



CO State Government Option Public Opinion Survey

Key findings from our survey of Colorado voters on the state government option



Methodology



Statewide Survey:

- N=800 registered Colorado voters
- Balanced to current Colorado demographics by gender, age, race, income, and political ideology
- Fielded online November 12-19, 2019
- MOE: +/- 3%

Key Findings

1

A majority of Colorado voters do **NOT support** the state government option.

2

Voters do **NOT trust** the state government to design an effective health insurance plan.

3

Voters' top concern is **COSTS** – more than coverage.

4

Most – even Democrats – are **UNWILLING** to pay for the state government option.

5

They're deeply **CONCERNED** about the consequences for providers and payers.

CO Voter Perceptions & Priorities

CO voters' top health care priority: **lowering COSTS**

Which of the following do you believe are the MOST important priorities to improve Colorado's health care system? (Combined – Top Two)

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
Lower health care costs	67%	67%	62%	74%
Ensure everyone has health insurance coverage	29%	46%	30%	11%
Make health care simpler	27%	13%	27%	41%
Increase access to health care	25%	33%	28%	14%
Improve the quality of health care	24%	20%	25%	27%
Increase transparency in health care	18%	10%	16%	29%
Increase the government's role in providing health coverage	10%	13%	12%	4%

Column Key:

CO: n=800 registered CO voters

DEM: n=261 registered CO Democratic voters

SWING: n=287 registered CO swing voters

GOP: n=252 registered CO Republican voters

CO voters are **SATISFIED** with their current coverage

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with YOUR current health insurance plan, the coverage you have today?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	73%	71%	72%	77%
Neither	9%	11%	9%	9%
DISSATISFIED (NET)	17%	18%	19%	14%

Most voters do **NOT** support the state government option

Colorado lawmakers are considering the creation of a new state government-designed health insurance plan available for purchase by Colorado residents who currently buy their own individual health insurance. The plan would be run by private health insurance companies, but the state government would set rates for health care services. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose the creation of a state option?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	45%	59%	47%	27%
Neither	24%	22%	24%	27%
OPPOSE (NET)	25%	14%	22%	40%

CO voters – even Democrats – would rather **BUILD ON** the current system than start over

Which of the following approaches to reform Colorado’s health care system do you support MORE?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on and improving Colorado’s health care system	73%	61%	72%	86%
Creating a new government-designed state option insurance system	28%	39%	28%	14%

Four times as many would rather **KEEP their coverage** than buy state government option coverage

Assuming that what you currently pay would be the exact same, would you rather keep your current health insurance coverage or a Colorado government-designed state option?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	80%	67%	80%	92%
Purchase state option coverage	20%	33%	20%	8%

Most do **NOT** trust the CO state government to design an effective health insurance plan

Do you trust or distrust the Colorado state government to design an effective health insurance plan that meets the needs of Coloradans?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
TRUST (NET)	34%	52%	34%	15%
Neither	27%	30%	31%	19%
DISTRUST (NET)	39%	18%	35%	66%

Voters are **CONCERNED** lawmakers will make politically-motivated health care decisions

How concerned are you that Colorado lawmakers will make politically-motivated decisions when designing the state option?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
CONCERNED (NET)	78%	67%	79%	87%
Neither	17%	24%	16%	11%
UNCONCERNED (NET)	5%	8%	5%	2%

Voters want the free market and state government to **WORK TOGETHER** – not have government go at it alone

Which do you trust MORE to design an effective health insurance plan that meets the needs of Coloradans?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
Free market and state government working together	60%	64%	69%	46%
Free market	24%	8%	19%	48%
State government	16%	28%	12%	6%

Most – even Democrats – would be **UNWILLING** to pay for a state government option

Would you personally be willing to pay more than you currently do for health care to subsidize the cost of a state option?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
No, I would not be willing to pay more.	79%	67%	79%	90%
Yes, I would be willing to pay more.	21%	33%	21%	10%

Most do **NOT** support forcing insurers to participate or cutting rates to providers

Do you support or oppose the Colorado state government **forcing certain health insurance companies to participate in a state option** and bearing all financial risk for it without the state government assuming any risk? (NET SUPPORT)

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	47%	56%	49%	34%
Neither	30%	31%	29%	32%
OPPOSE (NET)	23%	13%	22%	35%

Do you support or oppose the Colorado state government lowering premiums for a state option by significantly **cutting the rates Colorado health care providers and hospitals receive** for the services they provide to patients? (NET SUPPORT)

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	31%	47%	29%	18%
Neither	30%	31%	33%	24%
OPPOSE (NET)	39%	22%	38%	58%

Voters are concerned about the impact to **HOSPITALS**

How concerned would you be if the state option had the following impacts? (NET CONCERNED)

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
Resulted in the closure of up to 13 rural hospitals in Colorado	78%	75%	79%	80%
Resulted in the loss of up to 4,500 health care jobs in Colorado	75%	73%	77%	76%
Resulted in the loss of up to 8,320 total jobs in Colorado	75%	69%	78%	79%

Voters are concerned about the impact to Coloradans with **PRIVATE COVERAGE**

How concerned would you be if the state option had the following impacts? (NET CONCERNED)

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
Resulted in \$1.5 billion in higher costs for Coloradans with employer-provided coverage	75%	66%	79%	81%
Resulted in fewer coverage options because of insurance companies leaving Colorado	72%	64%	71%	80%
Destabilized Colorado's employer-provided coverage market	68%	60%	68%	76%

Voters would be **LESS** likely to support a state lawmaker who votes for a state government option

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Colorado lawmaker who voted to create a state option that was subsidized by Coloradans with employer-provided coverage?

	CO	DEM	SWING	GOP
MORE LIKELY (NET)	35%	48%	35%	20%
No impact	20%	23%	24%	12%
LESS LIKELY (NET)	46%	29%	41%	68%



Thank You