

*Research!America has been gauging public opinion on people's attitudes toward medical, health and scientific research since 1992. Results of our recent national poll show a high level of support and value for research conducted in both the public and private sector. These poll results indicate there is a belief that the United States should be a global leader in research and that increased investment in education and research is essential for the nation to remain competitive.*

## HEALTH RESEARCH IS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION ISSUE

Eighty-three percent of Americans say they are more likely to vote for a candidate if he or she is a strong supporter of increased funding for research to find cures for and to prevent disease [Figure 1]. Education and creating more jobs also top the list with 83%. Following close behind are reducing the budget deficit (81%) and homeland security (77%). Fewer Americans say they would be likely to vote for candidates who support increased funding for the war on terror (69%) and tax cuts (65%).

When specifically asked about the November election, 71% of Americans say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate if he or she is a strong supporter of federal spending for medical, health and scientific research.

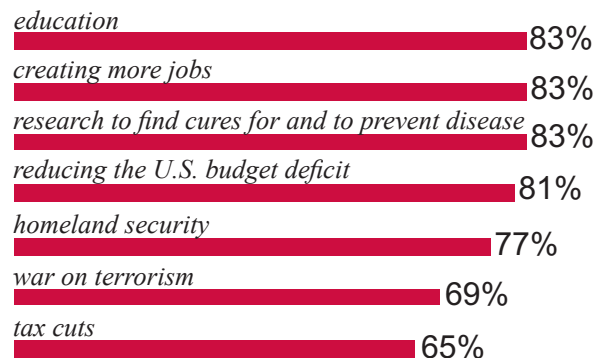
## AMERICANS SAY U.S. SHOULD LEAD

Research is clearly important to Americans. In fact, 93% say it is important that the U.S. is a global leader in scientific research [Figure 2]. However, 65% of Americans agree that the U.S. is losing its global competitive edge in innovation.

Americans are also concerned about how our students measure up in the world. A majority (56%) of Americans think the U.S. is performing poorly in math and science education compared to other nations, while 39% say our country is performing well. Of those, only 11% think the U.S. is performing very well [Figure 3, next page].

### Likelihood to Vote for a Candidate

Please tell me if you would be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for public office if he or she supported increased funding for the following:  
(% saying "more likely")

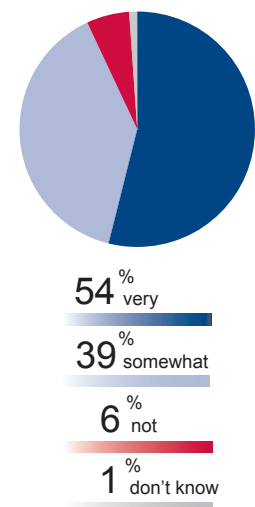


SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
Charlton Research Company for Research!America

Figure 1

### U.S. Should Be Global Leader in Scientific Research

How important do you think it is that the U.S. is a global leader in scientific research?

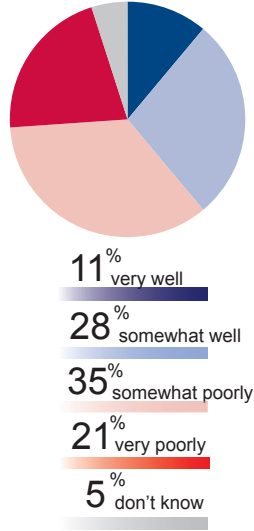


SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
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Figure 2

### U.S. Performance in Science and Math Education

Do you think the U.S. is performing well or performing poorly compared to other nations in terms of science and math education?



SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
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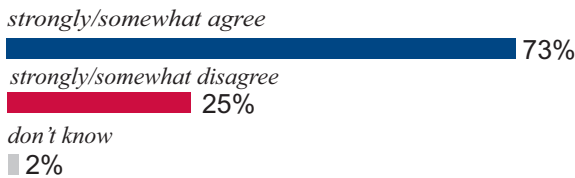
Figure 3

Three in four Americans (73%) think the federal government should invest much more *now* in science education and basic scientific research [Figure 4]. There is strong support for educating and training individuals to conduct medical, health and scientific research with 93% of Americans saying it is important. A majority of Americans (69%) also agree that basic research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

Americans also think private investment plays an important role in our nation's leadership in research enterprise since 73% support tax and regulatory incentives for industry conducting research and development to improve health [Figure 5].

### Strong Support for Science Education and Basic Research

The federal government should invest much more now in science education and basic scientific research.



SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
Charlton Research Company for Research!America

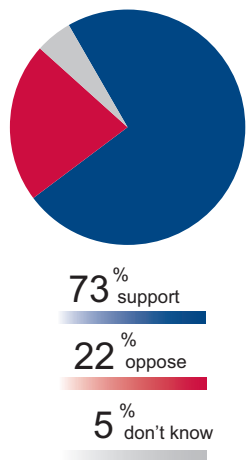
Figure 4

## AMERICANS WANT MORE TAX DOLLARS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

When asked about funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a majority of Americans (55%) say that increasing U.S. funding *now* is essential to our future health and economic prosperity [Figure 6]. Forty-one percent say that current U.S. funding is sufficient and other budget items are higher priorities now.

### Industry Should be Encouraged to Conduct More Research

Do you support or oppose tax and regulatory incentives for industry conducting research and development to improve health?



SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
Charlton Research Company for Research!America

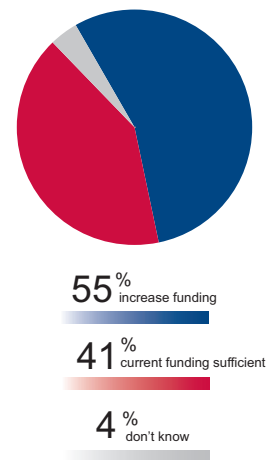
Figure 5

### Americans Want Increased Funding

Which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion about U.S. investment in medical and health research at the National Institutes of Health?

Some people say: Current U.S. funding for medical and health research is sufficient and other budget items are higher priorities now.

Other people say: Increasing U.S. funding for medical and health research now is essential to our future health and economic prosperity.



SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
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Figure 6

A majority of Americans (63%) oppose proposed cuts to the core programs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is charged with protecting the health and safety of Americans [Figure 7]. A third of those asked support the President's 2007 budget proposal that cuts funding for the CDC by 4% for the second year in a row.

Most Americans (79%) also support increased federal funding for state and local health departments across the country that are expected to prepare for and respond to threats to our health.

## GLOBAL HEALTH IS A PRIORITY FOR AMERICANS

Americans' support for research is not limited by our national boundaries. Twenty-seven percent of Americans say research to improve health around the world is a very high priority, and 40% say it is a somewhat high priority.

## AMERICANS SUPPORT EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH (ESCR)

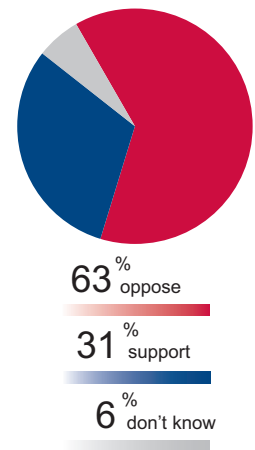
Sixty percent of Americans favor the use of embryonic stem cells in medical research. A majority of Americans (56%) also support federal funding for ESCR, including a full third (35%) who strongly favor the funding [Figure 8]. Consistent with these findings, 58% of Americans oppose the President's decision to veto the bill (H.R. 810) that would have allowed federally funded scientists to use leftover embryos from *in vitro* fertilization clinics for medical research [Figure 9].

Stem cell research is likely to be an important issue in the 2006 elections. Two-thirds (67%) of Americans say the issue of stem cell research will be important in determining how they vote in November.

### Americans Oppose Cuts to CDC Budget

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is charged with protecting the health and safety of Americans. The President has proposed to cut the CDC's core programs by about 4% for the second year in a row.

Do you support or oppose the President's 2007 budget proposal that cuts funding for the CDC by 4%?

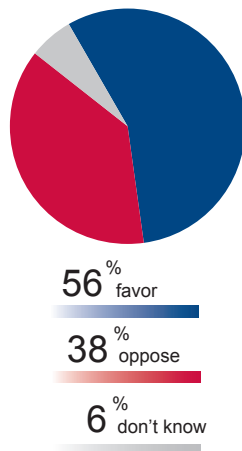


SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
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Figure 7

### Majority of Americans Favor Federal Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Do you favor or oppose federal funding for medical research using embryonic stem cell research?

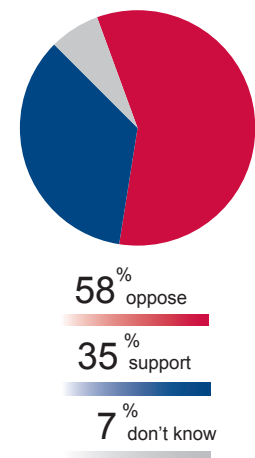


SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
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Figure 8

### Majority of Americans Oppose Veto of H.R. 810

Do you support or oppose the President's decision to veto the bill (H.R. 810) that would have allowed federally funded scientists to use leftover embryos from *in vitro* fertilization clinics for medical research?



SOURCE: Your Candidates—Your Health Survey, 2006  
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Figure 9

## METHODOLOGY

Research!America has been gauging public opinion on attitudes toward health-related research since 1992. Research!America recently partnered with the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation to commission a poll on Americans' attitudes about medical, health and scientific research as part of the *Your Candidates —Your Health* voter education initiative.

Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey using Random Digit Dial methodology among 800 adults nationwide. The sample was proportionate to the country's demographics, including geography, gender and ethnicity. The survey, fielded in August 2006, has a theoretical sampling error of  $\pm 3.5\%$ .

### ABOUT THE ALBERT AND MARY LASKER FOUNDATION

The Foundation's mission is to foster the prevention and treatment of disease and disability by honoring excellence in basic and clinical science, and through public education and research advocacy. The centerpiece activity of the Foundation is an annual awards program, which recognizes transforming achievements in basic and clinical research as well as significant public service in behalf of medical science. For more information, see [www.laskerfoundation.org](http://www.laskerfoundation.org).

### ABOUT RESEARCH!AMERICA

Research!America is the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. Founded in 1989, Research!America is supported by more than 500 member organizations that represent the voices of 125 million Americans. For more information, see [www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org).

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