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