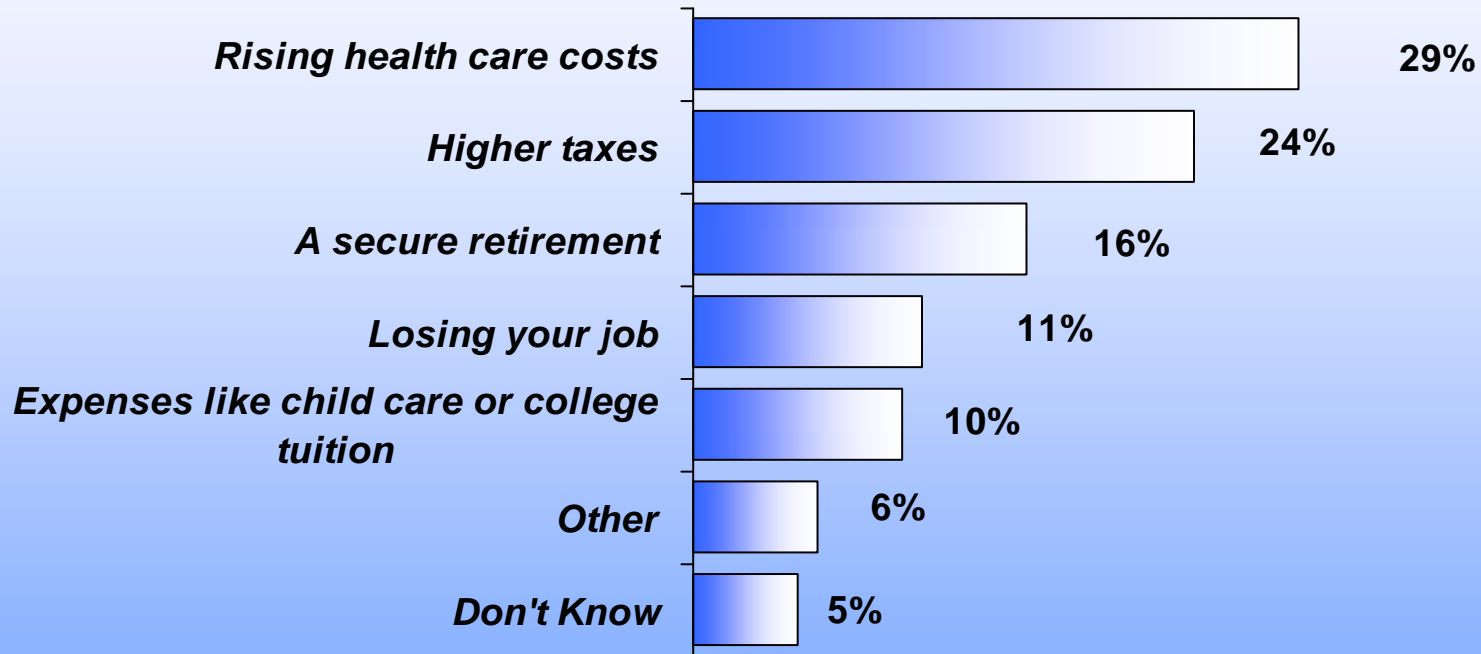
Now, I am going to read you a list of concerns that some people in this area have mentioned. Please tell me which two are the most important and the second most important to you personally in this year's election.

Democrats, African Americans, and women remain key health care voters.

Health care/Rx Drugs as concern

- Total (27%)
- Democrats (32%)
- African Americans (31%)
- High school or less education (33%)
- Women (25%)
- People who know someone who has gone without health insurance in the last 3 years (25%)

Rising health care costs are the top economic concern for voters.



Thinking specifically about the economy, what are you personally worried about the most?

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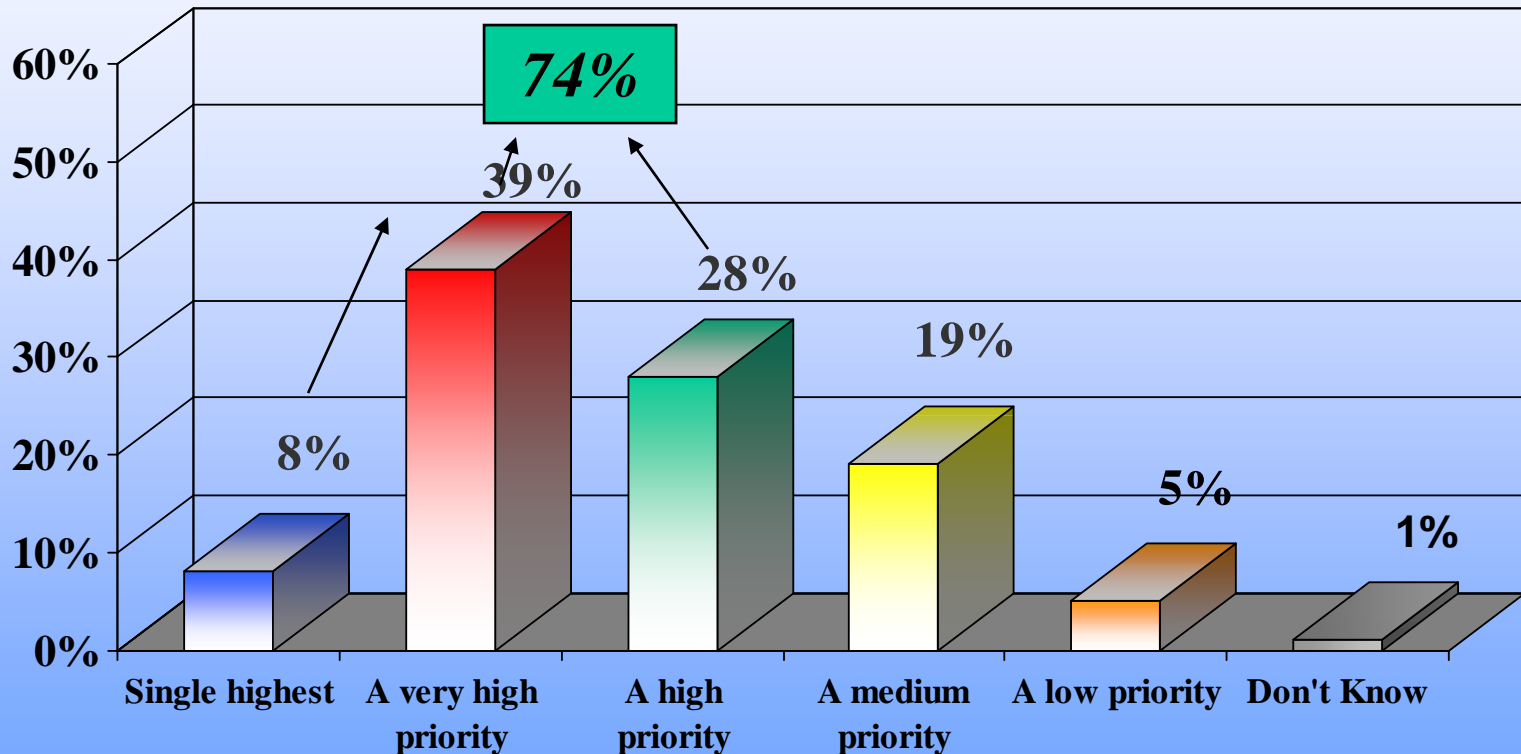
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**THE VOTE: Health care is a
powerful issue that has
increased in saliency since
2004.**

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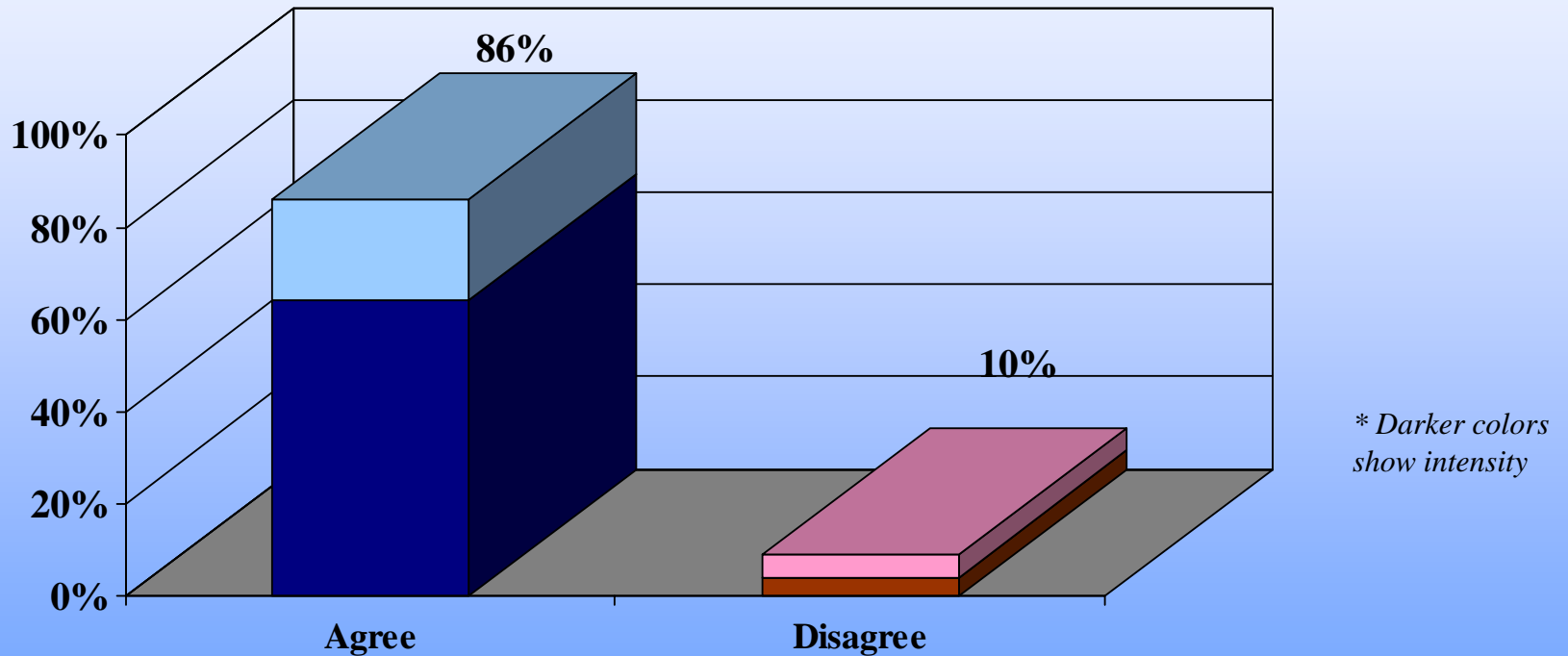
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Voters want health care to be a high priority for the new Congress.



Now thinking about all the issues that will face the NEW Congress after this election, how high a priority should the issue of health care be compared to all these other issues –should it be the single highest priority, a very high priority, a high priority, a medium priority, or a low priority for the NEW Congress?

Voters want Congress to focus on health care instead of partisan attacks.

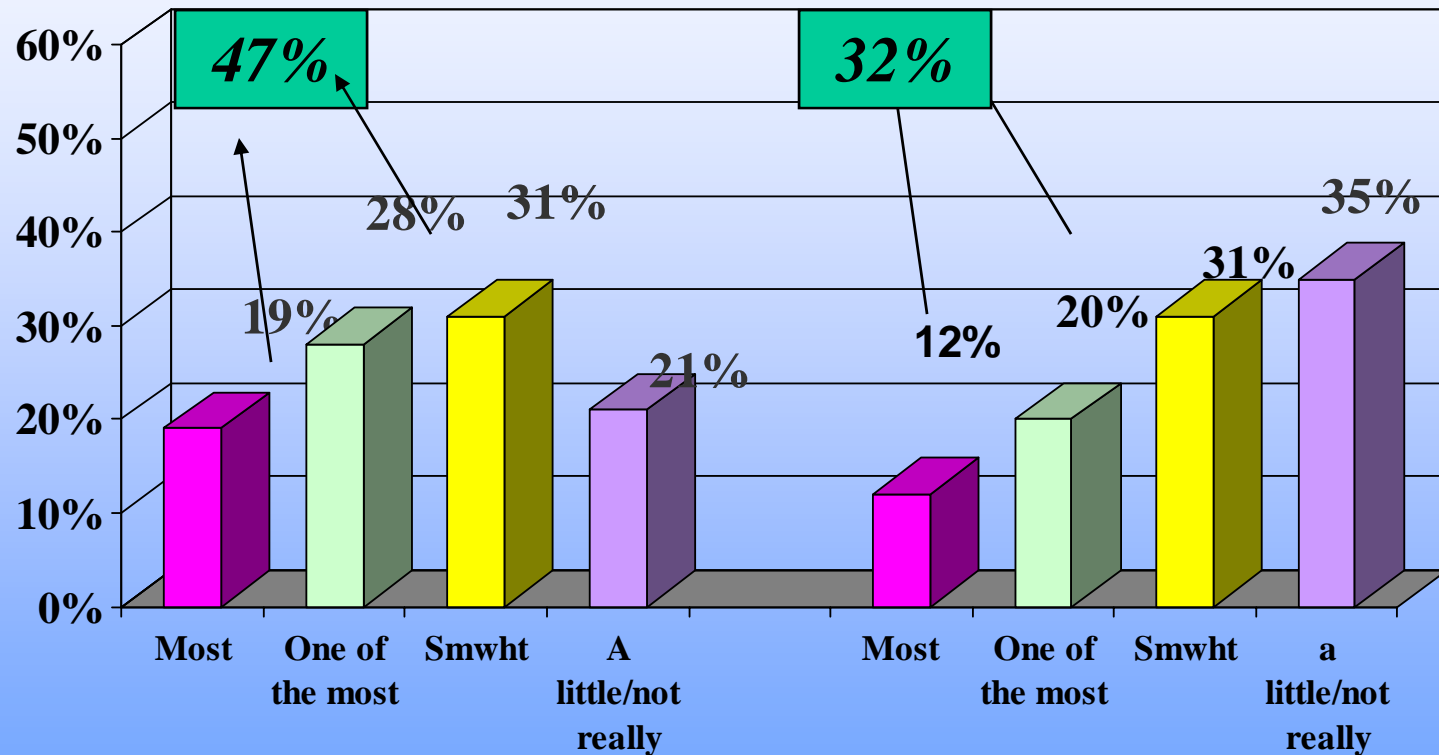


“We need the new Congress to focus on getting something done about health care instead of partisan attacks.”

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Health care has increased sharply in salience since 2004 .

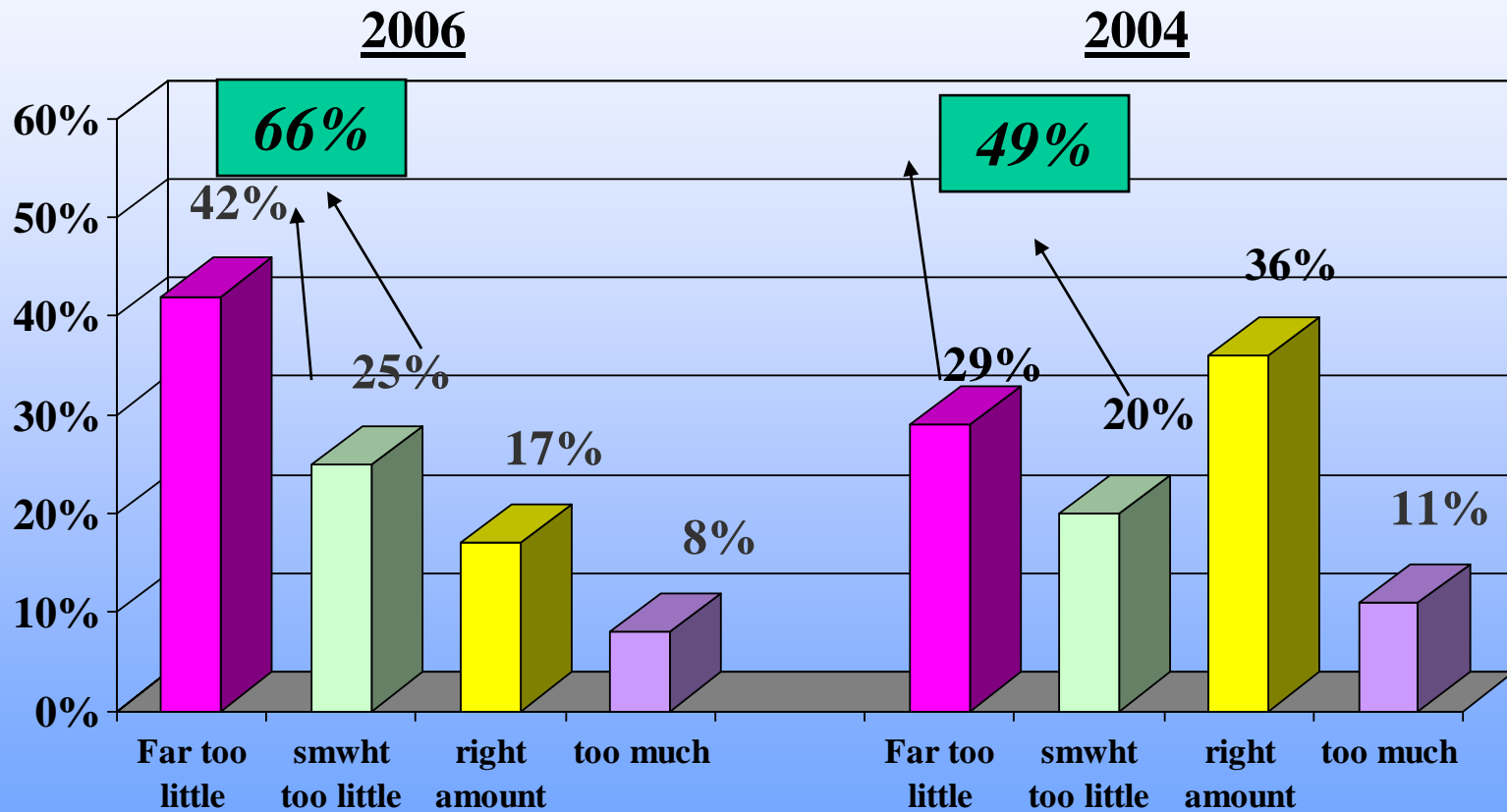


Still thinking about this election, please tell me how important [was/is] the issue of health care in making your vote for Congress -- the most important factor, one of the most important factors, somewhat important, a little important, or not really a factor?

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Voters are even more likely to say health care wasn't discussed enough in this election compared to 2004.

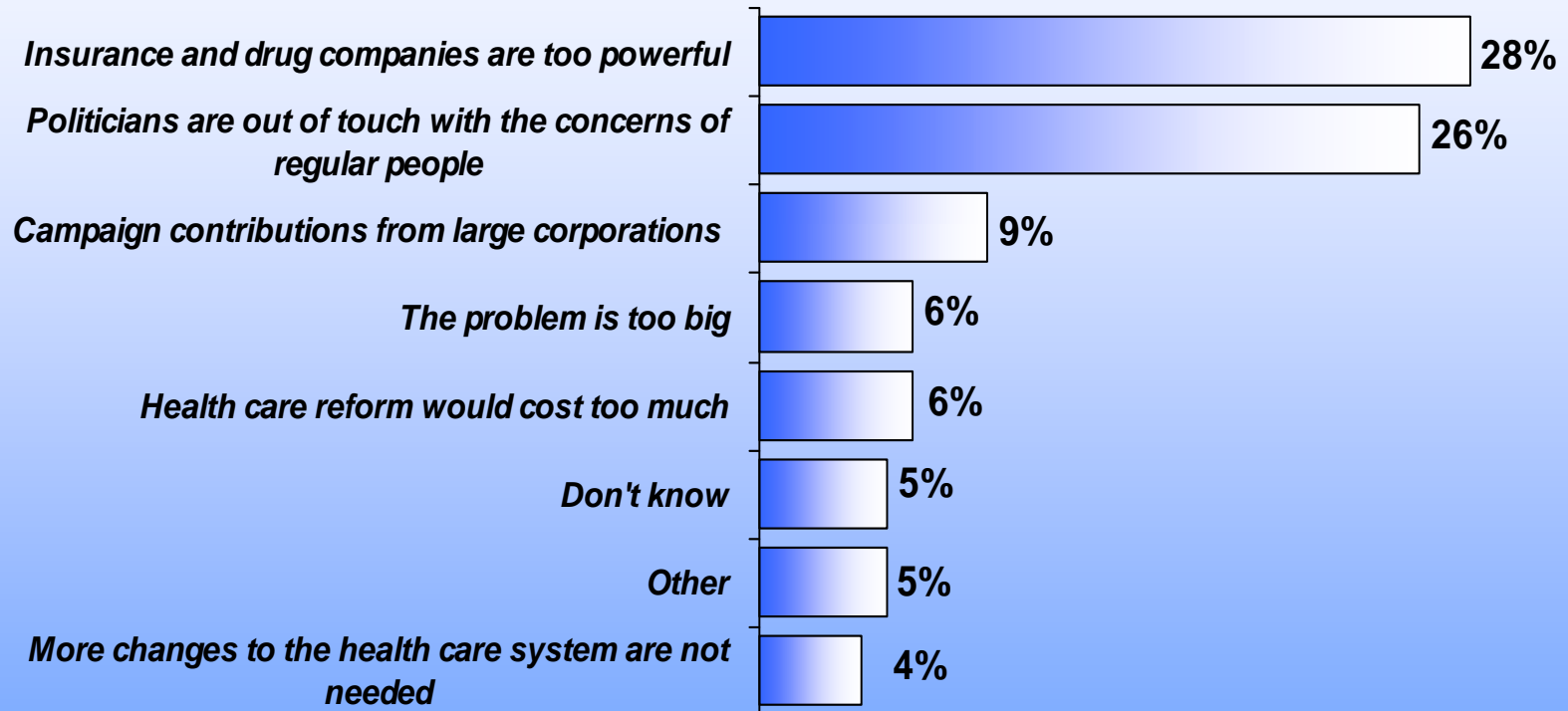


Overall, during this election, do you think the issue of health care was discussed too much, too little, or about the right amount? FOLLOW UP: And is that far (too much/too little) or somewhat (too much/too little)?

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Voters see powerful insurance and drug companies and out-of-touch politicians as most to blame for the lack of action on health care.



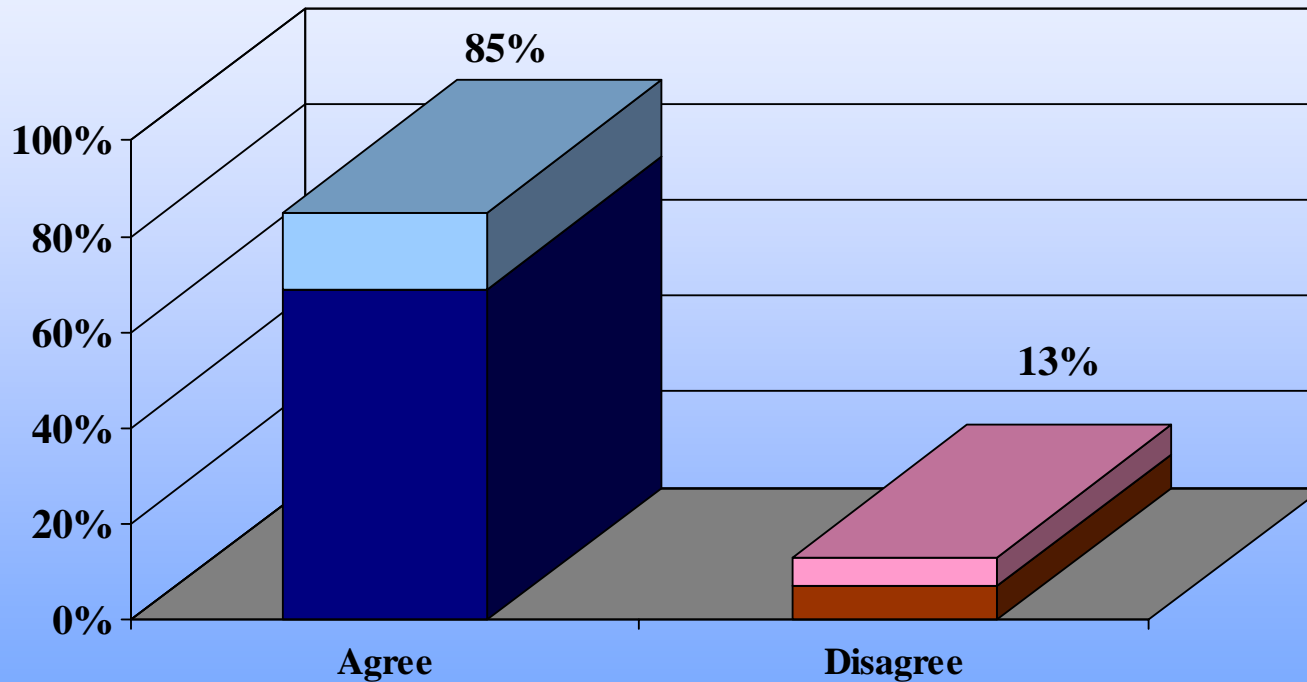
What do you think is MOST to blame for why elected officials have NOT done more to fix the health care problem?

**HEALTH CARE BELIEFS:
Health care is a core value. Voters
want reform, but fears about
change remain a vulnerability.**

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Health care is a core value.



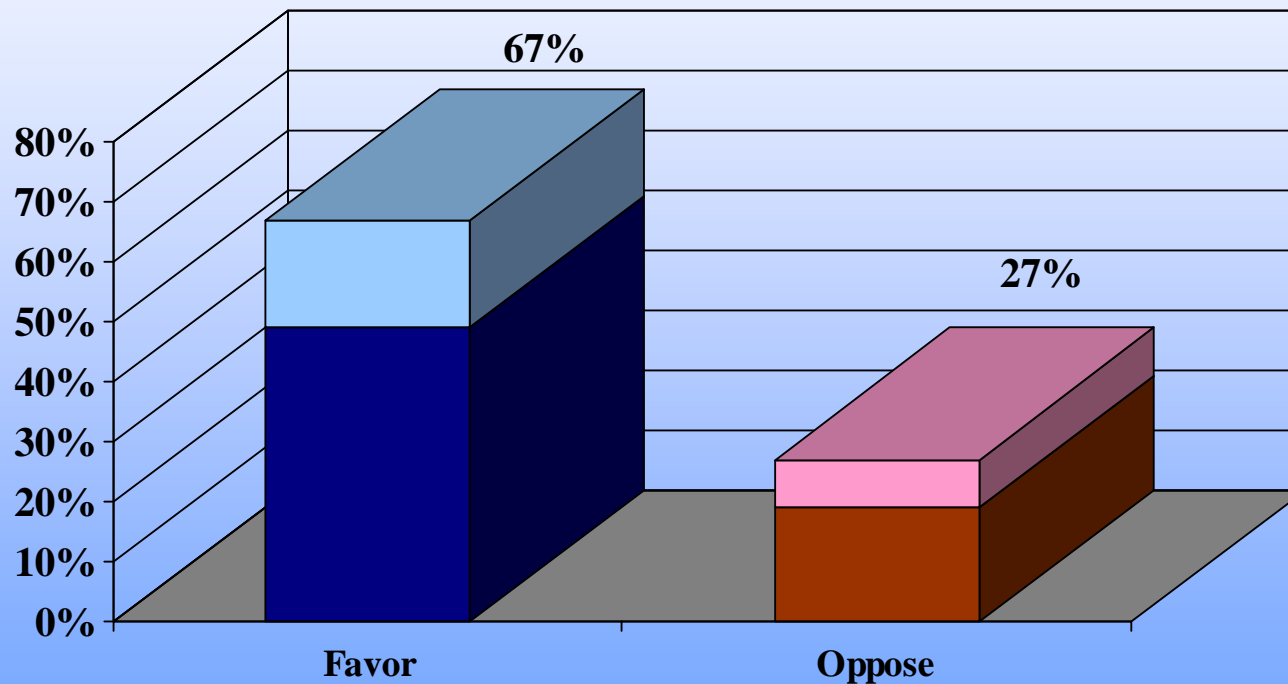
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“Everyone has a right to quality affordable health care coverage.”

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Voters strongly want action on this issue.



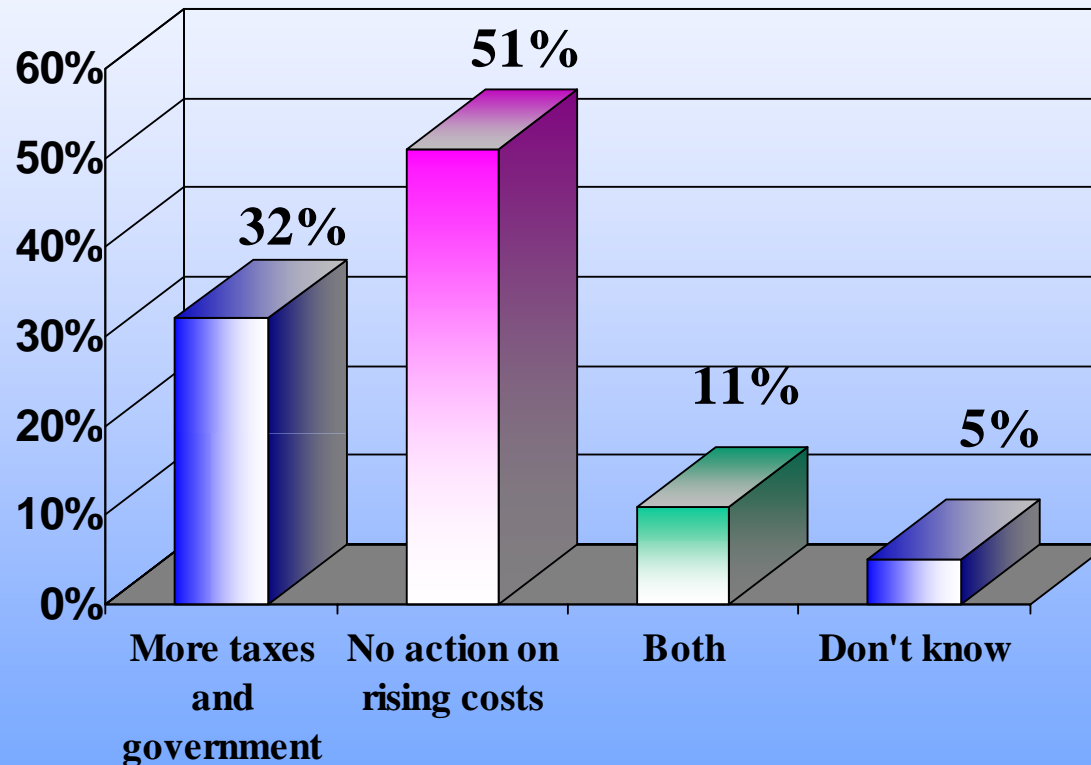
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Do you favor or oppose expanding access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans even if it means raising [your] taxes?

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**Voters are more worried about
inaction than they are about taxes
and government involvement.**

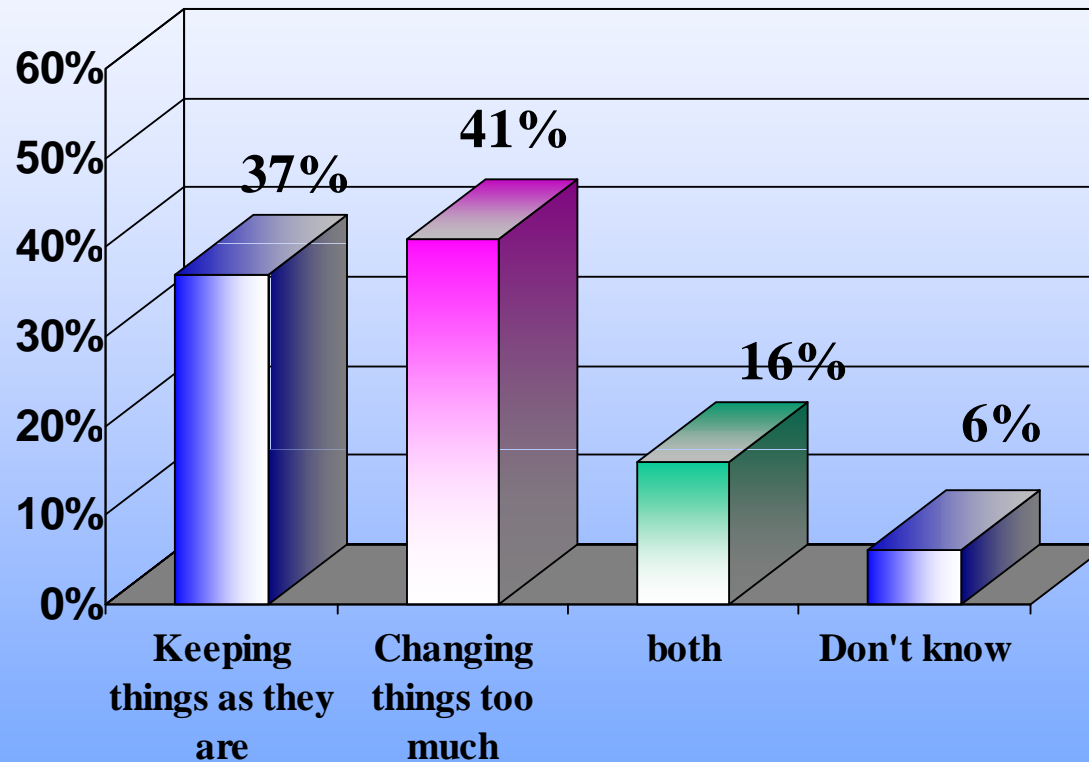


Overall, when you think about health care in America today, which are you more worried about, that health care reform will raise your taxes and create more government control OR that government will not take any action to rein in rising health care costs?

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Yet, voters' fear about changing things too much remains a vulnerability.

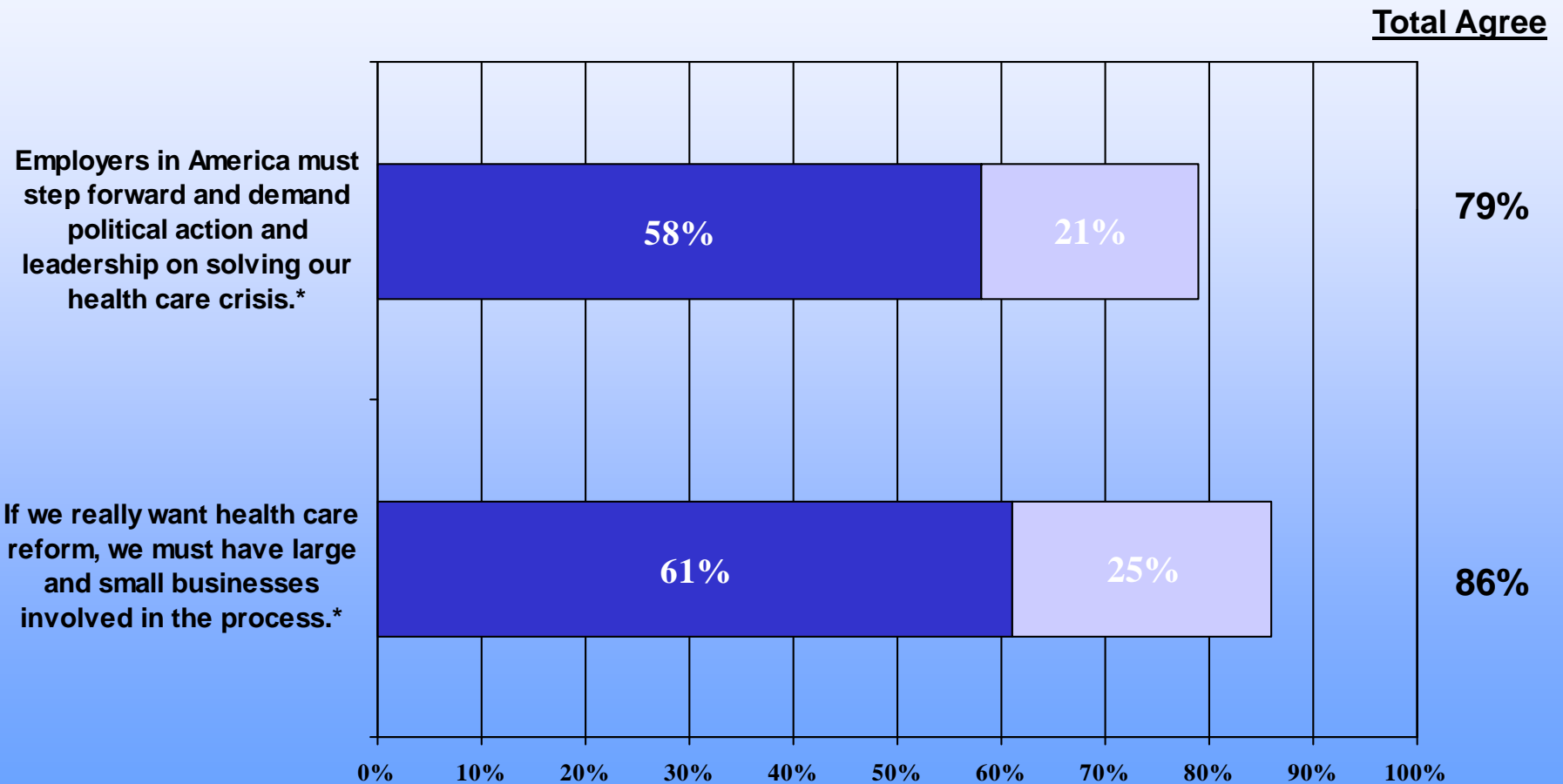


Overall, when you think about health care in America today, which are you more worried about, keeping things as they are or changing things too much?

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Voters see a major role for employers in demanding action.



*-denotes asked of half the sample

Darker colors show intensity