

### **The James Madison Institute - Florida Statewide Medicaid Poll**

*Poll of 600 registered Florida voters was conducted by Public Insight February 16 - 19, 2013. All respondents were randomly chosen from a fully representative sample of registered voters. For purposes of this survey, those interviewed included voters who had voted in at least two of the last four General elections, and some new registrants. The margin of error for the poll will be +/- 4 percent.*

#### **QUESTION 1:**

First, how do you feel about the direction of Florida's economy, are things generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

1=Right Direction	268	44.67%
2=Wrong Direction	212	35.33%
3=Not Sure	120	20.00%
4=Refused	0	0.00%
Totals:	600	100.00%

#### **QUESTION 2:**

Which one of the following should be the top priority this year for Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature?

1=Creating Jobs	288	48.00%
2=Improving Education	117	19.50%
3=Expanding Medicaid	32	5.33%
4=Reducing taxes	55	9.17%
5=Improving roads and infrastructure	36	6.00%
6=Unsure	66	11.00%
7=Refused	6	1.00%
Totals:	600	100.00%

#### **QUESTION 3:**

The National Debt increased approximately 56 percent over the past 4 years, from \$10.6 trillion to \$16.5 trillion. Both President Obama and Congressional Republicans agree that government healthcare spending is driving the nation's long-term debt problem. How concerned are you about government healthcare spending and the substantial increase in the National Debt over the past 4 years - Are you:

1=Very Concerned	362	60.33%
2=Somewhat Concerned	148	24.67%

3=Not at All Concerned	72	12.00%
4=Unsure	16	2.67%
5=Refused	2	0.33%
Totals:	600	100.00%

#### QUESTION 4:

Here are two statements as to the government healthcare programs of Medicare and Medicaid:

- [Some/Other] people think we must reform these programs or there will be dire financial consequences for the United States.
- [Some/Other] people think preserving these government programs is more important than controlling spending and reducing the deficit.

Which statement best describes your point of view?

1=Reform these government programs	264	44.00%
2=Preserve these government programs	257	42.83%
3=Unsure	73	12.17%
4=Refused	6	1.00%
Totals:	600	100.00%

#### QUESTION 5:

Medicaid is a program for low income people and families, operated by the State and paid for, in part, with Federal matching funds. Medicaid coverage is now generally available to those with incomes up to 100 percent of the poverty line. Under the Federal Health Care Law, Florida and other states have the option to increase those covered up to 138 percent of the poverty line.

At 21 billion dollars, spending on Medicaid currently represents about 30 percent of Florida's budget. If Florida should implement the Medicaid expansion, Medicaid would become an even higher percentage of overall state spending. Does this fact make you more likely or less likely to support expanding the Medicaid eligibility requirements in Florida?

1=More Likely	180	30.00%
2=Less Likely	337	56.17%
3=Unsure/No Difference	79	13.17%
4=Refused	4	0.67%

Totals:	600	100.00%
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#### QUESTION 6:

Experts disagree on the exact cost, but predict that if Florida expands Medicaid coverage to those up to 138 percent of the poverty line, it will cost the State of Florida an additional \$3 billion to \$20 billion dollars over the next 10 years. Knowing this, would you be more likely or less likely to support the Governor and Legislature expanding Medicaid coverage?

1=More Likely	166	27.67%
2=Less Likely	359	59.83%
3=Unsure/No Difference	69	11.50%
4=Refused	6	1.00%

Totals:	600	100.00%
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#### QUESTION 7:

To expand Medicaid coverage in Florida would require either additional taxes or less State spending on things like education, roads and law enforcement. Would you be more likely or less likely to support the Governor and Legislature expanding Medicaid coverage, if it meant higher taxes and less spending on other priorities?

1=More Likely	162	27.00%
2=Less Likely	363	60.50%
3=Unsure/No Difference	66	11.00%
4=Refused	9	1.50%

Totals:	600	100.00%
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#### QUESTION 8:

Under the Federal Health Care Law States can choose to expand Medicaid to cover everyone below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty line, up from the current 100 percent. To help pay for the increased cost the Federal Government will cover almost 100 percent of the newly eligible for the first three years. After the three years is up, Florida Taxpayers will have to cover more than ten percent of the cost for the newly eligible.

Knowing this, which view do you agree with more?

1=The Governor and State Legislature should expand Medicaid even if it results in tax hikes and spending cuts.	184	30.67%
2=The Governor and State Legislature should opt not to expand Medicaid keeping taxes and spending on current trajectories.	356	59.33%
3=Unsure	54	9.00%
4=Refused	6	1.00%
Totals:	600	100.00%

#### QUESTION 9:

Would you support expanding Medicaid coverage if the effect would be to pull many adults out of private coverage and into the Medicaid Program, where taxpayers would pay for their coverage and they might have decreased access to doctors?

1=Yes - Support	110	18.33%
2=No - Oppose	391	65.17%
3=Unsure	89	14.83%
4=Refused	10	1.67%
Totals:	600	100.00%

#### QUESTION 10:

Should Florida expand its Medicaid Program or should it improve the private insurance market to increase coverage to the uninsured?

1=Improve Private Market to Cover More Uninsured	334	55.67%
2=Expand Medicaid to Cover More Uninsured	159	26.50%
3=Unsure	97	16.17%
4=Refused	10	1.67%
Totals:	600	100.00%

#### QUESTION 11:

Even without expanding the poverty line for Medicaid coverage, many currently Medicaid eligible individuals will be forced to enroll in Florida's Medicaid Program under the Federal Healthcare Law's individual mandate. This will require Florida to spend more on Medicaid even without poverty line expansion. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support the Governor and Legislature expanding Medicaid coverage?

1=More Likely	177	29.50%
2=Less Likely	323	53.83%
3=Unsure/No Difference	91	15.17%
4=Refused	9	1.50%
Totals:	600	100.00%

QUESTION 12:

Proponents of Medicaid expansion point out the Federal Government will reimburse Florida for 100 percent of the cost initially and then 90 percent of the cost. Which of these statements best describes your viewpoint?

- I am confident the Federal Government will not change the program and has the resources to always reimburse the State of Florida for 90 percent of its expanded Medicaid costs.

- I am very concerned the Federal Government will eventually change the program, reduce the amount it reimburses to Florida, and add additional expenses to Florida taxpayers.

1=I am Confident	170	28.33%
2=I am Concerned	380	63.33%
3=Unsure	42	7.00%
4=Refused	8	1.33%
Totals:	600	100.00%