

NPR-Kaiser-Kennedy School Poll
Congressional Election Tracking — Series B
 Excel Insert
 (Methodology explanation is at end of document)

EB-1. What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address?

	10/29/02 Total	Likely voter
Terrorism/War with Iraq	45	53
Economy/Jobs	33	37
Health Care/Medicare	18	21
Education	19	18
Taxes	9	10
No issue	3	2
Don t know	9	5

EB-2. Now, thinking specifically about health care What is the most important health care issue for the government to address? (PROBE: Is there another issue that is almost as important for government to address?)

	10/29/02 Total	Likely voter
Prescription Drug Costs	20	25
Expanding Insurance Coverage	28	25
Health Care Costs	20	21
Medicare/Medicaid/Care for the Elderly	16	15
Patient s Bill of Rights	3	4
No Issue	1	1
Don t know	9	7

EB-3. Now, I'm going to read you a list of some different things the President and Congress might try to act on this year. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all. First, what about (READ ITEM)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all?

10/29/02 Total	--Top priority/Important--			Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know
	NET	One of their top priorities	Important, but not a top priority			
a. Protecting the privacy of medical records	81	41	40	15	3	1
b. Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans	84	40	43	10	4	3
c. Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	95	69	26	3	2	*
d. Helping make Medicare more financially secure	92	64	29	5	1	1
e. Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage	89	59	31	7	3	1
f. Helping control the cost of health care	94	72	22	3	2	1

Likely voter	--Top priority/Important--			Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know
	NET	One of their top priorities	Important, but not top priority			
a. Protecting the privacy of medical records	82	41	41	15	3	*
b. Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans	84	39	44	9	4	3
c. Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	95	69	26	3	2	*
d. Helping make Medicare more financially secure	93	63	30	5	1	1
e. Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage	89	56	33	8	3	*
f. Helping control the cost of health care	93	71	22	4	2	1

(Asked of respondents who ranked more than 1 issue as a top priority; n = 824; 576 likely voter)

EB-4. You said the following issues are top priorities for the President and Congress. Which ONE of these do you think should be the MOST important priority?

	10/29/02 Total	Likely voter
Protecting the privacy of medical records	3	4
Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans	4	3
Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	21	20
Helping make Medicare more financially secure	13	14
Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage	25	25
Helping control the cost of health care	32	33
None of these	1	1
Don t know	1	1

(Asked of respondents who ranked helping control the cost of healthcare as the most important priority and rated more than 1 other issue as a top priority; n = 278; 200 likely voter)

EB-5. You also said the following issues are top priorities for the President and Congress. Which one of THESE do you think should be the MOST important priority?

	10/29/02 Total	Likely voter
Protecting the privacy of medical records	3	2
Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans	6	6
Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	34	37
Helping make Medicare more financially secure	24	24
Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage	32	29
None of these	1	1
Don t know	1	*

Methodology

The NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Congressional Election Tracking Survey is part of an ongoing project of National Public Radio, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Representatives of the three sponsors worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and to analyze the results, with NPR maintaining sole editorial control over its broadcasts on the surveys.

The project team includes:

From NPR: Marcus D. Rosenbaum, Senior Editor/Special Projects.

From the Kaiser Family Foundation: Drew Altman, President and Chief Executive Officer; Matt James, Senior Vice President of Media and Public Education and Executive Director of kaisernetwork.org; Mollyann Brodie, Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Media Research; and Elizabeth Hamel, Research Associate.

From the Kennedy School: Robert J. Blendon, a Harvard University professor who holds joint appointments in the School of Public Health and the Kennedy School of Government; Stephen R. Pelletier, Research Coordinator for the Harvard Opinion Research Program; and John M. Benson, Managing Director of the Harvard Opinion Research Program

The results of this project are based on a nationwide telephone survey conducted between October 25 and October 29, 2002 among a representative sample of 1,015 respondents 18 years of age or older. The survey work was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research. For results based on the total sample (n=1,015) there is 95% confidence that the error attributed to sampling and other random effects is +/- 3.2 percentage points.

Respondents were asked three questions in order to determine if they could be classified as likely voters:

1. Are you currently registered to vote?
2. Are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote in the November election for U.S. Congress for your district?
3. Did you vote in the 2000 election for president between Al Gore and George W. Bush?

Likely voters were those who answered yes to Questions 1 and 3, and answered almost certain or probably to Question 2. Sixty-four percent of the entire sample is likely voters. For results based on the likely voter sample (n=641) the margin of sampling error is 4.1 percentage points.