



MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JIM HOBART, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

RE: NEW POLL RESULTS: Battleground voters, including President Trump's coalition, strongly support Medicare Advantage, want Congress to preserve its funding, and oppose the No UPCODE Act

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

A new survey of likely voters in 2026 Senate and House battlegrounds finds that Medicare Advantage is broadly popular across partisan groups, including among Republicans and voters who supported President Trump in last year's election. Battleground voters give Medicare Advantage strong marks on helping seniors manage costs and connecting them to quality care, and a large majority (84%) believe that Congress should maintain the program's funding.

Most battleground voters believe that a cut in funding to Medicare Advantage is the same thing as a cut to Medicare, and that reducing funding for the program will increase costs for seniors and strip seniors of important benefits. As a result, a large majority of battleground voters, including majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Trump voters, oppose the No UPCODE Act, and say they'd be less likely to vote for their Member of Congress if they back the legislation.

Key Findings

1. *Medicare Advantage is broadly popular in the House and Senate battleground and receives near-universal support from voters, including from supporters of President Trump.*

Majorities of voters in the Senate and House battleground view Medicare Advantage (MA) favorably (66% favorable/13% unfavorable among Senate battleground voters; 64% favorable/16% among House battleground voters). After voters read a short description of Medicare Advantage (see language in appendix), nearly all voters support the program (91% in the Senate BG and 90% in the House BG). Medicare Advantage enjoys support from voters across the political spectrum and among nearly nine in ten voters who supported President Trump in last year's election.

2. *There is no mandate to reduce funding for Medicare Advantage. In fact, voters would withhold support from their Member of Congress for doing so.*

As the table below illustrates, over eight in ten battleground voters want Congress to maintain its current spending on Medicare Advantage (in both the Senate and House Battlegrounds, 16% say Congress should cut spending for Medicare Advantage and 84% say it should maintain its current spending) and by a 50-point margin, voters indicate they would be less likely to vote for their Member of Congress if they voted cut spending for Medicare Advantage (15% more likely/66% less likely in the Senate BG; 15% more likely/65% less likely in the House BG).

Medicare Advantage Attitudes							
	Senate BG	House BG	Within Senate BG				
			Dems	Inds	Reps	Trump Voters	Harris Voters
% Favorable to MA	66%	64%	74%	54%	62%	61%	74%
% Support MA	91%	90%	94%	88%	89%	87%	93%
% Believes Congress should maintain MA spending versus cut MA spending	84%	84%	94%	84%	75%	76%	93%
% Less likely to vote for member of Congress who votes to cut MA spending	66%	65%	82%	62%	51%	52%	80%

3. *Medicare Advantage is popular in part because voters give the program strong ratings on quality and affordability.*

Majorities of battleground voters give Medicare Advantage a positive rating for helping seniors stay healthy through preventive care (63% positive-22% negative in the Senate BG; 63%-24% in the House BG), helping seniors afford the cost of prescription drugs (60%-27% in the Senate BG; 57-29% in the House BG), giving seniors choice and flexibility to pick the health care plan that works for them (62-23% in both BGs), helping patients manage chronic illness (59%-22% in the Senate BG; 56%-25% in the House BG), providing access to dental, vision, hearing, and telehealth care (58%-27% in the Senate BG; 58%-26% in the House BG), and reducing out-of-pocket costs for seniors (56%-29% in the Senate BG; 55%-31% in the House BG).

4. *Battleground voters, including large shares of Republicans and Trump voters, view cutting Medicare Advantage as akin to cutting Medicare writ large. They want assurances that any changes to the program will not negatively impact seniors.*

As the table below illustrates, nearly all battleground voters, Republicans, and Trump voters agree with the premise that Congress should cut wasteful spending, but should not prioritize Medicare Advantage for cuts (or other programs that support seniors). Voters want a guarantee from Congress that any changes to Medicare Advantage should not lead to cuts in benefits or higher costs for seniors and they are concerned that cuts

to MA's funding will lead to those such outcomes. Nearly three quarters of voters (73% in both battlegrounds) and large majorities of Republicans and Trump voters agree with the statement that cutting funding for Medicare Advantage is the same thing as cutting funding for Medicare.

Medicare Advantage Funding Attitudes – % Agree							
	Senate BG	House BG	Within Senate BG				
			Dems	Inds	Reps	Trump Voters	Harris Voters
Congress should cut wasteful government spending, but not cut funding for programs that support seniors like Medicare Advantage	92%	90%	95%	88%	92%	91%	94%
Congress should only change Medicare Advantage if they can guarantee it will not lead to cuts in benefits or higher costs to seniors	89%	91%	93%	93%	85%	84%	94%
Medicare Advantage is a critical program that helps seniors access health care	92%	90%	95%	89%	89%	87%	94%
If Congress cuts funding for Medicare Advantage, seniors in Medicare Advantage will face higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs	89%	87%	92%	84%	88%	86%	93%
If Congress cuts funding for Medicare Advantage, seniors in Medicare Advantage will lose important benefits	86%	88%	94%	85%	79%	80%	92%
Cutting funding for Medicare Advantage is the same thing as cutting funding for Medicare	73%	73%	81%	69%	66%	66%	77%

5. Because of Medicare Advantage's strong support across the electorate, the No UP CODE Act is unpopular in the battleground and unpopular with President Trump's coalition.

After voters heard balanced statements from both supporters and opponents of the No UP CODE Act (see language in appendix), voters in the battleground oppose the proposed legislation by a 2:1 margin (34% support/66% oppose), including majorities across partisan groups. Pluralities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats all say they will be less likely to vote for their member of Congress if they vote for the No UP CODE Act and they view the proposed legislation as a threat to Medicare that will harm seniors and raise premiums, while leading to fewer services.

No UPCODE Act Attitudes							
	Senate BG	House BG	Within Senate BG				
			Dems	Inds	Reps	Trump Voters	Harris Voters
% Oppose the No UPCODE Act	66%	66%	79%	65%	53%	53%	79%
% Less Likely to vote for member of Congress who votes for the No UPCODE Act	57%	55%	74%	53%	43%	43%	73%
% Agree the No UPCODE Act represents a cut to Medicare that will harm seniors	75%	75%	88%	61%	67%	66%	82%
% Agree the No UPCODE Act will raise premiums for senior, while leading to fewer services	77%	74%	87%	69%	69%	69%	86%

ABOUT THIS POLL

Public Opinion Strategies and Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 800 likely voters in 2026 Senate battleground states and 800 likely voters in House battleground districts between September 15-24, 2025. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.5%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of registered voters are properly represented.

Appendix

Battleground Definitions:

Senate battleground states: GA, IA, ME, MI, MN, NH, NC, OH, TX

House battleground districts: AK-AL, AZ-01, AZ-02, AZ-06, CA-03, CA-09, CA-13, CA-22, CA-27, CA-40, CA-41, CA-45, CA-47, CO-03, CO-08, IA-01, IA-03, IN-01, ME-02, MI-04, MI-07, MI-08, MI-10, MN-02, MT-01, NC-01, NE-02, NH-01, NJ-07, NJ-09, NM-02, NV-01, NV-03, NV-04, NY-03, NY-04, NY-17, NY-19, OH-09, OH-13, PA-01, PA-07, PA-08, PA-10, TX-28, TX-34, VA-01, VA-02, VA-07, WA-03, WI-01, WI-03

Medicare Advantage Definition:

As you may know, some people on Medicare get their health insurance coverage through what is called fee-for-service or traditional Medicare, while others choose to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, which is offered by a private health insurance provider and approved by the federal government. Medicare Advantage plans cover all the basic benefits available in fee-for-service Medicare, typically with decreased costs and additional health services all in one package.

Medicare Advantage Funding Intro:

Some people say Congress should cut spending on Medicare Advantage to reduce the budget deficit and strengthen the long-term solvency of Medicare. Others say we should maintain the current level of spending on Medicare Advantage to avoid benefit cuts or higher costs for seniors.

No UPCODE Act Intro:

Currently, there is a bill in Congress called the No UPCODE Act that is designed to reduce spending on Medicare Advantage. Supporters of the bill say that because of the way Medicare Advantage is structured, Medicare Advantage plans have a financial incentive to make patients appear sicker than they are in order to receive more taxpayer money. This bill will eliminate that incentive to reduce unnecessary spending. Opponents of the bill say that this bill will lead to higher costs and reduced benefits for the tens of millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities who rely on Medicare Advantage. If the bill is passed, it will cut Medicare Advantage funding by \$62 billion over ten years, leading to higher premiums, fewer benefits, and worse disease management.