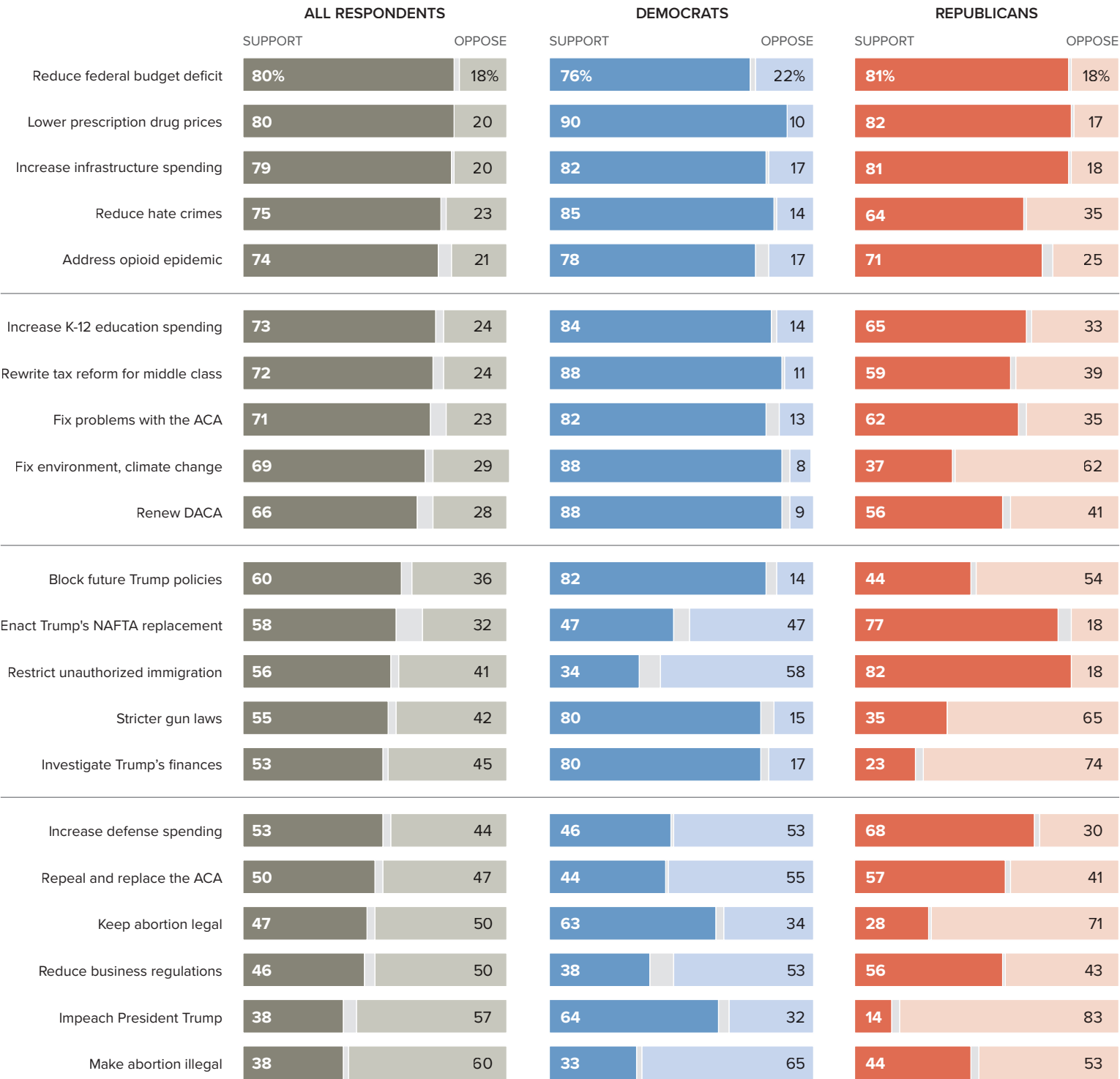Jan. 4, 2019

POLITICO-HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLL

Poll: Americans Want New Congress to Prioritize Deficit Reduction, Drug Prices and Infrastructure

A new POLITICO-Harvard poll of U.S. adults finds that the deficit, drug prices, infrastructure and hate crimes are among the public's top priorities for the new Congress entering office this January.

While these issue areas had broad bipartisan support, other priorities were polarized along party lines. Democratic respondents want Congress to focus on climate change, DACA, gun laws and investigations of President Donald Trump. Republicans, conversely, were more likely to prioritize Trump's NAFTA replacement, unauthorized immigration and defense spending.

Which of the following should be an "extremely important" priority for the new Congress?

	ALL RESPONDENTS		DEMOCRATS		REPUBLICANS	
	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Reduce federal budget deficit	80%	18%	76%	22%	81%	18%
Lower prescription drug prices	80	20	90	10	82	17
Increase infrastructure spending	79	20	82	17	81	18
Reduce hate crimes	75	23	85	14	64	35
Address opioid epidemic	74	21	78	17	71	25
Increase K-12 education spending	73	24	84	14	65	33
Rewrite tax reform for middle class	72	24	88	11	59	39
Fix problems with the ACA	71	23	82	13	62	35
Fix environment, climate change	69	29	88	8	37	62
Renew DACA	66	28	88	9	56	41
Block future Trump policies	60	36	82	14	44	54
Enact Trump's NAFTA replacement	58	32	47	47	77	18
Restrict unauthorized immigration	56	41	34	58	82	18
Stricter gun laws	55	42	80	15	35	65
Investigate Trump's finances	53	45	80	17	23	74
Increase defense spending	53	44	46	53	68	30
Repeal and replace the ACA	50	47	44	55	57	41
Keep abortion legal	47	50	63	34	28	71
Reduce business regulations	46	50	38	53	56	43
Impeach President Trump	38	57	64	32	14	83
Make abortion illegal	38	60	33	65	44	53

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Percentages for "don't know" and "refused" responses are not shown.

This survey was conducted for Politico and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health via telephone by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted via telephone (cellphone and landline) December 4-9, 2018, among a nationally representative sample of 1,014 U.S. adults. The margin of error for total respondents is ±3.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For questions asked of half-samples, the margin of error is ±5.1 percentage points.

Source: POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, "Americans priorities for the new Congress in 2019," SRSS

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