

# Post-Election Discussion: Moving Forward on Health Care

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Utah Health Policy Project  
Annual Conference: Health  
Care Solutions for Utahns

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# Agenda

- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Election Results: Opportunities and Challenges
- ❑ The Power of Narrative to Bridge the Political Divide
- ❑ Q&A



# Families USA's Mission and Focus Areas

Families USA, a leading nonpartisan, national voice for health care consumers, is dedicated to the achievement of high-quality, affordable health care and improved health for all. We advance our mission through public policy analysis, advocacy, and collaboration with partners to promote a patient-and community centered health system.

Working at the national, state and community level for over 35 years.



HEALTH EQUITY



HEALTH CARE VALUE

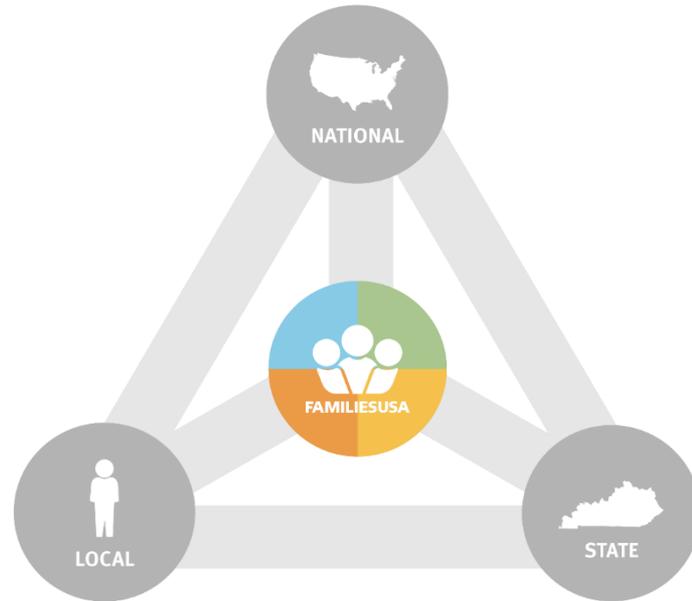


COVERAGE



CONSUMER EXPERIENCE

# Families USA's Work on the National, State and Local Levels



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# Election Results: Opportunities and Challenges

# In 2020, Health Care Was on the Ballot

## 2020 Election Backdrop

- **COVID-19:** Country experiencing immense tragedy, grief due to COVID-19 pandemic
  - As of national election, there were over **260,000 deaths** due to COVID-19, with nearly **13 million** infections reported.
  - **In the last two weeks before election, a 45 percent spike in COVID-19 infections surged across swing states.**
  - In the beginning of October, total unemployment reached more than 12 million.
- **Racial Justice:** Sparked by the George Floyd murder, calls for racial justice and civil rights broke through America's conscious in new ways.
- **SCOTUS:** Passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg led to the swift and controversial confirmation of a new U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Amy Coney Barrett Future of the Affordable Care Act, *Roe v. Wade*, LGBTQ rights, voting rights, and other key issues are uncertain.

## Key Health Care Issues Important to Voters in 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic  
Response

Affordability  
including Drug  
Pricing and Surprise  
Medical Bills

Health Equity and  
Racial Justice

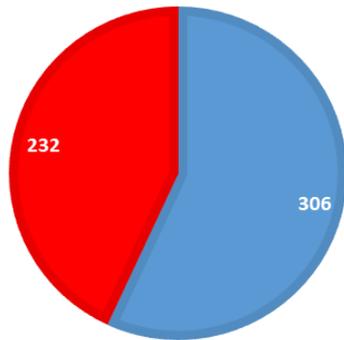
Future of the ACA



# 2020 Federal Elections: Results Reflect Split Electorate

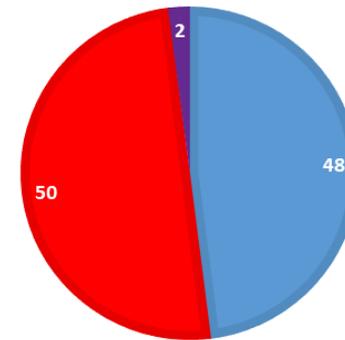
## Presidential (electoral votes)

■ Biden ■ Trump



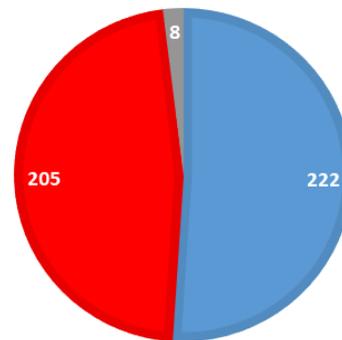
## Senate (total seats)

■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Runoff



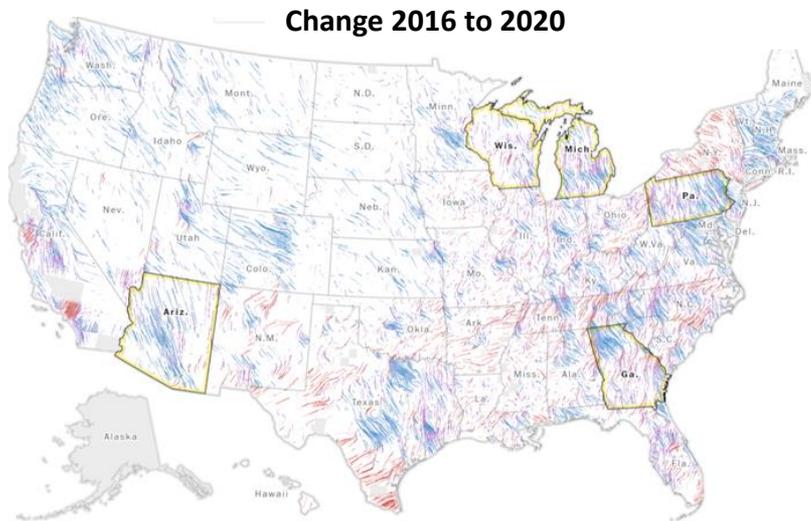
## House of Representatives

■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Uncalled



# Only a Slight Shift in “Political Winds”, But Enough for Biden Win

## Key Takeaways

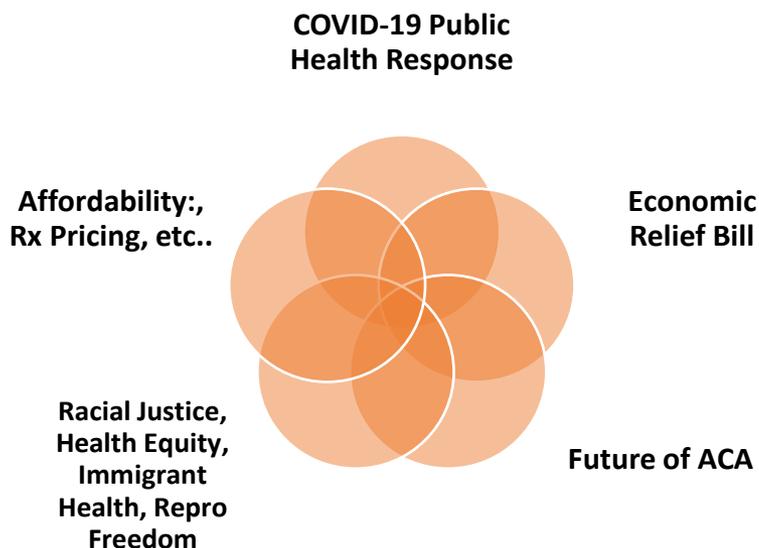


- Biggest turnout since 1900. Biden won by over 5 million votes, more than any other candidate in history and Trump increased his vote count by almost 9 million people.
- Trump solidified support among Republicans--many areas that swung right in 2016 stayed there
- People of color overwhelming supported Biden, but Trump made gains with people of color including Latinos, Asians, and Black men.
- Biden was able to pick up support with key demographics that supported Trump in 2016
  - Independents & moderates (particularly in suburbs) swung to Biden, a key in battlegrounds where they had swung right in 2016
  - Biden also swung middle income voters, Catholics & made critical gains with white men, white evangelicals, voters age 45-64 and 65+

# Implications for Federal Action on Health

## Health will Be Front-and-Center This Year

### Key Health Care Priorities for New Congress and Administration



### Other Key Issues Connected With Reforms:

Medicare oral health coverage, enrollment simplification, etc.

### Considerations for Advancing Health in 2021

- Nationally coordinated pandemic response and economic relief still top of the list of priorities. State Fiscal Relief?
- Senate dynamics will be central. Must be able to garner moderates like Manchin (D-WV), Murkowski (R-AK), and Collins (R-ME)
- ACA-SCOTUS Dynamics. Despite very strong legal arguments, politicization of SCOTUS means the future of the ACA hangs squarely in the balance. Incredibly important issue for Biden Administration – GA runoffs may have saved the ACA...
- Several key priorities such as rolling back harmful Medicaid waivers and Medicaid improvements, racial justice and health equity, protections for immigrant families, reproductive freedom, enrollment simplification, HIX affordability improvements, likely to be centered action
- Health care affordability still at the center of most voter's minds (Rs and Ds). Opportunities for action around Rx Pricing, private coverage and other affordability concerns remain in play on both Congressional and Administrative levels



# The Power of Narrative to Bridge the Divide