

Survey Shows Physicians Divided as Presidential Election Nears

Pluralities support Obama, Democrats, but indecision remains

NORWALK, Conn., Sept. 7, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- As Election Day nears, American physicians find themselves almost as divided about which candidates to support as most other Americans, according to findings of the [Great American Physician Survey](#) by [Physicians Practice](#), America's leading business magazine for doctors. The groundbreaking study of physician attitudes on a wide variety of subjects, including politics, found that in state and federal elections below the presidential level, physicians favor Democrats by a very narrow 41-38 percent margin, with about one in five physicians undecided.

Now in its fourth year, the [Great American Physician Survey](#) gauges physicians' opinions on politics and policy, sheds light on their careers and personal lives, and measures their professional satisfaction. The survey of 866 physicians was taken online during a four-month period beginning in January.

The 2012 survey documents the [shifting work styles and preferences of U.S. physicians](#), away from private-practice partnership and toward employment, especially hospital employment. Fully 42 percent of respondents in 2012 said they are employed by a hospital or some other institution, up 11 percentage points since 2009. Meanwhile, a smaller portion of physicians (29 percent) than ever before claim they are owners or partners of a private practice.

Physicians are nervous about [what the future holds](#) and frustrated by a perceived lack of influence over the shape of those changes. For example, 45 percent believe that primary-care physicians "will be replaced" by nonphysician providers such as nurse practitioners within the next five years. Meanwhile, 82 percent characterized an assertion that physicians' views are well-represented in Washington as "mostly false" or "utterly false."

See the [full results](#) from the Great American Physician Survey only at *Physicians Practice*. Offering integrated print and online capabilities, *Physicians Practice* provides award-winning practice-management advice to more than 150,000 physicians and their practice administrators throughout the United States.

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