



Magellan Strategies

Colorado Ophthalmologist Survey of Registered Voters

Topline Results

Magellan Strategies are pleased to present the topline results of a live telephone and online survey of 742 registered voters from the state of Colorado. The interviews were conducted from April 11th - 13th, 2022. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.6% at the 95 percent confidence interval. The survey data was weighted to be representative of the voter registration demographics within the state of Colorado.

S1. To ensure we have a statistically representative sample, please verify that you are registered to vote in [Insert County], Colorado?

Yes..... 100%

T1. Thinking specifically now about you and your family's healthcare. From the following list of options, which aspect of healthcare is the most important to you?

- Overall Cost of Healthcare..... 32%
- Quality of Healthcare 32%
- Cost of Healthcare Insurance 18%
- Availability of Health Care Providers 9%
- Other Aspects of Healthcare Not Mentioned..... 8%
- Unsure or No Opinion..... 1%

T2. When it comes to the eye care needs for you and your family, would you say access to that care is readily available to you?

- Yes..... 77%
- No 18%
- Unsure or No Opinion..... 5%

T3. Do you or anyone in your household wear glasses or contact lenses?

- Yes..... 87%
- No 13%
- Unsure or No Opinion..... 0%

T4. Have you or someone in your household ever had surgery in or around the eye?

Yes..... 37%
No 62%
Prefer Not to Answer..... 1%

T5. In the past, have you or anyone in your household seen an optometrist, an ophthalmologist, or both for your eye care needs?

Both..... 41%
Optometrist..... 33%
Not Sure Which 10%
Neither 8%
Ophthalmologist..... 7%
Prefer Not to Answer..... 1%

T6. Current state law allows only ophthalmologists who are trained medical doctors and surgeons to perform any surgery that involves cutting human tissue on or close to the eye with a laser, scalpel, or other surgical instruments.

The Colorado legislature is currently considering changing the law to allow optometrists, who are not medical doctors or trained surgeons, to perform certain surgical procedures in and around the eye.

Knowing this information, do you support or oppose changing the state law to allow optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers, scalpels, or other surgical instruments?

Total Support 20%
Total Oppose 61%
Unsure or No Opinion..... 18%
Refused..... 1%

Strongly Support 8%
Somewhat Support..... 12%

Strongly Oppose 40%
Somewhat Oppose..... 21%



T7. Have you been contacted by your State Representative or State Senator informing you that this legislation is being considered?

Yes..... 1%
No 96%
Unsure or No Opinion..... 3%

T8. As I mentioned before, only licensed medical doctors and surgeons can perform surgery in and around the eye in Colorado. However, legislators are considering a proposal to allow optometrists to perform surgery on and around the eye. What do you think is the most important issue for legislators to take into account when considering this proposal?

Level of Education, Training, Experience of Person 72%
Safety and Risk of Eye Surgery..... 22%
Affordability of Eye Surgery 3%
Driving Time to Have Eye Surgery 1%
Unsure or No Opinion..... 2%
Refused..... 0%

I will now share with you information about changing the law to allow optometrists to perform surgeries with lasers, scalpels, and surgical instruments on or near the eye. After hearing the information, please tell me if you are more likely to support changing the law, more likely to oppose changing the law, or if the information makes no difference in your opinion. Let's get started.



T9. For an ophthalmologist to be certified to perform surgery, they must complete four years of medical school and at least an additional 4-year clinical and surgical residency before performing surgery on their own.

Optometrists do not go to medical school. Instead, they attend four years of optometry school where they complete a program studying general eye care, but with no required surgical residency training. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law?

Total More Likely to Support..... 15%
Total More Likely to Oppose..... 68%
No Difference 11%
Unsure or No Opinion, Refused..... 6%

Much More Likely to Support..... 5%
Somewhat More Likely to Support 10%

Much More Likely to Oppose 50%
Somewhat More Likely to Oppose 18%

T10. If the legislature changed the law and allowed optometrists to perform surgery, do you think an optometrist should be required to complete a clinical and surgical residency program after optometry school, like what is required for ophthalmologists?

Yes..... 87%
No 4%
Unsure or No Opinion..... 9%
Refused..... 0%



T11. Optometrists are not trained medical doctors or surgeons and are prohibited from performing surgery. However, if the Colorado legislature changes the law, optometrists could be certified to perform laser and scalpel surgeries in and around the eyes by just attending a 32-hour training course. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law?

Total More Likely to Support..... 12%
Total More Likely to Oppose..... 74%
No Difference 8%
Unsure or No Opinion, Refused..... 6%

Much More Likely to Support..... 3%
Somewhat More Likely to Support 9%

Much More Likely to Oppose 56%
Somewhat More Likely to Oppose 18%

T12. The Veterans Administration uses the services of both ophthalmologists and optometrists. However, the VA does not allow optometrists in any VA facility in the United States to perform any type of laser surgery in or around the eyes of their veteran patients. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law?

Total More Likely to Support..... 10%
Total More Likely to Oppose..... 55%
No Difference 26%
Unsure or No Opinion, Refused..... 9%

Much More Likely to Support..... 5%
Somewhat More Likely to Support 5%

Much More Likely to Oppose 41%
Somewhat More Likely to Oppose 14%



T13. If this legislation passes, it will create a two-tier system of patient safety for eye surgeries. In this system, some patients would have their eye surgery done by a medical doctor and trained eye surgeon, while others would have their surgery done by someone who is not a medical doctor and lacks the education and training of an eye surgeon. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law?

Total More Likely to Support..... 11%
Total More Likely to Oppose..... 69%
No Difference 13%
Unsure or No Opinion, Refused..... 7%

Much More Likely to Support..... 4%
Somewhat More Likely to Support 7%

Much More Likely to Oppose 54%
Somewhat More Likely to Oppose 15%

T14. Now that you have heard some information about this proposed legislation, do you support or oppose changing state law and allowing optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers, scalpels, or other surgical instruments?

Total Support 16%
Total Oppose 77%
Unsure or No Opinion..... 7%
Refused..... 0%

Strongly Support 5%
Somewhat Support..... 11%

Strongly Oppose 57%
Somewhat Oppose..... 20%

And now I have a few questions for statistical purposes only.

T15. Are you:

Female..... 51%
Male 48%
Identify Differently 1%



T16. Which of the following age groups applies to you?

18 to 34	30%
35 to 44	17%
45 to 54	15%
55 to 64	16%
65 or Older.....	22%

T17. Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with?

White or Caucasian	73%
Hispanic or Latino	10%
Black or African American	3%
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	2%
Native American or Alaska Native	1%
Two or More Races.....	2%
Other	1%
Prefer Not to Say.....	8%

T18. Are you married or single?

Married.....	54%
Single.....	42%
Prefer Not to Say.....	4%

T19. Last year, what was your total family income before taxes?

Less than \$25,000.....	8%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	16%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	13%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	10%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	7%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7%
More than \$200,000	8%
Prefer Not to Say.....	15%



T20. What is the highest level of school you have completed?

Did Not Complete High School	1%
High School Graduate, GED	6%
Technical, Vocational School Training.....	4%
Attended Some College, No Degree.....	15%
Associates Degree, Two-Year College	9%
Bachelor’s Degree, Four-Year College.....	36%
Masters, Ph.D., Other Professional Degree.....	22%
Prefer Not to Say	7%

T21. Are you registered to vote as an unaffiliated voter, a Democrat, a Republican, or are you registered with another party?

Unaffiliated.....	44%
Democrat.....	29%
Republican	25%
Other party	1%
Refused.....	1%

T22. How would you describe the area where you currently live?

Suburban Area	39%
City or Urban Area.....	35%
Small Town.....	12%
Rural Area.....	11%
Prefer Not to Say	3%

Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted by live dialing landline and cell phone sample and by sending an MMS text message to registered voters in Colorado. The survey response data was weighted to reflect the voter registration demographics for the state of Colorado. The interviews were conducted from April 11th - 13th, 2022. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.6% at the 95 percent confidence interval.

