

To: Indiana Hospital Association  
From: Christine Matthews  
Date: August 18, 2020  
Subject: Statewide survey highlights

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Bellwether Research & Consulting conducted a statewide telephone survey of 800 Indiana voters between August 13 – 16, 2020. The margin of error is  $\pm 3\%$ .

### Key Findings

- The COVID-19 pandemic is the top concern for Hoosier voters at 34%, followed by jobs/economy at 22%, and education/public schools and crime/safety tie for third at 13%.
  - Republicans and Democrats have significantly different concerns. For Democrats it is overwhelmingly COVID-19 at 53%, while Republicans rate jobs and the economy top at 34%, with COVID-19 ranking third (18%) behind crime/safety (20%). Independent voters are most concerned about COVID-19 at 27%, followed by jobs/economy at 24%.
- Voters give extremely high marks to hospitals and health care providers for their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are divided, but nominally positive, about the response from drug and health insurance companies.
  - Percent saying “yes” they have responded well to the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - 82% Hospitals
    - 80% Health care providers
    - 45% Drug companies
    - 43% Health insurance companies
- Three-fourths of voters are concerned that rural and urban safety net hospitals may be forced to close when they learn that “since the start of the pandemic, Indiana hospitals have seen a decline in revenue from traditional procedures while incurring additional costs associated with COVID-19 care. The revenue decline has been most significant in rural hospitals.”
- Health care providers and hospitals have the trust of voters in the state, while two-thirds say they do not trust drug companies and health insurance companies.
  - Percent who “generally trust” each of the following.
    - 79% Health care providers
    - 71% Hospitals
    - 33% Health insurance companies
    - 32% Drug companies
- In addition, hospitals and health care providers are overwhelmingly thought to make a positive difference in their communities.
  - Percent who say they “make a positive difference in their communities.”
    - 87% Hospitals
    - 87% Health care providers
    - 48% Drug companies
    - 45% Health insurance companies
- Each sector is seen as critical to the state’s economy – particularly hospitals and health care providers.
  - Percent saying they are “important to the state’s economy.”
    - 91% Health care providers
    - 89% Hospitals
    - 75% Drug companies
    - 72% Health insurance companies

- Voters overwhelmingly think drug companies and health insurance companies prioritize profits over patients.
  - Percent saying “yes” they put patients over profits.
    - 60% Health care providers
    - 44% Hospitals
    - 20% Drug companies
    - 20% Health insurance companies
  
- When asked what concerns them more: hospital profits or health insurance company profits, fully 74% said “health insurance company profits,” while just 18% said “hospital profits.”
  
- In fact, voters see insurance companies and drug companies as significant drivers of rising health care costs.
  - Percent saying each contributes “a great deal” to rising health care costs.
    - 75% Drug companies make too much money
    - 68% Insurance companies make too much money
    - 49% There is too much fraud and abuse in the system
    - 38% Hospitals make too much money
    - 31% Doctors and health care providers charge too much
  
- While Hoosiers think they pay less for housing than neighboring states, they generally think their costs for most things – including health care – is about the same.
  - Percent saying they “pay more/same/less” as people in neighboring states
 

	More	Same	Less	
11%	29%	45%		Housing
12%	49%	24%		Groceries
17%	38%	16%		Electricity
17%	44%	8%		Health care
17%	27%	34%		Taxes