

## 2006 SBM Research Project

### Health Care Responses

Small Business Majority initiated a multi-phased national research program to assess the attitudes and interests of the small business constituency. Phase 1 was launched in 2006 and employs e-mail to query small business leaders on a number of topics. Subsequent phases will create panels of targeted groups and do more in-depth research using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

An e-mail questionnaire was sent to 110,000 small business owners and managers. The list was created from multiple sources and represents all categories of small business. These results represent the findings from over 1,000 respondents.

## Findings

### Demographics

- 61% were in companies of 10 or fewer employees
- Party affiliation:
  - 23% Democrats
  - 30% Republicans
  - 6% Other
  - **41% Independent**
- 67% are male and 64% are between the ages 45 - 64
- 49% are in households with incomes of under \$75,000 per year

### When asked about the role of government:

- 84% agree that politicians and public officials have significant impact on the economic future
- 72% think that government favors big business over small business
- 79% identify large corporate campaign donations as what drives government policy

### When asked about specific issues, health care and taxes topped the list:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • Cost of health care                    | 87% |
| • Taxes                                  | 81% |
| • National energy policy                 | 72% |
| • Access to technology                   | 67% |
| • Access to capital                      | 64% |
| • Cost of pensions & retirement benefits | 64% |
| • Government regulations                 | 63% |
| • Government deficits                    | 61% |
| • Trade deficits                         | 60% |

**Health care issue in-depth: 87% of respondents agree that health care should be available and affordable for everyone; 67% cite as extremely important.**

- Guaranteed health care via a comprehensive national health system: 63% identify as important or extremely important\*
- Purchasing pools: 80% identify as important; 47% of that as extremely important
- Mandating that all companies provide health insurance: 60% as important
- Mandating that all individuals purchase health insurance: 34% as important
- 65% favor giving all individuals rights to health savings accounts

\*Exact question: rank the importance of “guaranteeing affordable health care for everyone by having a single entity (public or private) managing a comprehensive national health system.”

**The survey included questions on other (non-health care) issues as well**

**See specific health care responses on the next two pages**

## Specific Health Care Perceptions

14. Please tell us how important each of the issues is to you. A "1" means it is of no importance to you. A "5" means it is extremely important to you. Please feel free to make any comments you would like on each topic. We are interested in hearing your v

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not important at all	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Extremely important
<b>Cost of health care</b>	<b>16</b> <b>2%</b>	<b>23</b> <b>3%</b>	<b>62</b> <b>8%</b>	<b>151</b> <b>21%</b>	<b>481</b> <b>66%</b>
Access to capital	22 3%	47 6%	198 27%	239 33%	228 31%
Taxes	8 1%	16 2%	111 15%	228 31%	363 50%
Burden of complying with government regulations	28 4%	56 8%	187 26%	228 31%	231 32%
Government deficits	29 4%	76 11%	182 25%	194 27%	242 33%
Cost of pensions and retirement benefits	45 6%	60 8%	181 25%	209 29%	226 31%
Disaster assistance from government	101 14%	111 15%	235 32%	144 20%	135 19%
Access to Small Business Administration programs	73 10%	76 10%	219 30%	201 28%	159 22%
Including small business in government procurement programs	78 11%	62 9%	217 30%	205 28%	165 23%
Access to business and communications technology	25 3%	30 4%	169 23%	265 37%	235 32%
Targeted tax cuts to stimulate the economy	45 6%	50 7%	176 24%	206 29%	244 34%
Limiting expansion of national chain stores if they hurt local independent retailers	104 14%	100 14%	214 29%	140 19%	169 23%
National energy policy	24 3%	39 5%	135 19%	232 32%	290 40%
International trade and trade deficits	50 7%	59 8%	171 24%	226 32%	210 29%
Limiting off-shoring of jobs	86 12%	79 11%	198 28%	134 19%	223 31%

**15. A number of solutions to economic and social issues have been discussed. Please tell us what you think of each of the suggestions below. And, again, if you have any additional comments, please feel free to make them.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Of no importance`	Somewhat important	Neutral	Somewhat important	Extremely important
Guaranteeing affordable health care for everyone by having a single entity (public or private) managing a comprehensive national health system	92 13%	50 7%	129 18%	174 24%	284 39%
<b>Bringing down the cost of the current health care system by giving small businesses access to larger purchasing pools</b>	<b>25 3%</b>	<b>21 3%</b>	<b>91 13%</b>	<b>234 32%</b>	<b>355 49%</b>
Mandating that all companies make health insurance, at a basic level, available to all employees	121 17%	37 5%	166 23%	165 23%	235 32%
Requiring that all individuals purchase health insurance	156 22%	97 13%	215 30%	128 18%	124 17%
Giving all individuals the right to have health savings accounts where they can put aside pre-tax earnings to fund health care costs	59 8%	46 6%	142 20%	221 31%	250 35%
Reforming the medical malpractice law to limit the size of awards	49 7%	57 8%	148 21%	177 25%	290 40%
Reforming the legal system to limit payouts liability cases	56 8%	52 7%	148 21%	181 25%	278 39%