

Public Opinion of Medicaid Expansion

Polling indicates voters' concerns about Medicaid expansion and support for a prudent approach given unanswered questions. From July 23-24, 2013, Magellan Strategies polled 888 randomly-selected likely Pennsylvania voters. The margin of error for statewide results is 3.29%.

Republicans overwhelming oppose Medicaid expansion.¹

Party/Region	Total Favor	Total Oppose	Don't Know
All Voters	46%	44%	10%
Republicans	17%	71%	12%
Independents	48%	47%	5%
Democrats	72%	20%	8%
West	38%	51%	11%
Northeast	43%	47%	10%
Central	42%	46%	12%
South	48%	46%	6%
Southeast	56%	35%	9%

More than 65% of voters and 83% of Republicans found the argument that we shouldn't rush into Medicaid expansion considering disagreement over cost estimates convincing.²

Party/Region	Very/Somewhat Convincing	Not Very Convincing	No Opinion
All Voters	66%	30%	4%
Republicans	83%	13%	4%
Independents	72%	24%	4%
Democrats	50%	45%	5%
West	70%	25%	5%
Northeast	67%	29%	4%
Central	66%	29%	5%
South	61%	34%	5%
Southeast	65%	31%	4%

¹ "In 2012, Pennsylvania spent roughly \$8 billion on Medicaid. As you may know, there is a specific provision in the new Obamacare law that would permit the state of Pennsylvania to expand Medicaid coverage to uninsured Pennsylvania residents whose income level is up to 138 percent of the current federal poverty level. The federal government would cover 90 percent of the increased costs permanently, with the state of Pennsylvania paying 10 percent or an additional \$2.842 billion over the next 10 years, according to the non-partisan Kaiser Foundation. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose the state of Pennsylvania expanding Medicaid coverage to all uninsured state residents with household income levels up to 138 percent of the current federal poverty level?"

² "Because there is so much disagreement among experts on the costs of expanding Medicaid, we shouldn't rush into any expansion until we have a better handle on the financial consequences."

More than 60% of voters and 84% of Republican found the argument that we can't count on the federal government to keep its funding commitment convincing.³

Party/Region	Very/Somewhat Convincing	Not Very Convincing	No Opinion
All Voters	62%	32%	6%
Republicans	84%	10%	6%
Independents	69%	28%	3%
Democrats	43%	52%	5%
West	74%	21%	5%
Northeast	61%	32%	7%
Central	66%	30%	4%
South	67%	39%	4%
Southeast	58%	36%	6%

Nearly 70% of voters say Medicaid should not be expanded until waste, fraud and abuse is cleaned up.⁴

Party/Region	Very/Somewhat Convincing	Not Very Convincing	No Opinion
All Voters	68%	28%	4%
Republicans	84%	12%	4%
Independents	67%	31%	2%
Democrats	55%	41%	4%
West	89%	18%	3%
Northeast	73%	25%	5%
Central	75%	22%	3%
South	54%	40%	4%
Southeast	62%	32%	6%

Regions are defined by congressional districts.

West: 3, 14, and 18th congressional districts including Pittsburgh, Erie and Butler.

Northeast: 10, 11, 15, and 17th congressional districts including Williamsport, Lebanon, and Allentown.

Central: 5, 9, and 12th congressional districts including Altoona, Johnstown and Indiana.

South: 4, 7, and 16th congressional districts including York, Harrisburg and Lancaster.

Southeast: 1, 2, 6, 8 and 13th congressional districts including Philadelphia.

³ "We can't count on the debt-ridden federal government's contribution to Pennsylvania Medicaid to last forever, so in the future Pennsylvania taxpayers will be left to foot the bill for all the new Medicaid recipients added."

⁴ "Medicaid should not be expanded until the waste, fraud, and abuse in the program is cleaned up."