

# Illinois Likely Voters Health Care Survey Results

TO: Interested Parties  
FROM: Justin Wallin, J. Wallin Opinion Research  
DATE: March 4, 2024  
RE: Chicago Urban League Survey of Illinois Likely Voters on Health Care and Prescription Drug Policy Proposals

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From Friday, February 9 through Thursday, February 16, 2024, J. Wallin Opinion Research conducted an online survey on behalf of the Chicago Urban League of likely November, 2024 General Election voters throughout the state of Illinois. The survey, which had a sample size of 800 and was conducted in English and Spanish, tested attitudes of likely voters on health care and prescription drug policies across the state at a time when lawmakers are considering bills like HB 4548, which outlaw certain health care options in Illinois.

## The Biggest Takeaways

### Among Illinois likely voters:

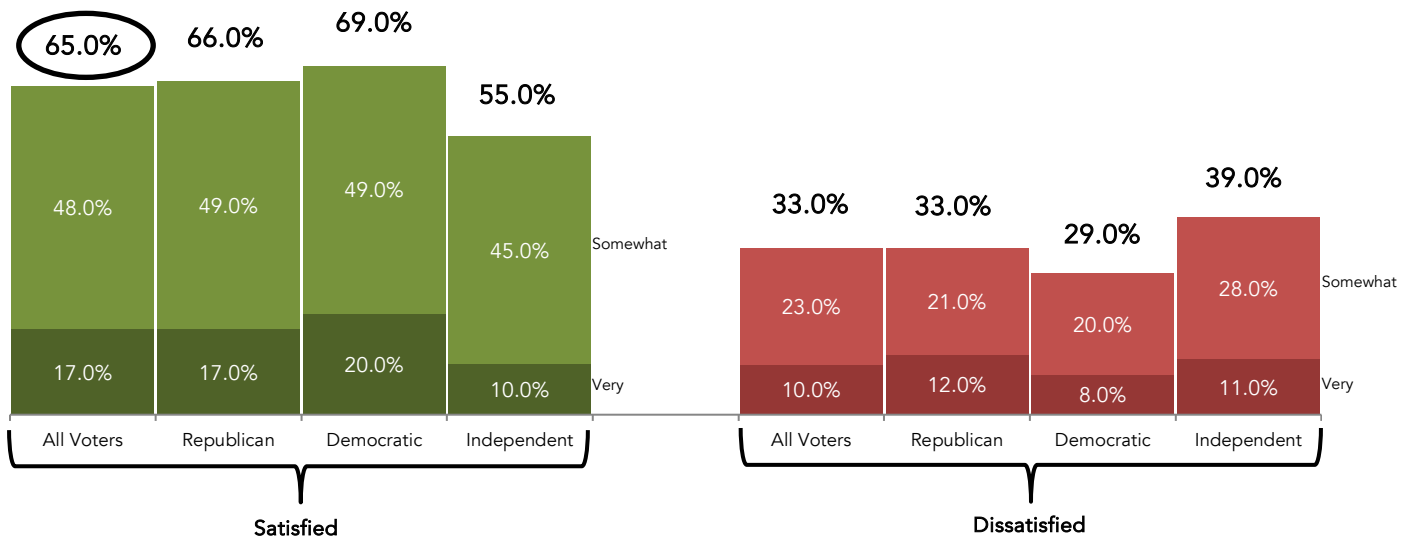
- **65%** of are currently satisfied with the quality, availability, and accessibility of prescriptions and just 8% want lawmakers to prioritize health care
- **75%** prefer lower premiums and co-pays over more options of where to pick up prescriptions
- **78%** would rather pick up prescriptions at a certain pharmacy for a discounted price than any pharmacy at regular price
- **83%** oppose a new \$10.49 fee being added to most prescriptions filled
- **81%** think a new \$10.49 prescription drug fee would hurt Black and Latino families across Illinois
- Nearly a **supermajority** (63.0%) would be less likely to support a candidate who supports outlawing these certain lower-cost options – and **75%** would be less likely to support a candidate who voted in favor of changing lower-cost prescription drug and pharmacy options that have been negotiated by labor unions.

The Data

Illinois likely voters are overwhelmingly satisfied with the cost, quality, availability and accessibility of prescription medication, and strongly oppose lawmakers making changes that would restrict their prescription drug options or raise costs this legislative session

Nearly a supermajority (65.0%) are satisfied with the cost, quality, availability and accessibility of prescription medication

It is important to note that high levels of satisfaction are reflected across political party affiliation, including supermajorities or higher of Republicans and Democratic voters (over a majority of Independent voters agree).

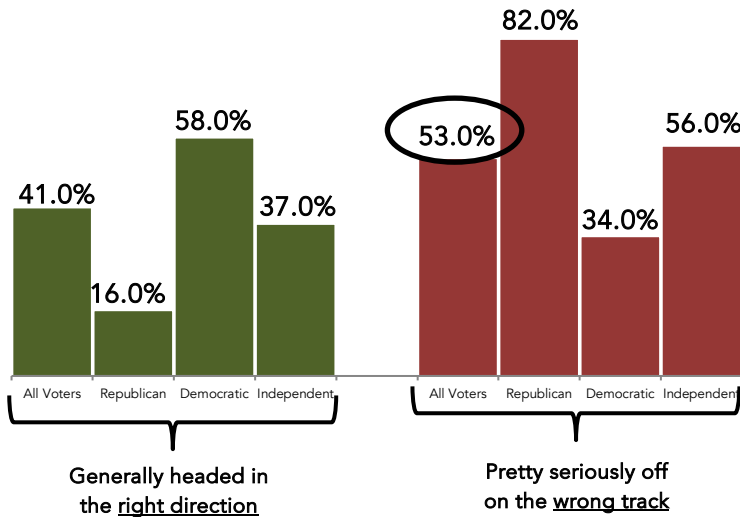


Question: "When it comes to your current health care and prescription drug coverage, how satisfied would you say that you are with the cost, quality, availability, and accessibility of prescription medication to you and your family?"

Satisfaction applies specifically to a preference for existing lower pricing; three-quarters (75%) prefer lower premiums and co-pays over more options of where to pick up prescriptions, and a similar (78%) amount would rather pick up at a certain pharmacy for a discounted price, than any pharmacy at regular price.

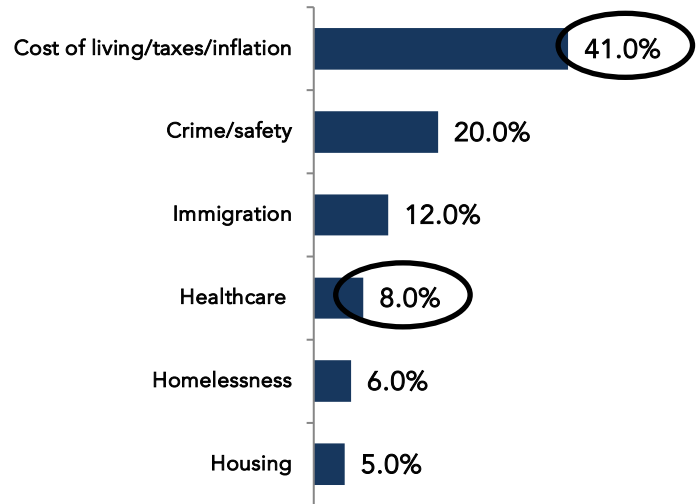
Moreover, this broad satisfaction contrasts sharply with how voters view the state of Illinois, wherein a majority (53%) feel that the state is "pretty seriously off on the wrong track" and clearly do not want their policymakers to focus on themes wherein they are largely satisfied such as healthcare (only 8% want the legislature to prioritize healthcare this year), preferring lawmakers focus on other issues such as crime and safety (20%) and economic issues such as costs of living/taxes/inflation (41% combined).

A majority (53.0%) says things in Illinois are pretty seriously off on the wrong track



Question: "Do you feel that things in Illinois are..."

What are the top issues that likely voters most want the legislature to prioritize?



Question: "Of the following, please rank the top 3 issue areas that the Illinois legislature should be most focused on in the 2024 legislative session."

Specifically, voters are overwhelmingly opposed to policymakers making what they see as neither wanted nor helpful changes to their current prescription drug and pharmacy options.

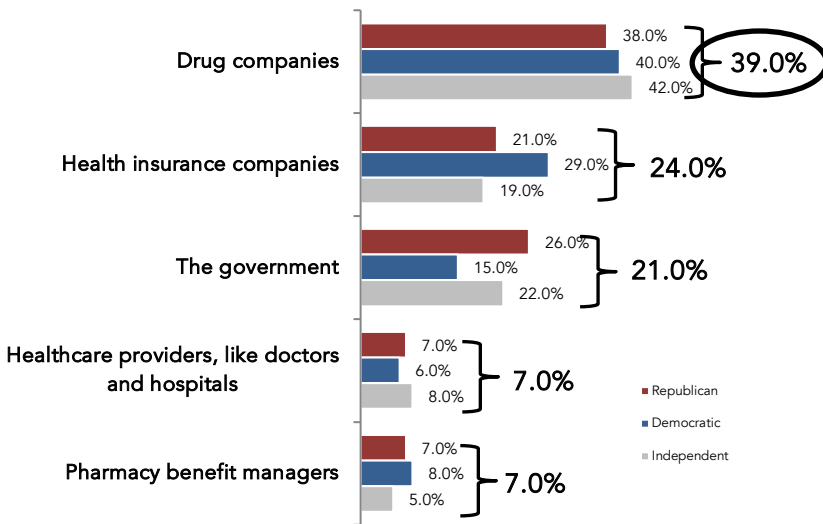
Fully **83%** oppose a new \$10.49 fee added to most prescriptions filled in Illinois and a similar proportion (81%) say it would hurt Black and Latino families (intensity is quite high, wherein nearly a supermajority – 65% - say it would hurt Black and Latino families "a lot"). Unsurprisingly, similar proportions of Black (78.6%) and Latino (81%) respondents agree. Ultimately, **82%** would be less likely (62% much less likely) to support a candidate for office in Illinois who supported such legislation.

Similarly high proportions (**74%**) of likely voters oppose policymakers changing lower-cost prescription drug and pharmacy options that have been negotiated by labor unions on behalf of their members. Three-quarters (**75%**) would be less likely to support a candidate who voted in favor of such legislation (including 78% of Independents):

A supermajority (**66%**) opposes outlawing certain lower-cost pharmacy options, and 63% (including 70% of independents) are less likely to support a candidate who supports outlawing those options. Again, it is important to note that intensity is high (53% and 54%, respectively).

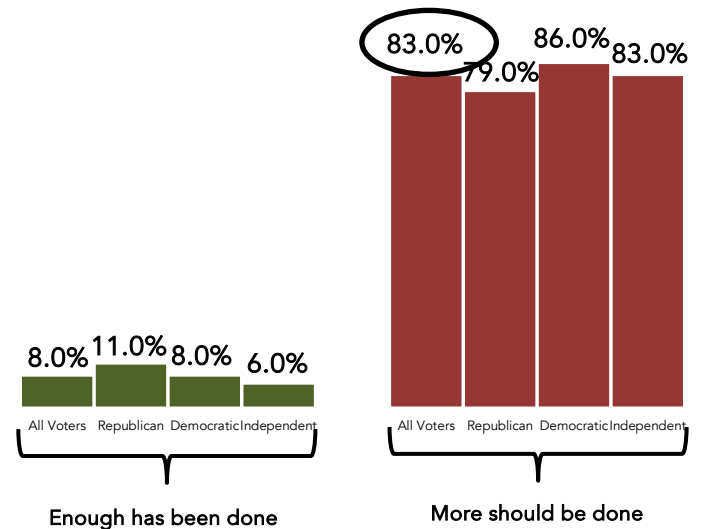
All that said, if the state’s policymakers insist on taking some kind of action in health care, voters overwhelmingly feel that attention should be turned to the pharmaceutical industry. **39%** of voters (including 40% of Democratic voters and 42% of independents), feel that drug companies are most responsible for the cost of health care and prescription drugs (just 7% blame pharmacy benefit managers) . Moreover, eight-in-ten (**83%**) think more should be done to address drug companies’ role in the increasing cost of prescription drugs (including 86% of Democratic voters).

Illinois voters believe that drug companies are most responsible for the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs



Question: “Who do you think is most responsible for the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs in Illinois?”

Over eight-in-ten (**83.0%**) think more should be done to address drug companies’ role in the increasing cost of prescription drugs



Question: “As you may know, in the past few years, the federal government and the state of Illinois have passed legislation requiring drug companies to report price increases and negotiate on some drugs in Medicare. Do you think enough has been done to address drug companies’ role in the increasing cost of prescription drugs, or should more be done?”

**Final thoughts:** Now is not the time for Illinois legislators to introduce unwelcome price increases or to restrict pharmacy benefits. Voter satisfaction with the cost, quality, availability and accessibility of prescription medication is pervasive, and proposals being considered to modify those features would be **met with intense voter backlash at the ballot box**.

**Methodology:** We interviewed 800 respondents in Spanish and English languages. A survey of this size yields a margin of error of +/-3.4% (95% confidence interval). Our sample is stratified, meaning that the demographic composition of our results matches the demographic composition of the state.

**About the Firm:** J. Wallin Opinion Research specializes in opinion research on behalf of business, government, media and political clients. Company CEO Justin Wallin is a regular guest on Fox News, CNN and BBC. His research, commentary and analysis can be found in leading newspapers including the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times* as well as *RealClearPolitics*, *Politico*, *Roll Call*, *Campaigns & Elections*, *Public CEO* and *Inside Politics with Nathan Gonzales*. He is a featured speaker throughout the nation on matters of strategy, marketing and messaging.