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POLITICO-HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLL

Poll: Americans Want New Congress to Prioritize Deficit Reduction, Drug Prices and Infrastructure

A new POLITICO-Harvard poll of U.S. adults finds that the deficit, drug prices, infrastructure and hate crimes are among the public's top priorities for the new Congress entering office this January.

While these issue areas had broad bipartisan support, other priorities were polarized along party lines. Democratic respondents want Congress to focus on climate change, DACA, gun laws and investigations of President Donald Trump. Republicans, conversely, were more likely to prioritize Trump's NAFTA replacement, unauthorized immigration and defense spending.

Which of the following should be an "extremely important" priority for the new Congress?

| | ALL RESPONDENTS | | DEMOCRATS | | REPUBLICANS | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | SUPPORT | OPPOSE | SUPPORT | OPPOSE | SUPPORT | OPPOSE |
| Reduce federal budget deficit | 80% | 18% | 76% | 22% | 81% | 18% |
| Lower prescription drug prices | 80 | 20 | 90 | 10 | 82 | 17 |
| Increase infrastructure spending | 79 | 20 | 82 | 17 | 81 | 18 |
| Reduce hate crimes | 75 | 23 | 85 | 14 | 64 | 35 |
| Address opioid epidemic | 74 | 21 | 78 | 17 | 71 | 25 |
| Increase K-12 education spending | 73 | 24 | 84 | 14 | 65 | 33 |
| Rewrite tax reform for middle class | 72 | 24 | 88 | 11 | 59 | 39 |
| Fix problems with the ACA | 71 | 23 | 82 | 13 | 62 | 35 |
| Fix environment, climate change | 69 | 29 | 88 | 8 | 37 | 62 |
| Renew DACA | 66 | 28 | 88 | 9 | 56 | 41 |
| Block future Trump policies | 60 | 36 | 82 | 14 | 44 | 54 |
| Enact Trump's NAFTA replacement | 58 | 32 | 47 | 47 | 77 | 18 |
| Restrict unauthorized immigration | 56 | 41 | 34 | 58 | 82 | 18 |
| Stricter gun laws | 55 | 42 | 80 | 15 | 35 | 65 |
| Investigate Trump's finances | 53 | 45 | 80 | 17 | 23 | 74 |
| Increase defense spending | 53 | 44 | 46 | 53 | 68 | 30 |
| Repeal and replace the ACA | 50 | 47 | 44 | 55 | 57 | 41 |
| Keep abortion legal | 47 | 50 | 63 | 34 | 28 | 71 |
| Reduce business regulations | 46 | 50 | 38 | 53 | 56 | 43 |
| Impeach President Trump | 38 | 57 | 64 | 32 | 14 | 83 |
| Make abortion illegal | 38 | 60 | 33 | 65 | 44 | 53 |

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Percentages for "don't know" and "refused" responses are not shown.

This survey was conducted for Politico and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health via telephone by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted via telephone (cellphone and landline) December 4-9, 2018, among a nationally representative sample of 1,014 U.S. adults. The margin of error for total respondents is ±3.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is ± 5.1 percentage points.

Source: POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, "Americans priorities for the new Congress in 2019," SRSS By Tucker Doherty, POLITICO Pro DataPoint