

2017 San Joaquin Valley Survey - Results on the Affordable Care Act

Nearly Half of Respondents Oppose the Repeal of Obamacare

Although initial efforts by Congressional Republicans to repeal Obamacare failed, President Trump and Congressional leaders have announced that they plan to propose revised legislation. Although 47 percent of respondents overall in our survey oppose the repeal of Obamacare, this opposition and support varies widely by party registration, race and ethnicity, and by whether someone is a Trump supporter.

As expected, the largest segment of respondents who support the complete repeal of Obamacare came from Trump supporters. Seventy-five percent of Trump supporters indicate that some or all provisions of Obamacare should be repealed. However, 18 percent of Trump supporters, or nearly 1 in 5, oppose repeal of Obamacare. For non-Trump supporters, the percentage that opposes repeal jumps to 59 percent.

For registered voters, support for repeal among Republicans closely aligns with that of Trump supporters. Again, 75 percent of Republicans support repealing some or all of Obamacare, while 19 percent oppose repeal. On the other hand, 62 percent of Democrats oppose repeal and a majority (52 percent) of Independents, or respondents who indicate no party preference, also oppose repeal.

The strongest opposition to repeal of Obamacare among racial and ethnic groups comes from non-white groups. Fifty-seven percent of Latinos oppose repeal, while 59 percent of non-white, non-Latinos, which includes blacks and Asians, also do not want Obamacare repealed. Among white respondents, 64 percent support repealing some or all provisions of Obamacare, while 1 out of 4 (26 percent), oppose the repeal.

Table 1
Support for Repeal of Obamacare

	Trump Supporter			Party Registration			Race/Ethnicity		
	All	Yes	No	Dem	Rep	Ind.	White	Latino	Other
Repeal All Provisions	17	40	7	5	45	8	28	12	7
Repeal Some Provisions	29	35	26	27	30	34	36	23	31
Oppose Repeal	47	18	59	62	19	52	26	57	59
Don't Know	8	7	8	5	6	6	10	7	4

Note: Trump supporter is respondent that indicated that he/she voted for Donald Trump or would have voted for Donald Trump if she/he had voted in the election. Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Over 40 Percent Believe Someone in their Household Will Lose Health Insurance Under Repeal of Obamacare

One major reason that Congressional Republicans failed in their initial efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was due to the release of the Congressional Budget Office estimate that up to 24 million people could lose their health insurance coverage under the proposed replacement legislation. News reports have also documented that the San Joaquin Valley would be hit hard by a repeal of Obamacare because tens of thousands in the region either gained coverage from the expansion of Medi-Cal or by purchasing policies through Covered California, the state’s health insurance exchange. Forty-two percent of respondents in the survey report that someone in their household would lose health insurance coverage if Obamacare was repealed. Most Trump supporters (85 percent) do not fear the loss of health insurance, while 55 percent of non-Trump supporters do.

Among registered voters, 60 percent of Democrats think someone in their household will lose insurance if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, while only 16 percent of Republicans report concern about someone in their household losing coverage. Less than half of Independents (41 percent) believe someone could lose health insurance coverage in their household.

Many Latinos and other minority groups have benefitted under Obamacare and this is reflected in the survey results. More than half of Latinos (56 percent) think someone in their household would lose health insurance under Obamacare repeal. Nearly half (48%) of non-white, non-Latino respondents (other) believe that they or someone in their household could lose insurance if the ACA was repealed. In contrast, only 19 percent of whites fear the loss of coverage with repeal.

Table 2
Someone in Household Would Lose Health Insurance if Obamacare Was Repealed

	All	Trump Supporter		Party Registration			Race/Ethnicity		
		Yes	No	Dem	Rep	Ind.	White	Latino	Other
Yes	42	12	55	60	16	41	19	56	48
No	55	85	42	37	81	58	78	41	52
Don't Know	2	2	2	3	3	1	3	2	0

Majority Think the San Joaquin Valley is Off on the Wrong Track Under Trump

A majority (52 percent) of respondents think that the San Joaquin Valley is off on the wrong track under the Trump administration. Sentiment in the Valley is similar to what has been found at the statewide level. In a January 2017 poll, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) found that 57 percent of respondents statewide believe things in the United States are generally heading in the wrong direction.

As on other questions, views about the direction of the region vary significantly according to whether the respondent is a Trump supporter or not. Among Trump supporters, 86 percent believe the Valley is heading in the right direction, while 72 percent of those who are not Trump supporters think it is on the wrong track.

The partisan breakdown of results is nearly a mirror image for Democrats and Republicans. For Democrats, 76 percent think the Valley is off on the wrong track, while 74 percent of Republicans believe it is heading in the right direction. A slight majority of Independents (52 percent) align with Democrats on this question.

Again, we see differences among racial and ethnic groups. Sixty percent of whites believe the region is heading in the right direction, while a strong majority of Latinos (65 percent) and a smaller majority of non-white, non-Latinos (53 percent) think the Valley is off on the wrong track.

Table 3
San Joaquin Valley Moving in the Right Direction or Off on the Wrong Track Under Trump

	All	Trump Supporter		Party Registration			Race/Ethnicity		
		Yes	No	Dem	Rep	Ind.	White	Latino	Other
Right Direction	37	86	16	16	74	38	60	21	42
Wrong Track	52	5	72	76	15	52	31	65	53
Don't Know	11	9	11	8	10	10	8	14	5

Methodology of Survey

The findings in this report are based on a random sample of adults from the San Joaquin Valley, which includes eight counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare. A total of 541 adults were interviewed in Spanish or English. Eighty percent of interviews were conducted in English, while 20 percent were conducted in Spanish, based on the respondent's preference. Sixty-two percent were interviewed on landline and 38 percent were interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took on average 13.6 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekday nights and Sunday evenings, from March 13-26, 2017. Up to 5 attempts were made to reach each randomly selected number on different days during the interview period. Dr. España translated the survey questions into Spanish.

The final sample was weighted by age, gender, education, and race/ethnicity to match the characteristics of the San Joaquin Valley adult population. The Institute used the U.S Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey population estimates to compare regional demographics to the characteristics of the survey sample in order to assure representativeness. The margin of error for the survey is ± 4.2 percent at the 95 percent confidence-level for the unweighted sample of 541 adults. That is, we are 95 percent confident the results will reflect the population's responses ± 4.2 percentage points, if all adults in the San Joaquin Valley were interviewed. There are other possible sources of error beyond sampling variability, such as question wording, question sequencing, and survey timing.

Additional information about our methodology is available upon request from Dr. Bryant.

Questions Asked

The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, took effect in 2014. It required everyone to have health insurance coverage and allowed those without health insurance to purchase insurance through Covered California or gain coverage through Medi-Cal. If the Affordable Care Act is repealed by Congress, would you or anyone in your household lose access to healthcare?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know/Unsure

President Trump and Republicans in Congress have plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare. Do you support repealing all provisions of Obamacare, some provisions of Obamacare, or do you oppose the repeal of Obamacare?

- All provisions of Obamacare
- Some provisions of Obamacare
- Oppose the repeal of Obamacare
- Don't know

President Trump is now in office, thinking about the impact on the Valley, do you think he will keep us [ROTATE CHOICE] or do you think he will get us [ROTATE CHOICE]?

- Moving in the Right Direction
- Off on the Wrong Track
- Don't know/Refuse to Answer

About the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy

Under the College of Social Sciences, the new Institute for Leadership and Public Policy is dedicated to conducting policy-relevant research and offering student training and career development to inspire public leadership in the San Joaquin Valley. Financial support for the Institute has been provided by a generous gift from PG&E and Chevron.