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Polling News & Notes

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • April 24, 2014

Even Skewed Polls Show ObamaCare Disapproval: Yesterday's New York Times/Kaiser Family Foundation polls in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and North Carolina have been rightly criticized for using samples heavily tilted to Democrats and for making little or no effort to screen out the unregistered or unlikely voters. Each state's sample had far more people who said they voted for President Barack Obama in 2012 than actually did. This was especially true in Louisiana and North Carolina, whose samples contained more Obama voters than Romney voters, even though both states went for Romney. As a result, the polls' claim Democratic Senate candidates are doing well against their Republican opponents is simply unreliable.

Even with the oversampling in Democrats' favor, the polls still showed dismal numbers for ObamaCare and lawmakers who support it. When asked, "do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?" only 30% of those in AR said they approve; 34% in KY; 33% in LA; and 39% in NC. Sixty-four percent of those in AR said they disapprove of the way Mr. Obama is handling health care; 59% in KY; 62% in LA; and 56% in NC. The numbers for the law itself were worse. A whopping 62% of those in AR said they disapprove of the law (47% strongly); 55% in KY (39% strongly); 59% in LA (46% strongly); and 54% in NC (39% strongly). Only 29% of those in AR said they approve of ObamaCare (13% strongly); 35% in KY (14% strongly); 34% in LA (18% strongly); and 38% in NC (19% strongly).

Why does this matter? According to these skewed polls, 52% of those in AR said they would not vote for a candidate who disagreed with them on the health care issue; 46% in KY; 58% in LA; and 53% in NC. Only 35% of those in AR; 39% in KY; 28% in LA; and 35% in NC said they would vote for a candidate who did not share their view on ObamaCare. If the numbers were this bad with samples that had disproportionate numbers of Obama voters, how bad is the situation really? Democratic candidates will find out in less than seven months.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?

Do you approve or disapprove of the health care law that was enacted in 2010?

