DRA National Fraud Survey
N = 3,000 Registered Voters
October 2026
Topline Results

QGVOTER. Thinking about all elections including school board, local, and primary elections, how many of them have you voted in over the past few years?

All of them	38%
Most of them	35%
About half of them	12%
Less than half of them	8%
None of them	6%
Don't Know	2%
Total All/Most	**73%**
Total Half/Less/None	**25%**

QVTINTGENERAL. And how likely are you to vote in the general election in November of 2026?

Extremely likely to vote	46%
Very likely to vote	13%
Somewhat likely to vote	9%
Not at all likely to vote	3%
Already voted	25%
Unsure	3%

SECTION: ISSUE PRIORITIES

Here are some issues that have made headlines in the media recently. For each one, rate how important or how high of a priority you think it ought to be for elected officials on a scale of zero to one hundred, with ONE HUNDRED meaning it is a TOP PRIORITY, and ZERO meaning it is NOT A PRIORITY AT ALL.

You can use any number on the scale, the higher the number, the higher priority or more urgent you see the issue.

	0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	UNSURE /DK	100
QPRIORITYBORDER. Making sure we are effectively enforcing our immigration laws	**11%**	**11%**	17%	19%	38%	5%	20%
QPRIORITYCOSTOFLIVING. Doing more to bring down the high cost of living	**1%**	**4%**	9%	15%	67%	3%	41%
QPRIORITYFP. Securing America's safety against international threats and its position on the world stage	**4%**	**7%**	15%	20%	50%	3%	26%
QPRIORITYCRIME. Making our communities safer	**3%**	**6%**	14%	22%	51%	3%	27%
QPRIORITYABORTION. Abortion and women's reproductive health issues	**12%**	**10%**	17%	19%	36%	5%	18%
QPRIORITYCULTURE. Social or cultural issues like the status of LGBT people in America	**26%**	**13%**	18%	17%	20%	7%	9%
QPRIORITYMEDFRAUD. Preventing fraud, waste, and payment errors in Medicaid and Medicare	**6%**	**7%**	16%	20%	47%	4%	24%

SECTION: MEDICAID & MEDICARE BASELINE

Next, we would like you to think about two government health programs.

QMEDRSH. Have you read, seen, or heard anything recently about fraud or improper payments in Medicaid or Medicare?

Yes, have read, seen, or heard about this recently	54%
No, have not read, seen, or heard about this recently	40%
Unsure	7%

Medicaid provides health coverage mainly for people with low incomes. Medicare provides health coverage mainly for people age 65 and older. “Improper payments” are government payments that should not have been made or were made for the wrong amount. They can be caused by paperwork or record-keeping mistakes, not only by fraud.

QMEDWASTESCALE. How much of the money spent on Medicaid and Medicare do you think is lost to improper payments?

A great deal	25%
A fair amount	42%
Not much	18%
Almost none	5%
Unsure	9%
Total Great/Fair	**67%**
Total Not Much/None	**24%**

QMEDRESPONSIBLE. Who do you think should be most responsible for making sure Medicaid and Medicare payments go only to people who are eligible?

The insurance companies that manage Medicaid and Medicare plans	29%
The federal government	29%
State governments	24%
Doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers	9%
Unsure	9%

How much do you trust each of the following to make sure Medicaid and Medicare money goes only to people who are eligible?

	Total Great /Fair	Total Not Much /None	A Great Deal	A Fair Amount	Not Much	Not At All	Unsure
QTRUSTFED. Federal government officials	**52%**	**45%**	18%	34%	29%	15%	4%
QTRUSTSTATE. State government officials	**57%**	**39%**	19%	38%	27%	12%	4%
QTRUSTTREASURER. State treasurers and state auditors	**58%**	**37%**	17%	41%	26%	11%	5%
QTRUSTIG. Inspectors general, the independent officials who investigate fraud inside government agencies	**70%**	**26%**	24%	45%	20%	7%	4%
QTRUSTCMS. The federal agency that runs Medicaid and Medicare	**59%**	**37%**	24%	35%	26%	11%	4%
QTRUSTGOV. Your state’s governor	**56%**	**39%**	20%	36%	24%	15%	4%
QTRUSTNONPROFIT. Nonprofit government watchdog groups	**59%**	**35%**	20%	38%	23%	12%	7%

SECTION: MEDICAID & MEDICARE DEATH RECORD CHECKS

QMEDICAIDDECEASED. Do you support or oppose stronger efforts to remove people who have died from Medicaid and Medicare enrollment lists, so that payments stop being made on their behalf?

Strongly support	62%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	4%
Unsure	6%
Total Support	**84%**
Total Oppose	**10%**

A 2025 audit by the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimated that state Medicaid programs made more than $207 million in monthly payments to insurance companies in a single year on behalf of enrollees who had already died.

QMEDICAIDDECEASEDINFORMED. Knowing this, do you support or oppose stronger efforts to remove people who have died from Medicaid enrollment lists?

Strongly support	60%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	5%
Unsure	6%
Total Support	**82%**
Total Oppose	**12%**

QMEDLAWB. Congress passed an Act in 2025 that requires states, starting in 2027, to check Medicaid enrollment lists against national death records at least every three months and stop payments for enrollees who have died. Do you support or oppose this requirement?

Strongly support	61%
Somewhat support	23%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	4%
Unsure	5%
Total Support	**84%**
Total Oppose	**12%**

Here are some specific steps that could be taken to make sure Medicaid and Medicare payments are not made on behalf of people who have died. For each one, please say whether you support or oppose it.

	Total Supp	Total Oppo	Str Supp	Smwt Supp	Smwt Oppo	Str Oppo	Unsure
QMECHQUARTERLY. Requiring states to check Medicaid enrollment lists against national death records every three months.	**85%**	**10%**	57%	28%	7%	3%	5%
QMECHFEDACCESS. Giving federal health agencies complete access to the Social Security Administration's death records.	**74%**	**19%**	43%	31%	12%	7%	7%
QMECHREALTIME. Requiring deaths to be reported to government agencies within days, instead of the six months or more it can take now.	**81%**	**13%**	52%	29%	9%	4%	6%
QMECHDATASHARE. Having state and federal agencies share death records with each other to keep enrollment lists up to date.	**85%**	**10%**	56%	29%	7%	3%	5%
QMECHRECOVER. Recovering money that was paid on behalf of enrollees after they died.	**78%**	**15%**	50%	28%	10%	6%	7%
QMECHMEDICARE. Applying the same death record checks to Medicare that are required for Medicaid.	**85%**	**10%**	57%	28%	6%	4%	6%

SECTION: TRADE-OFFS & MESSAGING

QMEDERRORCONCERN. How concerned are you that people who are alive and eligible could be removed from Medicaid or Medicare by mistake because of an error in death records?

Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	37%
Not too concerned	24%
Not at all concerned	7%
Unsure	3%
Total Concerned	**66%**
Total Not Concerned	**31%**

Here are some things people have said about checking Medicaid and Medicare enrollment lists against death records. For each one, please say how convincing it is to you.

	Total Conv	Total Not Conv	Very Conv	Smwt Conv	Not Too Conv	Not At All Conv	Unsure
QMSGTAXPAYER. Taxpayers work hard for their money. Every dollar paid on behalf of someone who has died is a dollar taken from taxpayers for nothing.	**80%**	**15%**	46%	34%	11%	4%	5%
QMSGINTEGRITY. Medicaid and Medicare only work if people trust them. Keeping enrollment lists accurate protects these programs for the people who depend on them.	**80%**	**15%**	42%	38%	11%	4%	5%
QMSGFAIRNESS. Money paid on behalf of people who have died is money that is not going to eligible patients, like seniors, children, and people with disabilities.	**80%**	**14%**	48%	33%	10%	4%	5%
QMSGOPPPRIVACY. Giving more government agencies access to death records and sharing them across agencies raises concerns about privacy and how that information is used.	**61%**	**34%**	24%	37%	22%	11%	5%

QMEDSAFEGUARDS. Suppose these death record checks required that people be notified before their coverage ends and have the right to appeal if they were removed by mistake. With these safeguards, would you support or oppose the checks?

Strongly support	48%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	3%
Unsure	7%
Total Support	**83%**
Total Oppose	**11%**

QMEDICAIDDECEASEDFINAL. Now that you have heard more, do you support or oppose stronger efforts to remove people who have died from Medicaid enrollment lists, so that payments stop being made on their behalf?

Strongly support	52%
Somewhat support	29%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	4%
Unsure	5%
Total Support	**81%**
Total Oppose	**13%**

SECTION: DEMOGRAPHICS

Now a few more questions for background and statistical purposes…

QDEMOAGE. What is your age?

18-24	8%
25-34	16%
35-44	16%
45-54	15%
55-64	16%
65+	28%

QDEMOGENDER. What is your current gender identity?

Male	48%
Female	52%

QDEMORACE. Is your race? Select the option that best describes you.

White	70%
Black or African American	11%
Hispanic	14%
Asian	4%
Other	2%
Total Non-White	**30%**

QPOLIVIEW. Thinking about yourself, how would you describe your own political views?

Nationalist Conservative	2%
Maga Conservative	12%
Traditional Conservative	17%
Moderate	36%
Liberal	18%
Progressive	4%
Democratic Socialist	9%
Unsure	2%

QDEMOPARTYID. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as (first ROTATE) a Republican, a Democrat, (THEN ROTATE) a Libertarian, a Green Party, an Independent or something else?

Strong Republican	25%
Not Strong Republican	11%
Lean Republican	7%
Lean Democrat	9%
Not Strong Democrat	11%
Strong Democrat	27%
Neither Party/Unsure	10%
Total Republican	**43%**
Total Democrat	**47%**

QDEMOWELFARE. Do you, a family member, or any close friends depend on government financial assistance?

Yes, I do	22%
Yes, one or more close family members do	13%
Yes, one or more close friends do	8%
No	57%

Q2024. Who did you vote for in the 2024 election for U.S. President?

Donald Trump	44%
Kamala Harris	44%
Another Party Candidate	3%
I did not vote in the 2024 Election	9%
Don’t Know	1%

QVOTETYPE. In most general elections, which answer best describes how you voted?

Straight Democratic	24%
Mostly Democratic	17%
A few more Democrats than Republicans	4%
About equally for both parties	8%
A few more Republicans than Democrats	4%
Mostly Republican	16%
Straight Republican	22%
Other	2%
Never voted	2%
Total More Republican	**42%**
Total More Democratic	**46%**

QDEMOEDUCATION. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

High School	29%
2 Yr/Some College/Tech	34%
4 Yr/Bachelor	27%
Post-Grad	10%

QDEMOHOMEOWNERRENTER. Which of the following best describes your current living situation?

Homeowner	59%
Renter	41%

QDEMOGEOTYPE. Would you consider the area where you live to be urban, suburban, or rural?

Urban	29%
Suburban	50%
Rural	21%

QDEMOINCOME. Which of the following income groups includes your total household income before taxes?

$30,000 Or Less	20%
$30,001 - $49,999	18%
$50,000 - $74,999	22%
$75,000 - $99,999	16%
$100,000 Or More	23%

QDEMOMARITALSTATUS. What is your marital status?

Single	54%
Married	46%

QDEMOCHILDREN. Do you have children 18 years of age or younger in your household?

Yes	29%
No	71%
