

Key Research Findings

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**National Online Survey
January 2017**



 **AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL**

Micah Roberts
Partner



Methodology

- An online survey of N=1,200 registered voters was conducted January 4-6, 2017 on behalf of the American Benefits Council.
- N=600 voters were asked about the Cadillac Tax.
- Trend data is from a survey of N=1,200 registered voters conducted January 29-February 3, 2016.
- The margin of error for sample size N=1,200 is $\pm 2.83\%$ The margin of error for sample size N=600 is $\pm 4.0\%$.

Key Findings

- ✓ Among voters with an opinion on the Cadillac Tax, those favoring repeal (71%) far outweigh those favoring implementation (29%).
- ✓ The argument to repeal the Cadillac tax is stronger for majorities of voters regardless of partisanship and voters say the best potential outcomes are the least likely to actually happen.
- ✓ Repealing Obamacare, but keeping the Cadillac Tax in place is unacceptable for majorities of voters regardless of partisanship.

Key Findings

- ✓ **Health care costs remain a top economic concern for 50% of voters.**
- ✓ **The political landscape for Obamacare has shifted slightly with the election of Donald Trump with Democratic partisans hardening in their support.**
- ✓ **But, fewer than one in five (17%) voters overall, including just 29% of Democrats, want President-elect Trump and Congress to implement Obamacare as-is.**

Key Findings

Voters have a message for President-Elect Trump and Congress – They do NOT want to implement Obamacare as-is and will not accept a new plan that keeps the Cadillac Tax in place.



The Cadillac Tax

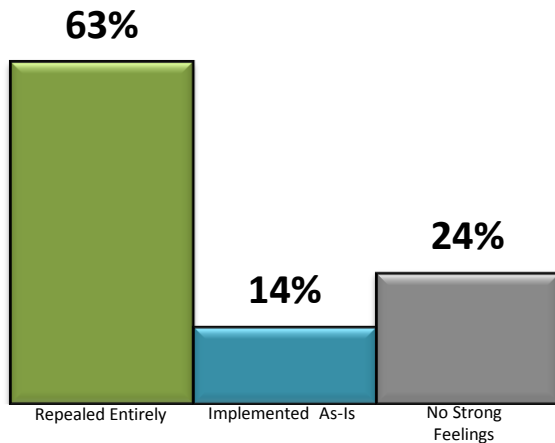
Survey respondents were given this description of the Cadillac Tax:

The "Cadillac Tax" refers to a 40% tax on high-cost health benefit plans provided by employers to their employees. The tax, scheduled to begin in 2020, is one way the health care law is funded. The tax is on the cost of health benefits over a certain threshold when all the costs are added up, including the employer's and employee's share of the plan's premiums, wellness programs and employer and employee contributions to flexible spending accounts or health savings accounts.

Just a quarter of Democrat voters want the Cadillac Tax implemented.

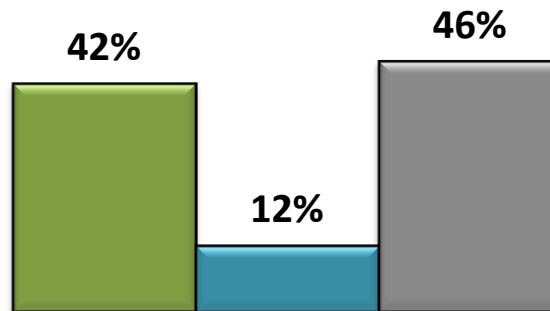
Implement/Repeal Cadillac Tax by Party

+49%



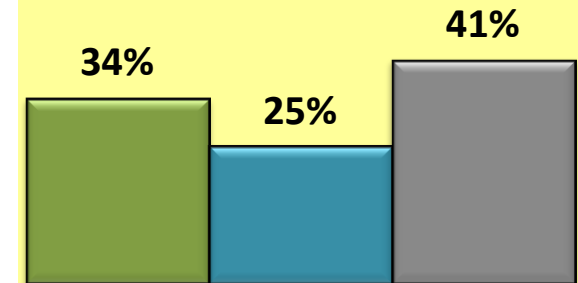
Republicans

+30%



Independents

+9%



Democrats

■ Total Repealed Entirely

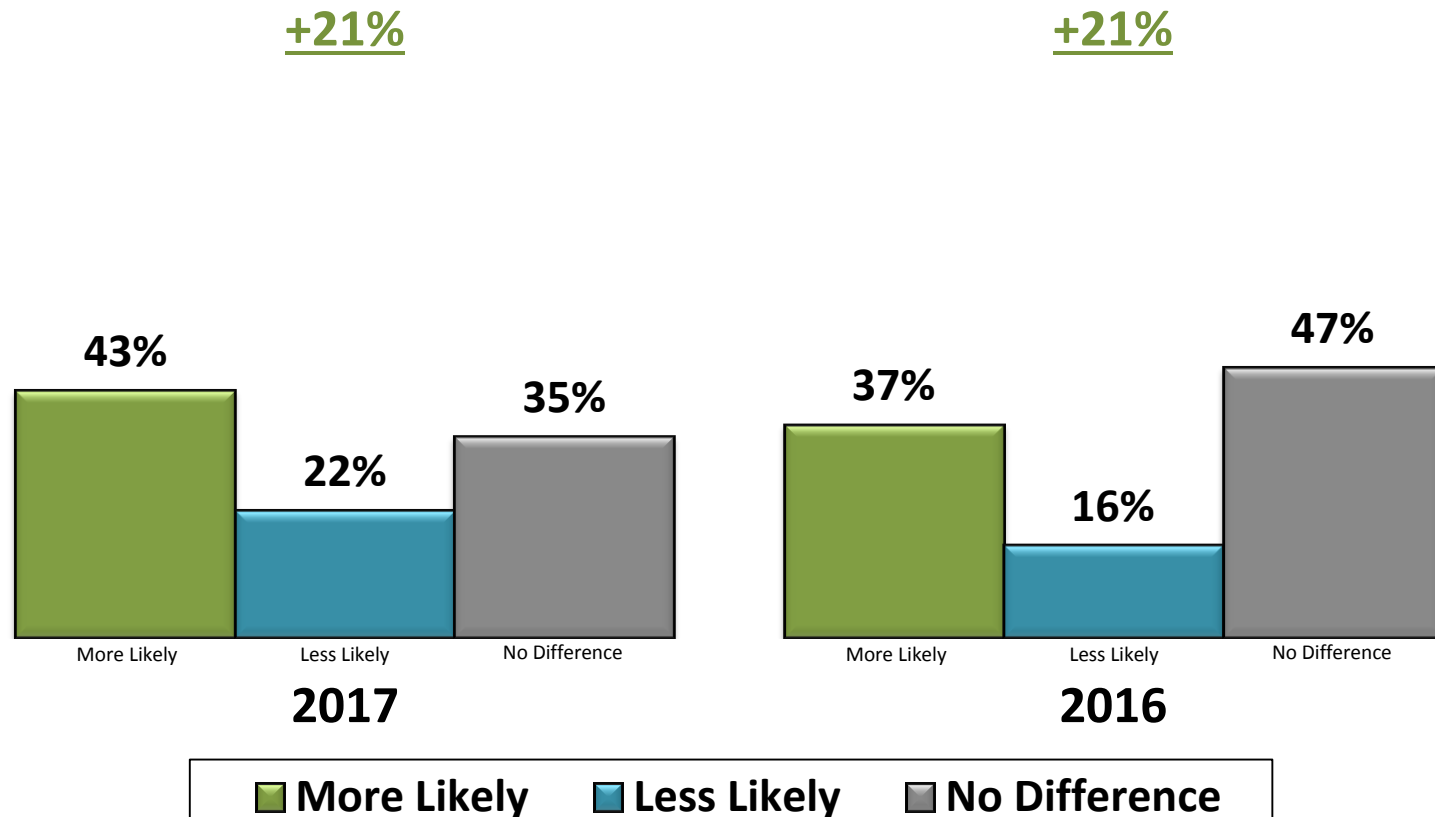
■ Total Implemented As-Is

■ No Strong Feelings

Based on the information you have, should the "Cadillac Tax" be implemented as-is or repealed entirely or do you not have strong feelings one way or the other?

Growing numbers of voters say their member of Congress' position on this issue will affect their vote

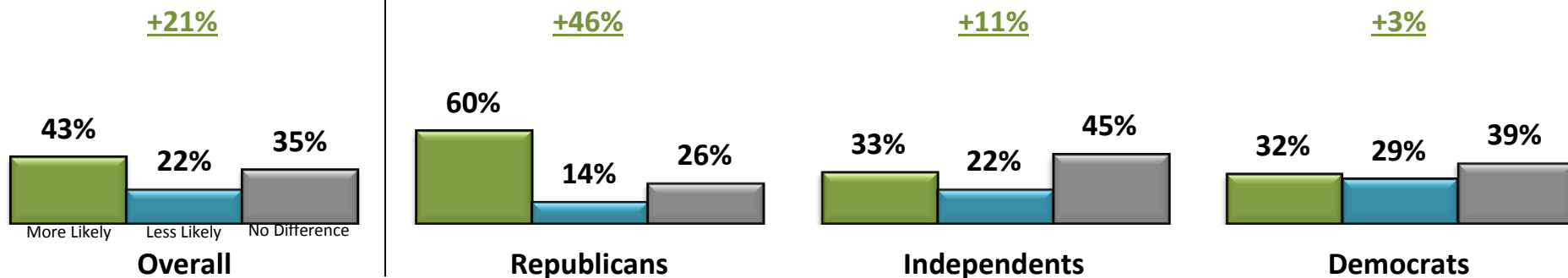
Likelihood To Support Member Of Congress Voting To Repeal Cadillac Tax - Trend



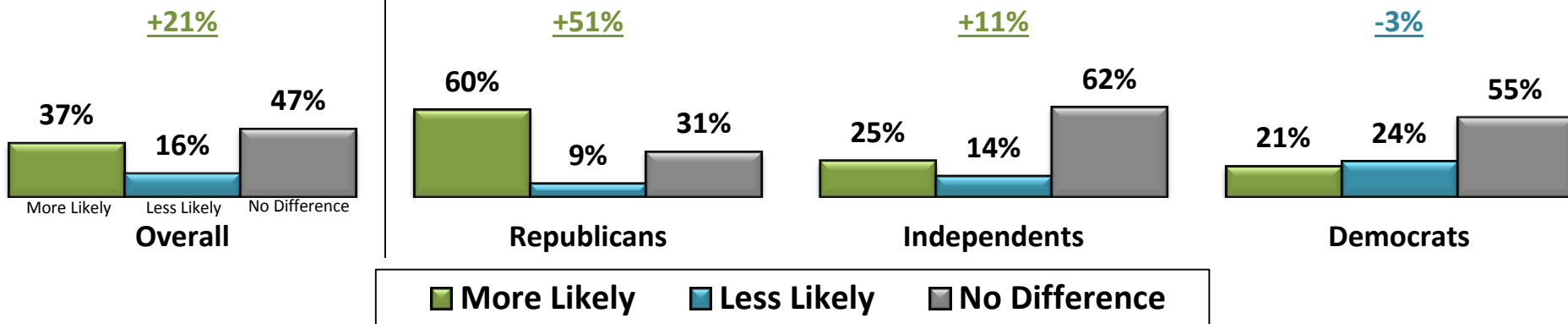
If you knew that your representative in Congress voted to fully repeal the Cadillac Tax, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him/her in the 2018 election or would it make no difference one way or the other?

On balance, Democrats are more likely to vote for their member if they vote to repeal the Cadillac Tax than in 2016.

Likelihood To Support Member Of Congress Voting To Repeal Cadillac Tax by Party - 2017



Likelihood To Support Member Of Congress Voting To Repeal Cadillac Tax by Party - 2016



If you knew that your representative in Congress voted to fully repeal the Cadillac Tax, would that make you more or less likely to vote for him/her in the 2018 election or would it make no difference one way or the other?

When we gave voters these arguments from both sides....

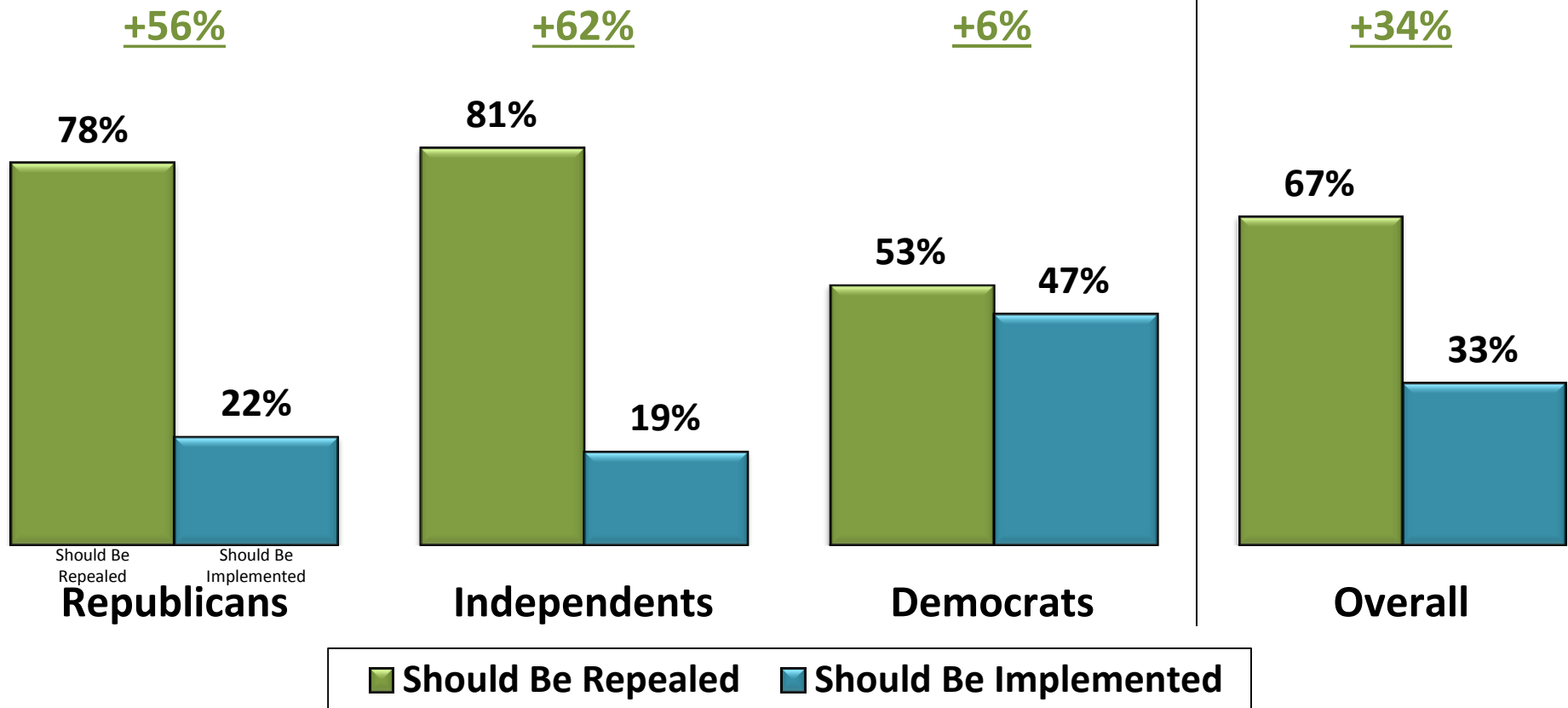
The Cadillac Tax should be repealed because it will not bring in the estimated \$70 billion in revenue. Employers will drop or reduce health benefits to avoid the tax, and proponents are wrong in assuming employers will raise workers' taxable wages to make up for these reductions. Congress should find another way to fund health care reform.

The Cadillac Tax should be implemented because it will bring in \$70 billion in revenue that may be used to help pay for health care reforms. Without that revenue we would be left with federal health programs that are not paid for and the federal deficit would significantly increase.

Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly how you feel?

The argument to repeal the Cadillac tax is stronger for a majority of voters regardless of partisanship.

Implemented vs. Repealed by Party

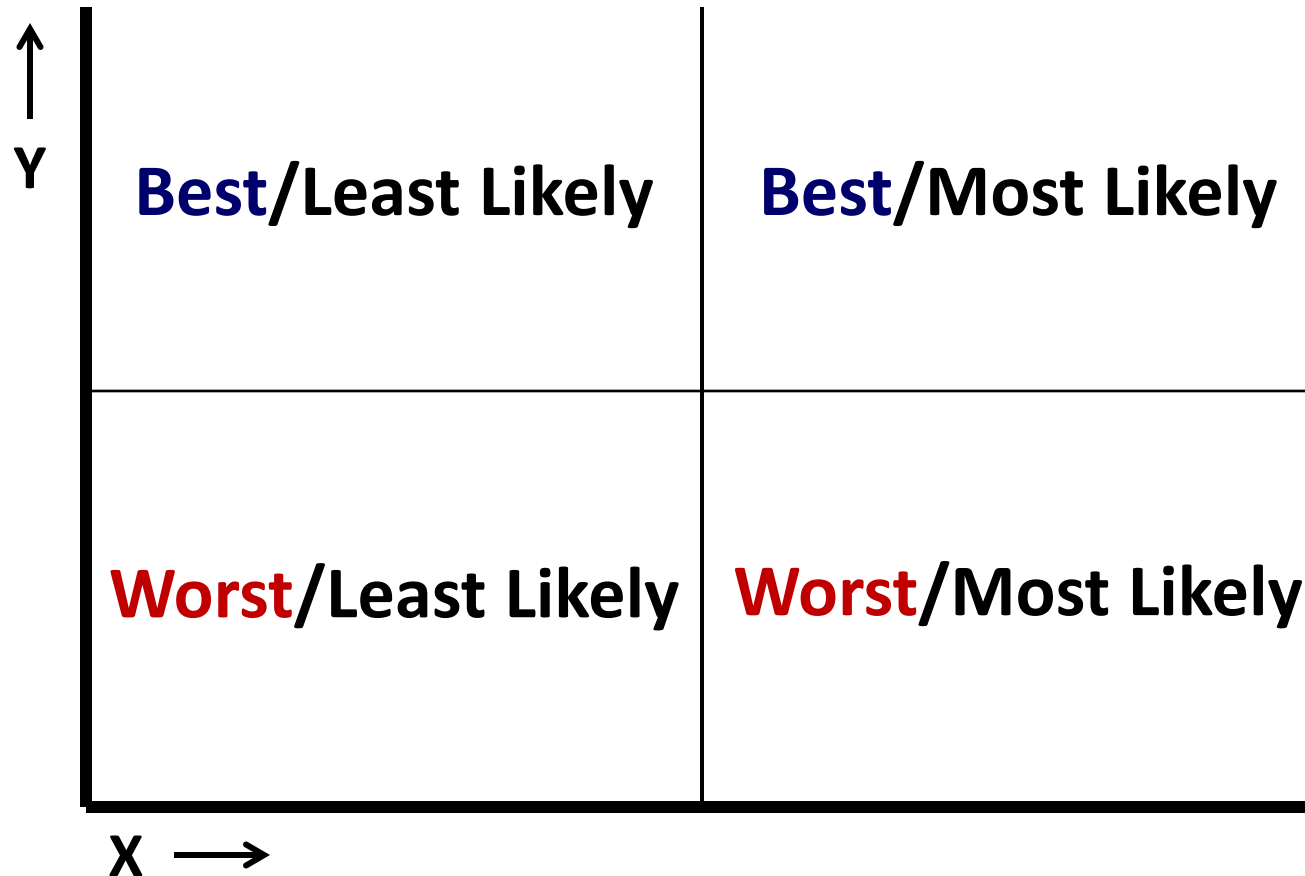


Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly how you feel?

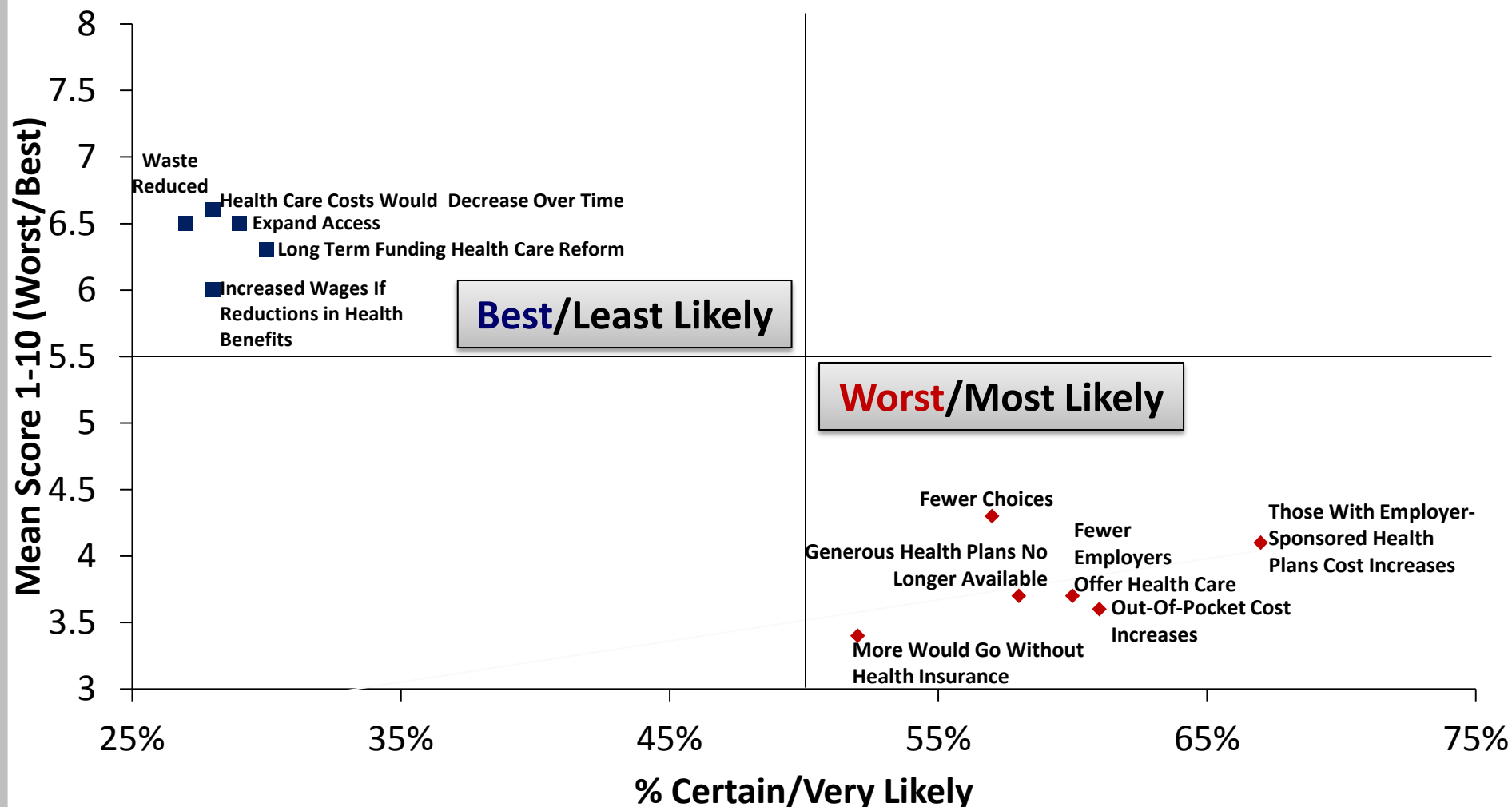
We Asked Half Of Voters Whether The Following Outcomes Were Likely (Certain, Very, Somewhat, Not Too, Not At All) And The Other Half If They Were The Worst Or Best (1-10 Scale) Things That Could Happen.

- It would make employer-sponsored health plans more cost efficient and less wasteful
- People with employer-sponsored health plans would see increased wages if they saw reductions in health benefits
- Overall health care costs in the U.S. would decrease over time
- It would expand access to affordable health care coverage
- It would mean stable long-term funding for health care reform
- More people would go without health insurance coverage
- People with employer-sponsored health plans would have fewer choices
- Generous health plans would no longer be available to hard working Americans
- Fewer employers would offer health care plans as part of employee benefits
- Out-of-pocket health care costs for me and my family would increase
- Most people with employer-sponsored health plan would see cost increases

An analysis of these two scales helps show which outcomes are most and least desirable and likely.

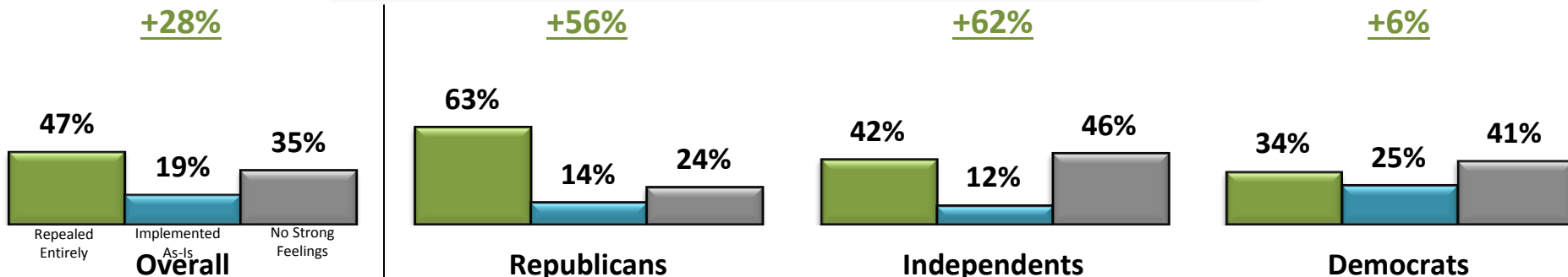


Voters expect the worst from the Cadillac Tax.

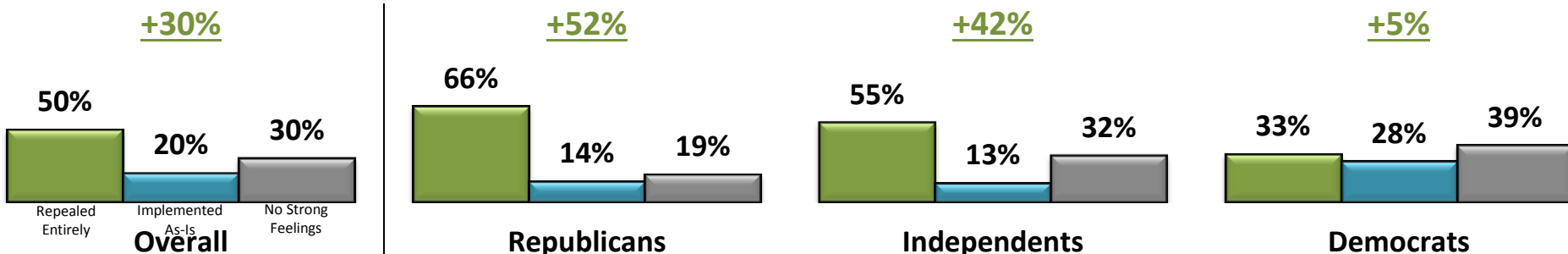


After considering the ramifications, a majority of voters say the Cadillac Tax should be repealed entirely.

Implement/Repeal Cadillac Tax by Party - *Initial*



Implement/Repeal Cadillac Tax by Party - *Informed*

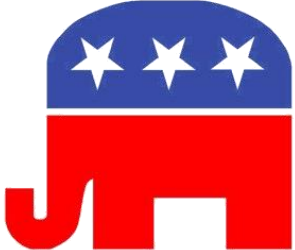



■ Repealed Entirely ■ Implemented As-Is ■ No Strong Feelings

Having heard some more, should the "Cadillac Tax" be implemented as-is or repealed entirely or do you not have strong feelings one way or the other?

Among voters who express an opinion, 71% say the Cadillac tax should be repealed entirely including 82% of Republicans and a majority (54%) of Democrats.

Results Shown Among 70% of Voters Who Express an Opinion

	<u>Repeal</u>	<u>Implement</u>
TOTAL	71%	29%
	82%	18%
	54%	46%

We offered the following scenario to voters:

If President-elect Trump and Republican leaders in Congress were to replace the Affordable Care Act but keep the Cadillac Tax as part of the replacement health care reform plan, would you find this acceptable or unacceptable?

Keeping the Cadillac Tax in place without Obamacare is unacceptable. Reasons differ by party affiliation.

	Overall	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
Total Unacceptable	67%	57%	73%	74%
Acceptable	33%	43%	27%	27%

Reasons differ by party affiliation

Unacceptable because do not want to replace the Affordable Care Act	27%	6%	26%	46%
Unacceptable because the Cadillac Tax would still be in place	40%	51%	47%	28%

If President-elect Trump and Republican leaders in Congress were to replace the Affordable Care Act but keep the Cadillac Tax as part of the replacement health care reform plan, would you find this acceptable or unacceptable?

**Among those who want to keep most of the law,
keeping the Cadillac tax is unacceptable for 70%.**

	Overall	Move Forward	Keep Most	Different System	Repeal/Not Replace
Total Unacceptable	67%	64%	70%	65%	61%
Acceptable	33%	36%	30%	36%	39%

Reasons differ by party affiliation

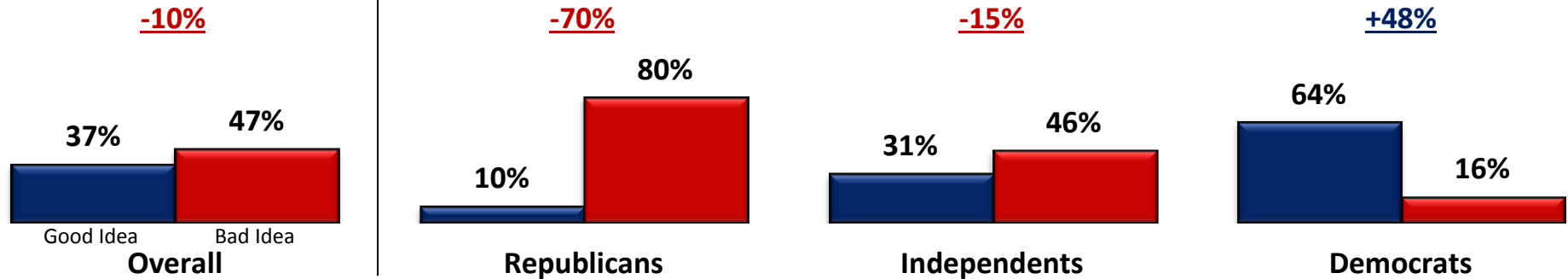
Unacceptable because the Cadillac Tax would still be in place	40%	11%	38%	59%	49%
Unacceptable because do not want to replace the Affordable Care Act	27%	53%	32%	6%	12%



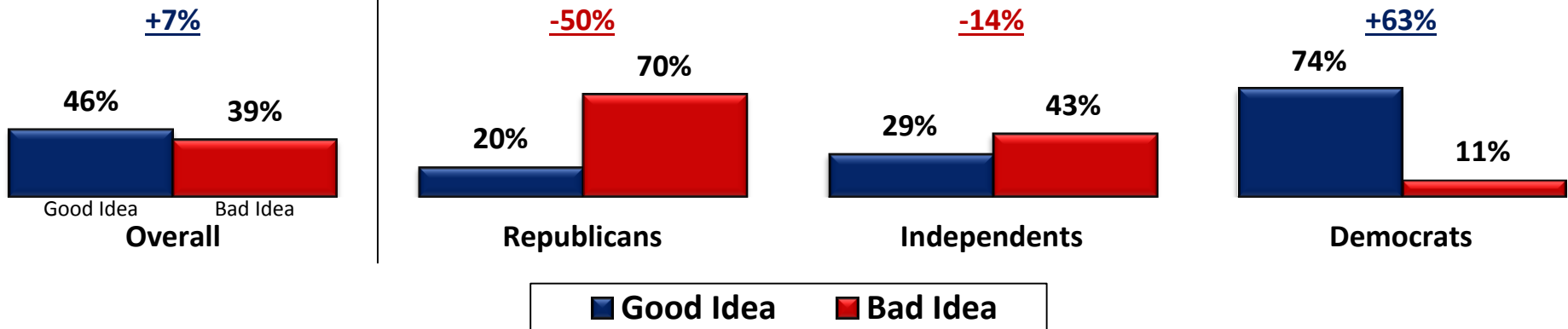
Demographic and ACA Data

In the current political climate, Democrats are more supportive of Obamacare and Republican opposition has softened slightly compared to a year ago.

View on ACA by Party - 2016



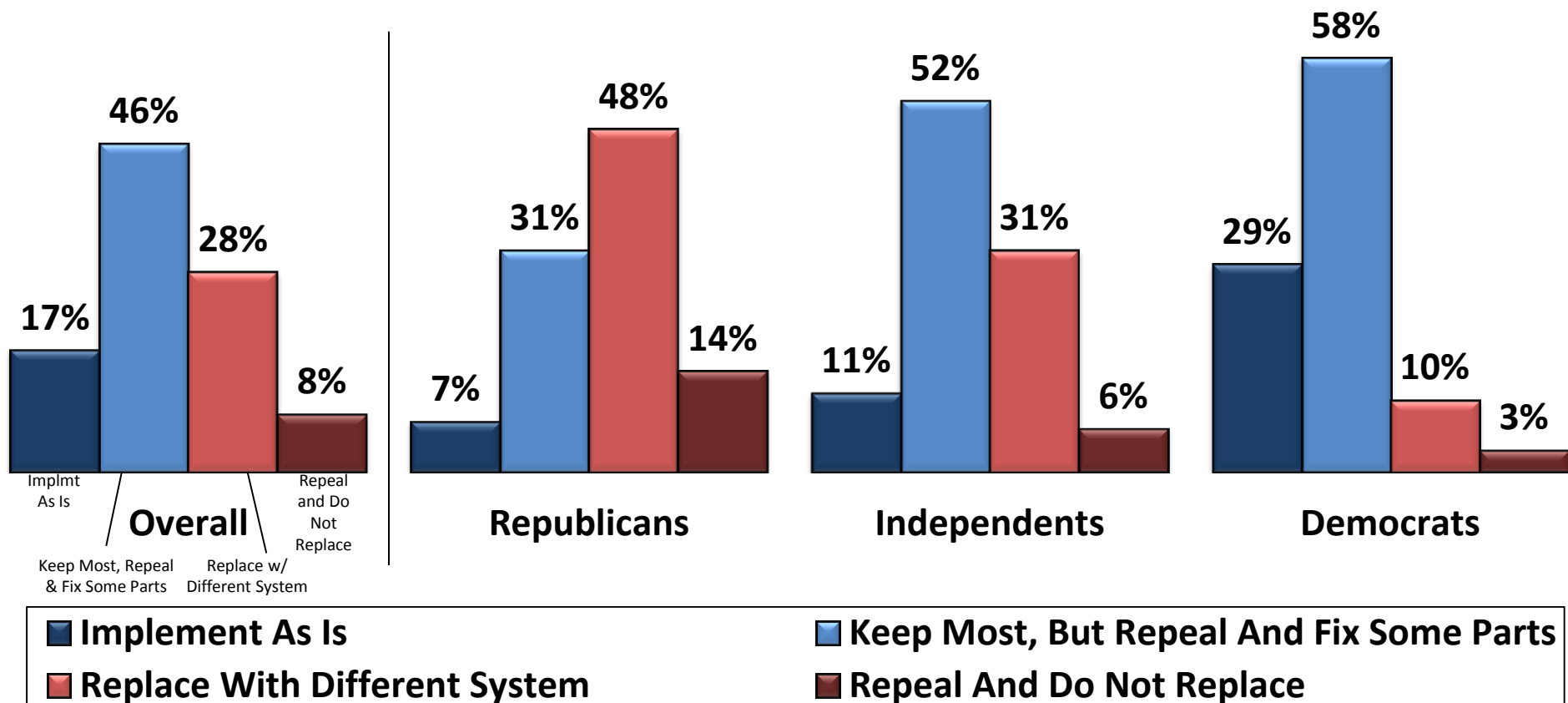
View on ACA by Party - 2017



...From what you have heard about the health care law, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea or do you not have an opinion either way?

But, fewer than one in five voters overall, including just 29% of Democrats, want President-elect Trump and Congress to implement the law “as-is.”

Preferred ACA Course Of Action by Party



What would you like to see President-elect Donald Trump and the next Congress do when it comes to the health care law?

The cost of healthcare is a top economic concern for half of American voters.

Most Important <u>One or Two</u> Economic Issues Facing The Country Today		
1	<i>The cost of health care</i>	50%
2	<i>The gap between rich and poor</i>	33%
3	<i>The federal budget deficit</i>	27%
4	<i>American jobs being sent overseas</i>	26%
5	<i>Unemployment</i>	21%
6	<i>Federal taxes</i>	13%
7	<i>The federal minimum wage</i>	8%
8	<i>Gas prices and energy costs</i>	8%
9	<i>Housing prices</i>	7%

Which ONE or TWO, if any, of the following do you feel is the most important economic issue facing the country today?

Pluralities or majorities of voters by gender, race, class, and party say health care costs are a top economic concern.



Gender

<i>Male</i>	47%
<i>Female</i>	53%



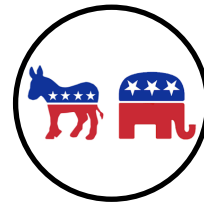
Economic Class

<i>Poor/Working Class</i>	52%
<i>Middle Class</i>	51%
<i>Upper Mid/Well To Do</i>	41%



Ethnicity

<i>White</i>	51%
<i>Total Non-White</i>	44%



Party

<i>Republican</i>	50%
<i>Independent</i>	47%
<i>Democrat</i>	51%

Which ONE or TWO, if any, of the following do you feel is the most important economic issue facing the country today?

Bottom Line

- **Voters have a message for President-Elect Trump and Congress – They do NOT want to implement Obamacare as-is and will not accept a new plan that keeps the Cadillac Tax in place.**
- **Among voters with an opinion on the Cadillac Tax, those favoring repeal (71%) far outweigh those favoring implementation (29%).**