

What do Voters Think about Single-payer Health Insurance?

The following question appeared on the ballot in ten districts in Massachusetts in November 2008: *Should the representative from this district be instructed to support legislation creating a cost-effective **single payer** health insurance system that is available to all residents, and oppose laws penalizing those who fail to obtain health insurance?* The chart below shows the total number of no and yes votes. Study the chart. Read the article on p. 29 and think about how would you vote. Round the numbers to the nearest thousand. Calculate the approximate ratios of no to yes votes. The first three are done for you.

DISTRICT	NO	ROUNDED TO NEAREST 1000	YES	ROUNDED TO NEAREST 1000	APPROX. RATIO OF NO/YES
1ST BARNSTABLE	6252		13341		1 : 2
4TH BARNSTABLE	6897		17262		7 : 17
BARNSTABLE, ET AL.	5702		15816		3 : 8
2ND FRANKLIN	4162		12471		
1ST HAMPSHIRE	4085		16395		
3RD HAMPSHIRE	2571		11437		
5TH MIDDLESEX	6263		11896		
12TH MIDDLESEX	4384		11556		
4TH PLYMOUTH	5312		15381		
10TH SUFFOLK	5221		10757		

Did You Know?

Congress is considering a law that would create single-payer health care. The House of Representatives bill 676 would extend and improve Medicare so that all U.S. residents would receive high quality and affordable health care. There would be no restrictions on what providers they could visit. If passed, the National Health Insurance Act would cover primary care, dental, mental health, prescription drugs, and long term care.

Find out what your congressperson thinks. Visit <www.congress.org> to find out who your congressperson is. Then go to <www.opencongress.org>. Is your congressperson an endorser?

Write a letter to your Representative and tell him or her how you feel about H.R. 676.