



Government Funding and Healthcare Costs

October 2025

Key Findings

Blue Rose Research collected data via web surveys October 7-12 (n=4,931) to understand voters' perceptions of the government funding fight and healthcare costs. We found:

- **A majority of voters want Trump and Republicans to negotiate with Democrats to keep the costs of healthcare premiums.**
 - 58% of voters believe that Trump and Republicans should cut a deal with Democrats to lower healthcare costs, compared to only 23% of voters who say Democrats should pass the Republican budget bill as-is.
 - 63% of voters believe the GOP should negotiate with Democrats, while only 19% think the GOP should hold firm.
- **Two-thirds of voters believe President Trump should prioritize lowering the cost of healthcare premiums and restoring Medicaid for families at risk of losing coverage when asked against other priorities.**
 - When paired against three other recent priorities of Trump's – sending in the National Guard to U.S. cities, freezing federal infrastructure funding, and launching strikes on Venezuelan boats – two-thirds of voters choose lowering healthcare costs.
 - Trump 2024 voters think he should prioritize sending the National Guard to cities by a 12pp margin (49/37), they are split over prioritizing freezing infrastructure funding (40/41), and they say his priority should be lowering healthcare costs over launching military strikes (42/36).
- **Voters agree most strongly with statements saying that the GOP should negotiate with Democrats in order to lower health insurance premiums.**
 - By a +55pp margin, voters believe that President Trump should “negotiate with Democrats in Congress to reach a deal that keeps down the costs of health insurance premiums.” 72% agree with this statement, while 17% disagree.
 - Only 26% of voters agree that Republicans should refuse to negotiate with Democrats, while 60% disagree – a net -34pp margin.

A majority of voters prefer that Trump and Republicans negotiate on healthcare costs, over Congressional Democrats agreeing to pass the CR as-is

When given a choice about their preferred resolution to the government shutdown, 58% of voters said they prefer that Trump and Republicans negotiate to keep down the cost of health insurance premiums. This includes majorities of 2024 Harris voters (79%), swing voters (60%), and 2024 non-voters (54%).

23% of voters preferred that Congressional Democrats agree to pass the GOP bill as is without any provisions to keep down the cost of health insurance premiums.

2024 Trump voters by only a 4pp margin (39/35) want Democrats to pass the bill as-is. More than 1-in-3 Trump voters say they want to see Republicans negotiate with Democrats.

Which of the following potential resolutions to the government shutdown do you prefer?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump	Did not vote
Trump and Congressional Republicans negotiate with Democrats, cutting a deal to keep down the cost of health insurance premiums	58%	79%	60%	35%	54%
Congressional Democrats agree to pass the Republican budget bill as-is, without a deal to keep down the cost of health insurance premiums	23%	9%	21%	39%	20%
Not sure	19%	12%	19%	25%	26%

When asked about the better approach for Trump and the GOP voters, voters believe that they should negotiate rather than holding firm by a +44pp margin

63% of voters overall, including 87% of Harris voters and almost 2-in-3 swing voters, believe that the better approach for Trump and the GOP is to negotiate with Democrats.

2024 Trump voters are evenly split on the right approach for Trump and the GOP (38% negotiate vs. 38% hold firm) and 24% of them are unsure.

With the federal government shut down this week, which do you think is a better approach for Trump and Congressional Republicans?

Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump	Did not vote
Negotiating with Democrats, cutting a deal to keep down the cost of health insurance premiums	63%	87%	64%	38%	59%
Holding firm and refusing to negotiate with Democrats on healthcare costs	19%	3%	17%	38%	15%
Not sure	17%	10%	19%	24%	26%

Two thirds of all voters think President Trump should prioritize lowering the cost of healthcare premiums and restoring Medicaid, over other actions he’s taken recently

By 50%+ margins, swing voters and 2024 non-voters believe President Trump should prioritize lowering the cost of healthcare.

By a net 12% margin, 2024 Trump voters think President Trump should prioritize sending ICE and the National Guard into cities like Portland and Chicago (49% ICE vs. 37% healthcare).

Paired against other options – launching military attacks, freezing infrastructure spending – Trump voters prefer him to prioritize lowering healthcare costs when compared to launching military attacks but are split when lowering healthcare costs are matched up against freezing infrastructure funding for cities.

Of the following options, what do you think President Trump’s priority should be right now?					
Response	Overall	Harris	Swing	Trump	Did not vote
Lowering costs of healthcare premiums and restoring Medicaid for families at risk of losing coverage	66%	92%	68%	37%	68%
Sending ICE and the National Guard into cities like Portland and Chicago	24%	3%	20%	49%	17%
Not sure	10%	5%	11%	14%	15%
Lowering costs of healthcare premiums and restoring Medicaid for families at risk of losing coverage	67%	90%	68%	42%	66%
Launching military attacks against Venezuelan boats allegedly carrying drugs to the United States	19%	4%	16%	36%	15%
Not sure	15%	7%	16%	22%	19%
Lowering costs of healthcare premiums and restoring Medicaid for families at risk of losing coverage	66%	90%	69%	40%	62%
Freezing federal infrastructure spending in cities during the government shutdown	21%	4%	18%	41%	19%
Not sure	13%	6%	14%	19%	19%

There is strong net agreement (net+57%) that President Trump and Republicans should reach across the aisle and negotiate with Democrats

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement

Statement	Net Agree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
President Trump should work across party lines to restore Medicaid funding and lower health care costs for families	57%	48%	24%	8%	7%	12%
President Trump should negotiate with Democrats in Congress to reach a deal that keeps down the costs of health insurance premiums	55%	47%	25%	7%	10%	11%
Extending federal government coverage of health insurance premiums would help bring health care costs down for families	47%	34%	30%	10%	7%	20%
It's better for both parties to compromise to end the government shutdown than to let it continue without a deal on health care coverage.	37%	31%	31%	12%	13%	14%
Congressional Democrats should agree to pass the Republican budget bill as-is, even if it does not include a deal to keep down the costs of health insurance premiums	-16%	18%	17%	13%	38%	15%
Congressional Republicans should refuse to negotiate with Democrats and insist on passing their budget bill without any deal to lower costs of health care coverage	-34%	15%	11%	16%	44%	14%

By a +55pp margin, voters believe that President Trump should “negotiate with Democrats in Congress to reach a deal that keeps down the costs of health insurance premiums.” 72% agree with this statement, while 17% disagree.

Only 26% of voters agree that Republicans should refuse to negotiate with Democrats, while 60% disagree – a net -34pp margin.

Methodology

This research was conducted **nationally between October 7-12 2025** based on 4,931 responses collected via online web panel. Results are modeled and scored on a representative sample of the national voter file, weighted to likely 2026 voters. The margin of error with 95% confidence is ± 1.6 pp for the full sample and larger within subgroups.