TO: Interested parties
FROM: Impact Research
DATE: October 21, 2026
RE: Swing District Surveys on Medicaid Implementation and Hospital Access: IA-03, MI-07, OH-07, PA-08, NC-01 (n=2,000 Likely Voters, n=400 per District)

Impact Research commissioned five parallel surveys of likely November 2026 general election voters in five competitive congressional districts: Iowa's 3rd, Michigan's 7th, Ohio's 7th, Pennsylvania's 8th, and North Carolina's 1st. Each survey used the same questionnaire and interviewed 400 voters per district, for a total of 2,000 interviews. Four of the districts are held by Republicans. North Carolina's 1st is held by a Democrat.

These five surveys tell a consistent story. Voters in each district expect their own health care costs to rise if local hospitals close or cut back, they want Congress, particularly Republicans, to make sure the people who were promised protection keep their health coverage, and they oppose a federal rule that narrows exemptions for the seriously ill. We also find that an astonishing 75% to 85% of voters in every district say they would be more likely to back a member who pushes the Trump administration to fix the rule. Additionally, the polls conclude that 65 to 75% say their own health costs would rise if local hospitals close–with 68% to 71% concerned that Medicaid disruptions will affect their community.

Topline Takeaways

- 75% to 85% of voters are more likely to back a member of Congress who publicly pushes the administration to fix the rule that narrows exemptions for the previously ill. Fewer than 10% are less likely in every district.
- 66% to 80% of Republicans and 65% to 81% of 2024 Trump voters say they are more likely to back that member.
- 50% to 53% want Congress to make sure the people promised protection keep their health coverage. It is the first choice chosen in all five districts.
- 49% to 55% oppose a rule narrowing exemptions for the seriously ill. Support never rises above 39%, and opposition leads by 11 to 21 points.
- 65% to 70% say their own health care costs would go up if local hospitals close or cut back, and 68% to 71% are concerned about how Medicaid disruptions will affect their community.
- In the four Republican-held districts, a Democratic attack on the incumbent's Medicaid vote beats a Republican defense by 8 to 16 points.
- 88% to 91% trust local doctors and nurses to tell the truth about hospital funding. Trump administration officials are trusted by 31% to 42%.

The Five Swing Districts at a Glance

Percent of likely voters in each district, except where noted

District and matchup	Costs rise if local hospitals close	Keep the promise	Oppose the rule	More likely to back member who pushes fix	Informed Ballot
IA-03: Nunn (R) vs. Trone Garriott (D)	70%	50%	52%	79%	D+10
MI-07: Barrett (R) vs. Lawrence (D)	69%	50%	55%	79%	D+15
OH-07: Miller (R) vs. Poindexter (D)	65%	50%	51%	75%	D+4
PA-08: Bresnahan (R) vs. Cognetti (D)	69%	53%	50%	85%	D+11
NC-01: Davis (D) vs. Buckhout (R)	69%	53%	49%	81%	Even

Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026. Informed ballot was asked after the Medicaid and hospital questions. Incumbent shown first in each matchup.

Story Angles the Data Supports

- The fix is not a partisan vote. Three-in-four voters or more in every district would reward a member who pushes the administration to fix the rule, and so would two-in-three Republicans or more and roughly XX% of Democrats.
- Republican voters want the promise kept. A majority of Republicans in all five districts say Congress should make sure the people promised protection keep their coverage.
- Hospitals are a pocketbook issue for voters. Roughly two-in-three voters expect their own costs to rise if local hospitals close or cut back, and 68% to 80% say a closure at the nearest hospital would hit their family.
- The messenger matters. Local doctors and nurses, veterans organizations, and sheriffs or ambulance chiefs are trusted by 72% to 91%. A national hospital association is trusted by 38% to 45%, depending on the district.
- The incumbents are exposed. In all five districts, only 26% to 34% say their incumbent deserves re-election, and the Republican incumbents trail the Democratic challengers in the informed ballot in all four Republican-held seats.

Voters in every district fear what hospital cuts would do close to home

Between 65% and 70% in every district say their own health care costs go up if local hospitals close or cut back. A majority of voters in every district are very concerned about every hospital consequence tested. The top fear is veterans and seniors losing care close to home, at 68% to 76% very concerned, followed by longer ambulances and ER waits at 65% to 75% very concerned.

Percent very concerned about each consequence happening in their area

	IA-03	MI-07	OH-07	PA-08	NC-01
Veterans and seniors lose local care	69%	72%	68%	75%	76%
Longer ambulance and ER waits	66%	67%	65%	70%	75%
Cancer and dialysis patients travel farther	62%	62%	63%	69%	68%
Labor and delivery unit closes	59%	62%	61%	64%	63%
Hospital layoffs	54%	55%	52%	55%	61%
Closest hospital closes	53%	53%	53%	55%	63%

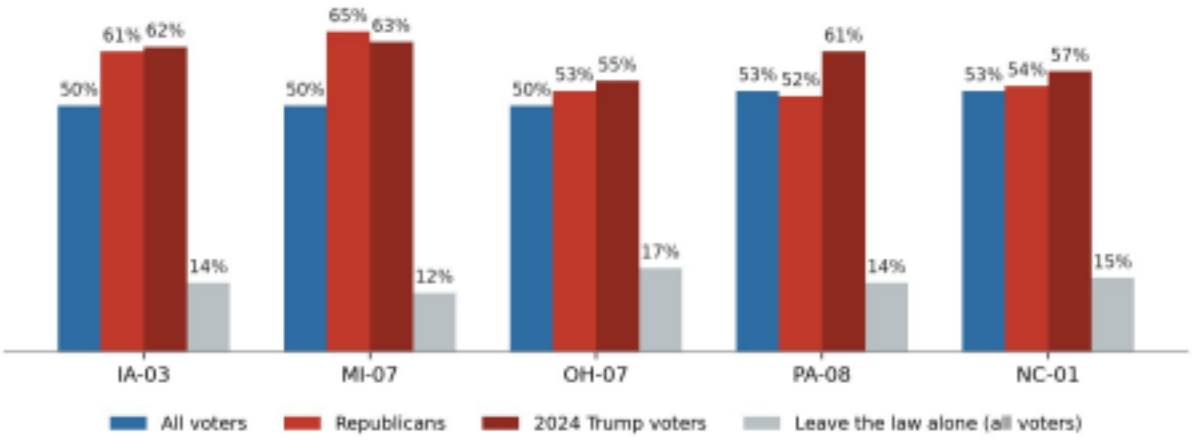
Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026.

The local stakes are also personal. A closure at the nearest hospital would hit voters' families, according to 68% to 72% of voters in the four Republican-held districts and 80% of voters in North Carolina's 1st. Voters also see Medicaid as a program that works: 54% to 65% say it mostly works, while XX% to YY% say Medicaid has grown out of control.

Keeping the promise is the first choice in every district, including with Republicans

Asked what Congress should do on Medicaid this year, half or more of voters in every district choose making sure the people who were promised protection actually keep their coverage. Republicans and 2024 Trump voters are at least as supportive as voters overall in nearly every district. Only 12% to 17% of voters say Congress should leave the law alone.

If Congress acts on Medicaid this year, which of the following should it do? (Percent choosing: make sure the people promised protection keep their coverage)



Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026. Republican and Trump voter results are subgroups of each district sample.

An exemptions rule is underwater in all five swing districts

Voters were given a description of a federal agency rule that allows states to narrow the exemptions Congress wrote for people who are seriously ill and requires cancer patients and others with serious illness to file new paperwork to keep their health coverage. Opposition leads support in every district, and 23% to 34% of Republicans oppose the rule outright.

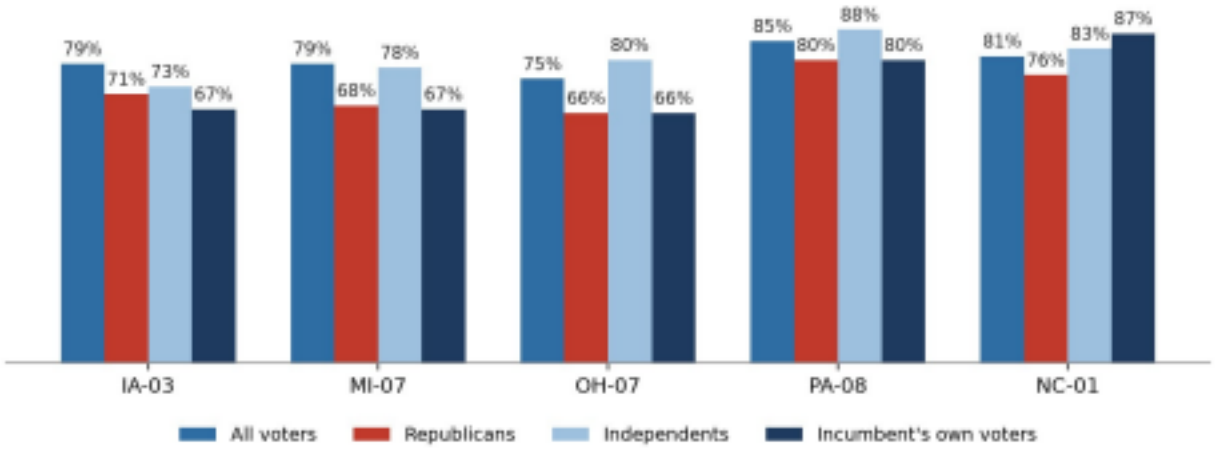
	Oppose	Support	Opposition lead	Republicans who oppose
IA-03 (Nunn)	52%	34%	+18	34%
MI-07 (Barrett)	55%	34%	+21	23%
OH-07 (Miller)	51%	38%	+13	28%
PA-08 (Bresnahan)	50%	39%	+11	31%
NC-01 (Davis)	49%	37%	+12	24%

Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026.

Voters reward a member who pushes the administration to fix this exemptions rule

Asked whether they would be more or less likely to vote for a member of Congress who publicly pushed the administration to fix the rule so cancer patients and seniors keep the coverage they were promised, 75% to 85% of voters say more likely. Fewer than 10% say they are less likely in any district. The reward holds with every group that matters to an incumbent: Republicans (66% to 80%), independents (73% to 88%), and the incumbent's own voters (66% to 87%).

More likely to vote for a member who publicly pushes the administration to fix the rule



Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026.

In the Republican-held seats, a Medicaid attack beats the defense

Voters in the four Republican-held districts were read the two sides of the Medicaid argument as it applies to their congressional race. The Democratic attack comes closer to their view an 8 to 16 point margin in every

district. Independents choose the attack by wide margins in Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio, and split almost evenly in Pennsylvania.

	Democrats' attack	Republicans' defense	Margin	Independents choose attack	Independents choose defense
IA-03 (Nunn)	53%	37%	+16	58%	30%
MI-07 (Barrett)	50%	35%	+15	50%	26%
OH-07 (Miller)	47%	39%	+8	55%	25%
PA-08 (Bresnahan)	47%	38%	+9	43%	42%

Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026. NC-01 is Democratic-held and was not asked this question. Independents are a subgroup with a larger margin of error.

The attack reads as follows: [incumbent] voted for the law that cut Medicaid, and now cancer patients, seniors, and caregivers here are losing the coverage they were promised while hospitals cut services. The defense reads: [incumbent] voted for a law that took waste and fraud out of Medicaid so the program can be there for the people who actually need it, and is working to fix the parts that are not being carried out the way Congress wrote them.

Local voices carry this message. Washington does not.

Voters trust the people closest to the hospital. Local doctors and nurses are the top messenger in every district at 88% to 91%, followed by veterans organizations (81% to 86%) and sheriffs or ambulance chiefs (72% to 78%). Trump administration officials are trusted by 31% to 42%, and a member of Congress by 41% to 52%.

Percent who trust each to tell them the truth about hospital funding where they live (a great deal or some)

	IA-03	MI-07	OH-07	PA-08	NC-01
Local doctors and nurses	90%	91%	88%	88%	88%
A veterans organization	82%	84%	81%	86%	83%
Sheriff or ambulance chief	77%	75%	72%	76%	78%
Local pastor or faith leader	66%	62%	63%	66%	72%
Your governor	43%	59%	55%	64%	58%
Hospital company chief executive	51%	51%	53%	41%	47%
Your member of Congress	41%	45%	45%	46%	52%
National hospital association	41%	45%	43%	43%	38%
Trump administration officials	35%	31%	38%	38%	42%

Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026.

The Political Landscape: Republican incumbents trail, and NC-01 is even after this issue debate.

Voters were asked their House ballot preference twice, both times after the Medicaid and hospital questions: an

initial ballot, and an informed ballot asked after they had heard the arguments. In the four Republican-held districts, the Democratic challenger leads on both ballots. In North Carolina's 1st, Democratic incumbent Don Davis leads by 3 points initially and is tied after the informed ballot. Only 26% to 34% in any district say their incumbent deserves re-election.

District	Initial ballot	Informed ballot	Initial ballot, reweighted to 2024	2024 district result	Deserves re-election
IA-03 (Nunn, R)	D+8	D+10	D+1	Trump +4	34%
MI-07 (Barrett, R)	D+14	D+15	D+2	Trump +1	29%
OH-07 (Miller, R)	D+5	D+4	D+1	Trump +10	26%
PA-08 (Bresnahan, R)	D+10	D+11	Even	Trump +7	34%
NC-01 (Davis, D)	D+3	Even	D+3	Trump +10	33%

Source: Five Swing District Surveys, n=400 likely voters per district, September 2026. Margins are Democratic candidate minus Republican candidate. The reweighted column shows the initial ballot with each sample reweighted so 2024 Trump-to-Harris recall matches the district's 2024 result.

How to read the ballot numbers

In the four Republican-held districts, 2024 vote recall in the raw samples came back bluer than the actual district results. The same interviews were reweighted so the Trump-to-Harris recall matches each district's 2024 result. Reweighted, the initial House ballot in the Republican-held seats sits between even and D+2.

None of the Medicaid findings in this memo depend on the weighting. Keeping the promise, opposition to the rule, and the reward for pushing back hold with voters (even Trump voters) under either weighting scenario.

District by District: What Stands Out

IA-03: Zach Nunn (R) vs. Sarah Trone Garriott (D)

- The Democratic attack on Medicaid leads the Republican defense by 16 points (53% to 37%), the widest margin of the four Republican-held seats. Independents choose the attack 58% to 30%.
- 34% of Republicans oppose the rule outright, the highest of any district, and 79% of all voters would reward a member who pushes the fix.
- Initial ballot D+8 (D+1 reweighted to 2024), informed ballot D+10. 34% say Nunn deserves re-election.

MI-07: Tom Barrett (R) vs. William Lawrence (D)

- Opposition to the rule is highest here: 55% oppose and 34% support, a 21-point gap.
- Michigan Republicans are the most likely to want the promise kept (65%), but only 34% of Republicans find the rural hospital funding description convincing, the lowest of any district.
- Initial ballot D+14 but D+2 reweighted to 2024, the largest swing from weighting. Informed ballot D+15. 29% say Barrett deserves re-election.

OH-07: Max Miller (R) vs. Brian Poindexter (D)

- The attack leads the defense by 8 points (47% to 39%), the narrowest margin, though independents choose the attack 55% to 25%.
- Only 65% expect their costs to rise if local hospitals close, the lowest of the five, but 75% would still reward a member who pushes the fix.
- 26% say Miller deserves re-election, the lowest of the five incumbents. Initial ballot D+5 (D+1

reweighted to 2024), informed ballot D+4.

PA-08: Rob Bresnahan (R) vs. Paige Cognetti (D)

- The strongest reward for pushing the fix: 85% of all voters, 80% of Republicans, 81% of Trump voters, and 88% of independents.
- The rule is underwater here by the narrowest margin of the five, 50% oppose to 39% support. Independents split 43% to 42% between the Medicaid attack and the defense.
- Initial ballot D+10 but even when reweighted to 2024, informed ballot D+11. 34% say Bresnahan deserves re-election.

NC-01: Don Davis (D) vs. Laurie Buckhout (R)

- The only Democratic-held seat tested, and the one where hospital fears run highest: 80% say a closure at the nearest hospital would hit their family, and 76% are very concerned about veterans and seniors losing local care.
- 81% would be more likely to back a member who pushes the fix, including 87% of the incumbent's own voters and 76% of Republicans.
- Initial ballot D+3 (unchanged when reweighted to 2024), and even on the informed ballot at 44% to 44%. This district was not asked the Medicaid attack versus defense question.

Methodology

Impact Research consulted on five Congressional District surveys, one each in IA-03, MI-07, OH-07, PA-08, and NC-01, in September 2026. Each survey interviewed 400 likely November 2026 general election voters, for 2,000 total interviews. All five districts used the same questionnaire structure. Interviews were conducted in mixed mode: live dial to landlines and cell phones, plus text-to-web. The margin of error for each district survey is approximately plus or minus 4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Results for subgroups such as Republicans, independents, and 2024 Trump voters rest on fewer interviews and carry larger margins of error.

Ballot questions were asked after the Medicaid and hospital questions. District comparisons should be read as five separate surveys with a common instrument, not as a single combined sample. All figures are percentages of the base shown, rounded to whole numbers. Party is self-identified.