



The Day After – Continuing Insights from Healthsperien 11/4/20

The Healthsperien team continues to monitor the outcomes of this very close national election (for President and Congress) and the evolving situations in states that remain too-close-to call as the final ballot tallies are completed, including through potential recounts. We also are revisiting our “divided government” scenarios given the likely Republican hold on the Senate. As we consider the implications for health policy and our clients’ business outlook, we have a few initial thoughts to share, in part gleaned from exit polls:

- The close nature of the Presidential race points to continued disagreement and uncertainty about the most effective path forward in health care generally. While all voters saw health care as an important issue and concerns about health care costs were shared across the political spectrum, the close nature of the vote points to division about the best approach for health policy. A stronger showing by Biden – who has advanced policies that would expand the role of government in health care – might have suggested greater receptivity in the population to those kinds of broad-based approaches. **Results so far show there is no mandate in this area.**
- **Likely engagement with a Republican Senate for a Biden administration could include targeted solutions that help with coverage and affordability of health care, as well as continued opportunities to focus on bipartisan payment and delivery reform. In particular, we understand Biden and McConnell have a long history of working well together.** We also see the Republican Senate open to policies that benefit hospitals, providers, insurers and manufacturers.
- Strong, but mixed views about COVID-19 and related lockdowns also emerged in the results so far; while people across the political spectrum have shared concerns about their economic welfare and employment, Biden supporters tended to be more focused than Trump supporters on the need for government mandates/lockdowns to end the epidemic. As we have noted, either potential administration will face similar challenges in managing the epidemic. **We see mixed voter perspectives in this area coloring the next phase of the pandemic, including the roll-out of policies related to clinical trials, therapy and vaccine distribution, and the use of technologies such as contact tracing.**
- Successful gubernatorial wins for Republicans in states interested in adopting community engagement/work requirements in Medicaid will have implication for the future of state Medicaid programs. **Our expertise in the evolving policy and regulatory environment for Medicaid and these specific issues can assist our clients doing business and providing care in those states.**
- We expect the Trump administration, during what could be several weeks of uncertainty and a possible lame-duck administration, to continue to advance elements of its regulatory agenda in health care, including in Medicaid and reforms to the federal agencies charged with public health.
- We will continue to focus on specific strategies for our clients in a divided-government scenario, and also reflect on potential shifts in policy if Trump maintains the White House.

The Healthsperien team remains available to answer any questions as always and will continue to provide key updates as we have additional clarity on the evolving situation.