



TO: Interested Parties  
FR: John Murray, YG Network  
DT: March 10, 2014  
RE: Poll Results on Senior Attitudes Toward ObamaCare and Medicare in Michigan

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This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 658 likely voters 65 years and older in Michigan. The interviews were conducted via Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of senior likely voters based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, and educational attainment. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.

#### **Bottom Line:**

- ✓ A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare in Michigan. Their approval of the law stands at 42-55, with 44% strongly disapproving. And, 54% expect the law to negatively impact Medicare.
- ✓ An overwhelming majority of seniors are happy with their current Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Part D plans. Moreover, any hint of reductions or changes bring expectations of increased costs and reduced access.
- ✓ Seniors are ready to blame Democrats for negative changes (47% say ObamaCare/Dems in Congress will deserve most blame for increase in Medicare Advantage costs, 50% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

#### **Key Findings:**

***Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors*** — 85% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 52% indicating they are very satisfied) and 83% say they are satisfied with their Medicare Advantage plan (with 49% indicating they are very satisfied).

***A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare*** — 55% of seniors disapprove of the President's signature law, with 44% strongly disapproving. Just 42% approve and only 21% strongly approve of the law. The notable two-to-one disparity in intensity is a strong indicator that ObamaCare disapproval among seniors has motivational potential.

- ✓ Men (35%-63%, 52% strongly disapprove) are less inclined to support the law than women (45%-50%, 38% strongly disapprove), it is notable that majorities of both sexes disapprove.
- ✓ Over two-thirds (68%) of independent seniors disapprove of ObamaCare (55% strongly).
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are less inclined to support the law (40%-60%, 50% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (43%-50%, 36% strongly disapprove).

***And, a majority of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare*** – 54% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 29% believing it will make Medicare “much worse.” Just 33% believe ObamaCare will have a positive impact on Medicare (just 13% believe it will

make Medicare “much better”). A plurality of seniors expect ObamaCare to decrease access to providers practicing in their Medicare and Medicare Advantage networks.

**Nearly one-half of seniors are VERY satisfied with Part D** — Among those who have a Part D plan, 49% of seniors say they are very satisfied with it (85% of seniors with a Part D plan indicate they are satisfied overall).

**Seniors are VERY concerned about the Medicare Advantage rate adjustment**— 60% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 53% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 50% are very concerned about reduced access to providers.

<b>% Concerned-%Not Concerned (% Very Concerned)</b>	<b>Rise in Costs</b>	<b>Reduced # of plans</b>	<b>Reduced provider access</b>
Men	83%-17% (60%)	79%-21% (58%)	78%-22% (55%)
Women	82%-18% (58%)	76%-23% (59%)	77%-23% (46%)
INDs	89%-11% (70%)	81%-19% (62%)	82%-18% (58%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	84%-16% (63%)	78%-22% (59%)	78%-22% (55%)
Older Seniors (75+)	81%-18% (57%)	77%-23% (46%)	76%-24% (53%)

**Seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increased Medicare Advantage/Part D costs.** — More than one-third (35%) of seniors say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Medicare Advantage costs and 12% say Democrats in Congress will deserve the most blame (only 17% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame). Similarly, 39% say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Part D, while 11% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 20% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).