# U.S. Health Policy/Politics: Post-11/5/2024

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#### 2024 Election Results in Perspective

#### Voting Results (millions—'2024 = 98.7%)

	2016—128.8m	2020—155.5m	2024—153m			
Trump	62.9m—45.9%	74.2m—46.8%	76.7m—50.0%			
Clinton/Biden/Harris	65.8m—48.0%	81.2m—51.3%	74.1m—48.3%			
Electoral College Votes						
Trump	306	232	312			
Clinton/Biden/Harris	232	306	226			
<u>Voter Turnout</u>						
As % of eligible voters	60.1%	66.7%	63.3%			

#### Change in Control of House, Senate and/or White House



## The New Federal Health Landscape

- HHS Secretary nominee Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
- Splitting up Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)?
- Carving up Food & Drug Administration (FDA)?
- Antitrust/Monopoly/Consolidation?
  - New Leaders of Federal Trade Commission/Dept. of Justice Antitrust Division
  - Matt Gaetz is a "Kahn-servative"
  - Back to free-wheeling consolidation/mergers or continuation of Biden trend?
- Immigration policy as early cutting-edge issue
- Reproductive Rights policy both sides ready
- Dr. Oz as nominee for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS)

## The Emerging Medicare Landscape

- Move all enrollees (or new ones) into Medicare Advantage
  - Part of Agenda 2025 and Republican preference for Part C over A+B
  - Part C is much more expensive that A+B Traditional Medicare
  - Will new Admin tackle upcoding, prior authorization, etc.?
  - Loss of A+B would mean no reference point to judge C \$\$ performance
  - Allow Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) for Part C enrollees
- Future of Drug Pricing Negotiations
  - Public promise by Trump to lower drug prices
  - In October, Trump took EU reference pricing off the table
  - Current IRA negotiations going well and poised for larger rollout
  - No other drug cost control idea from Trump-world yet

## The Evolving Medicaid Environment

- Work Requirements for "able-bodied" Yes
  - Mandate or Option? (Mandate if they can get away with it)
  - Can they amend Title XIX? Or just use 1115 waivers like Georgia?
- Ten non-expansion states no pressure to join
  - Work Requirement option may be excuse for some holdout states to join
  - Georgia/Arkansas experience not encouraging
- Block Grants to States/Fixed Payments + Flexibility
  - Certain attempt –hard to keep the Governors/NGA onboard
  - Would take change to Title XIX
- Change ACA Medicaid Financing
  - Lower higher ACA state match to traditional match

## ACA & Health Insurance Exchanges

- Contradictory statements on <u>future of ACA</u> from Trump, JD Vance, and Speaker Johnson, August thru November
- Big Policy Kahuna -- sunset or continue <u>ARPA/IRA enhanced subsidies</u>
  - Republicans would like to not renew; but big coverage hit on millions of lower income Exchange enrollees at start of mid-term election season while cutting taxes
- Funding reductions for <u>Navigators/Assisters</u>
- Reversal of Biden limits on short-term health insurance plans
- Big promotion of Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangements (ICHRAs)
  - Maybe allow some coverage subsidies?
- Allowing <u>Health Savings Accounts</u> (HSAs) into Exchange (and Part C) products
- Future of opening Exchange coverage for <u>"Dreamers"</u> by Biden facing lawsuit and not likely

#### Increases in Premium Tax Credits for 2021 and 2022

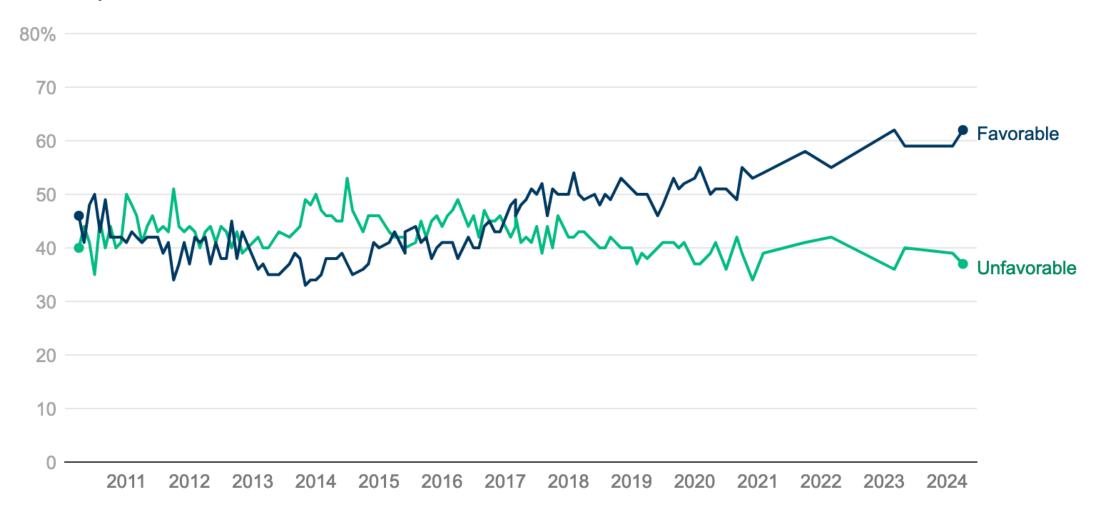
- PTC is tied to cost of benchmark (second lowest cost silver) plan
  - PTC amount = SLCSP premium minus individual contribution amount (% of household income)

Income as % FPL	Prior Law		Rescue Plan	
	Initial %age	Final %age	Initial %age	Final %age
Less than 133%	2.07	3.1	0.0	0.0
133% up to 150%	3.1	4.14	0.0	0.0
150% up to 200%	4.14	6.52	0.0	2.0
200% up to 250%	6.52	8.33	2.0	4.0
250% up to 300%	8.33	9.83	4.0	6.0
300% up to 400%	9.83	9.83	6.0	8.5
More than 400%	No limit	No limit	8.5	8.5

 People eligible for other MEC (Medicare, Medicaid, affordable/adequate employer coverage) are not eligible for marketplace subsidies

#### Clear Majority Of Public View The ACA Favorably

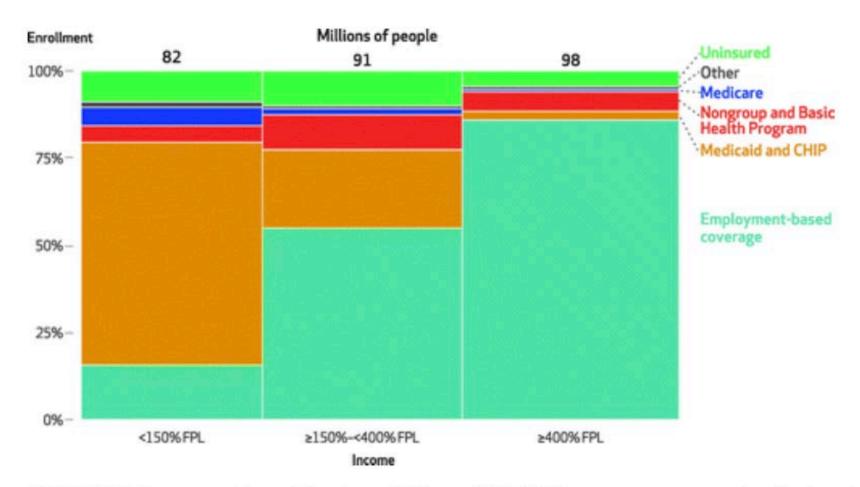
In general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the health reform bill signed into law in 2010, known commonly as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare?







**Exhibit 2** Health insurance coverage for people younger than age 65, by type of coverage and income, 2023



SOURCE Congressional Budget Office. NOTES In most states, the federal poverty level in 2023 is \$14,580 for a single person. For each additional person in a household, \$5,140 is added. Income



Land of Confusion