



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

This YG Network Medicare Poll was conducted from March 3-6, 2014, among a total sample of 459 likely voters 65 years and older in Montana. The interviews were conducted via live dial calls 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:

- ✓ Seniors in Montana detest ObamaCare. Their approval of the law stands at 30-57, with 47% strongly disapproving. And, 53% 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 (51% say ObamaCare/Dems in Congress will deserve most blame for increase in Medicare Advantage costs, 49% say the same for increase in Part D costs).

Key Findings:

Satisfaction of Medicare and Medicare Advantage is high among seniors — 87% of seniors say they are satisfied with their Medicare plan (with 44% indicating they are very satisfied) and 68% say they are satisfied with their Medicare Advantage plan (with 35% indicating they are very satisfied).

A majority of seniors disapprove of ObamaCare — 57% of seniors disapprove of the President's signature law, with 47% strongly disapproving. Just 30% approve and only 20% 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 (27%-64%, 53% strongly disapprove) are less inclined to support the law than women (33%-53%, 43% strongly disapprove), it is notable that majorities of both sexes disapprove.
- ✓ Younger seniors (65-74) are less inclined to support the law (31%-59%, 50% strongly disapprove) than older seniors (75+) (30%-54%, 43% strongly disapprove).

And, a majority of seniors believe ObamaCare will ultimately hurt Medicare — 53% believe the healthcare law will negatively impact Medicare, with 39% believing it will make Medicare “much worse.” Just 19% believe ObamaCare will have a positive impact on Medicare (only 9% 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.

A majority of seniors are VERY satisfied with Part D — Among those who have a Part D plan, 53% of

practicing in their Medicare and Medicare Advantage networks.

A majority of seniors are VERY satisfied with Part D — Among those who have a Part D plan, 53% of seniors say they are very satisfied with it (90% of seniors with a Part D plan indicate they are satisfied overall).

Seniors are VERY concerned about the Medicare Advantage rate adjustment— 49% are very concerned seniors will bear the rise in costs, 44% are very concerned the reduction will reduce plan availability and 45% are very concerned about reduced access to providers.

% Concerned-%Not Concerned (% Very Concerned)	Rise in Costs	Reduced # of plans	Reduced provider access
Men	75%-25% (53%)	68%-32% (49%)	76%-24% (52%)
Women	69%-31% (46%)	63%-37% (39%)	60%-40% (39%)
Younger Seniors (65-74)	71%-29% (51%)	65%-35% (46%)	69%-31% (49%)
Older Seniors (75+)	74%-46% (47%)	66%-34% (41%)	65%-35% (39%)

A majority of seniors are ready to blame Dems for any increase in Medicare Advantage costs and nearly one-half are ready to blame Dems for any increase in 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 16% say Democrats in Congress will deserve the most blame (only 15% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame). Similarly, 34% say ObamaCare will deserve the most blame for any increase in Part D, while 15% say Democrats in Congress (again, just 13% say Republicans in Congress will deserve the most blame).