AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

Questionnaire Annotation

Conducted by: Alan Newman Research

Interviews: July 7-July 18, 2018

National Screening Criteria: Registered voter, age 50+, at least somewhat likely to vote in the November election

Average Survey Length: 19 minutes

Contact: 30% cell phone/70% landline

Sample Size: n=802

Margin of Error: +/- 3.5%

Weighting: All data have been weighted by education, race/ethnicity, age, gender, and census division according to AARP-provided Current Population Survey statistics.

<https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00243.002>

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

S0. Gender (DO NOT ASK.) Record respondent's gender.

%	n=802
46	Male
54	Female

S1. Have I reached you on a cell phone or a wired landline phone?

%	n=802
31	Cell phone
69	Wired landline phone

S2. Are you currently registered to vote?

%	n=802
100	Registered

S3. Respondent age group (coded based on birth year)

%	n=802
54	50-64
46	65+

Q1. How likely are you to vote this November in the elections for U.S. Congress and other offices – very likely, fairly likely, somewhat likely, or not that likely to vote?

%	n=802
86	Very likely
8	Fairly likely
6	Somewhat likely
0	Not that likely
0	Will not vote
1	Not sure

Q2. Which of the following ways best describes how you plan to vote in the 2018 mid-term election? (RANDOMIZE ITEMS)

%	n=802
60	I plan to vote at my polling place on election day
19	I plan to vote early
18	I plan to vote before election day by absentee ballot
3	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

- Q3a. For each of the following, please tell me whether you worry about this very often, somewhat often, from time to time or almost never? *How divided America and Americans have become*

%	n=802
49	Very often
24	Somewhat often
17	From time to time
10	Almost never worry
<1	Not sure

- Q3b. For each of the following, please tell me whether you worry about this very often, somewhat often, from time to time or almost never? *Prices rising faster than your income*

%	n=802
41	Very often
20	Somewhat often
20	From time to time
19	Almost never worry
1	Not sure

- Q3c. For each of the following, please tell me whether you worry about this very often, somewhat often, from time to time or almost never? *The threat of terrorism in our country today*

%	n=802
27	Very often
25	Somewhat often
29	From time to time
19	Almost never worry
1	Not sure

- Q3d. For each of the following, please tell me whether you worry about this very often, somewhat often, from time to time or almost never? *Not being able to afford the health care you need*

%	n=802
32	Very often
19	Somewhat often
17	From time to time
31	Almost never worry
1	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

Q3e. For each of the following, please tell me whether you worry about this very often, somewhat often, from time to time or almost never? *Having to take care of an aging family member*

%	n=802
17	Very often
12	Somewhat often
15	From time to time
52	Almost never worry
3	Not sure

Q3f. For each of the following, please tell me whether you worry about this very often, somewhat often, from time to time or almost never? *Not being able to retire when you want to, due to financial reasons*

%	n=802
24	Very often
14	Somewhat often
14	From time to time
44	Almost never worry
5	Not sure

Q4. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job President Donald Trump is doing?

%	n=802
45	Approve
50	Disapprove
5	Not sure

Q4a. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republicans in Congress are doing?

%	n=802
28	Approve
60	Disapprove
12	Not sure

Q4b. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democrats in Congress are doing?

%	n=802
29	Approve
57	Disapprove
14	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

- Q5a. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *lowering prescription drug costs*?

%	n=802
74	Very important
18	Somewhat important
6	Not very important
2	Not at all important
<1	Don't know

- Q5b. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *helping people save for retirement*?

%	n=802
51	Very important
30	Somewhat important
11	Not very important
6	Not at all important
2	Don't know

- Q5c. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *strengthening and reforming Social Security*?

%	n=802
75	Very important
17	Somewhat important
5	Not very important
1	Not at all important
2	Don't know

- Q5d. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *strengthening and reforming Medicare*?

%	n=802
70	Very important
18	Somewhat important
7	Not very important
3	Not at all important
2	Don't know

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

- Q5e. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *lowering healthcare costs*?

%	n=802
79	Very important
14	Somewhat important
4	Not very important
2	Not at all important
<1	Don't know

- Q5f. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *helping older people and the disabled live independently*?

%	n=802
65	Very important
26	Somewhat important
7	Not very important
2	Not at all important
<1	Don't know

- Q5g. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *improving our national security*?

%	n=802
64	Very important
23	Somewhat important
9	Not very important
3	Not at all important
1	Don't know

- Q5h. Now I'm going to mention some issues that voters might feel are important in helping them make their voting decisions this year. For you, how important are the candidates' positions on *supporting family caregivers*?

%	n=802
51	Very important
34	Somewhat important
10	Not very important
3	Not at all important
2	Don't know

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

- Q6. As you may know, people typically become eligible for health insurance through Medicare when they turn 65. Do you support or oppose giving some people between the ages of 50 and 64 the option to buy insurance through the Medicare program?

%	n=802
36	Strongly support
33	Somewhat support
10	Somewhat oppose
11	Strongly oppose
11	Not sure

- Q7. As you may know, people typically become eligible for health insurance through Medicare when they turn 65. Some in Congress have proposed a national health plan in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan, or Medicare-for-All. Do you think this proposal should be a part of the health care debate in congress or not?

%	n=802
56	Yes, it should be discussed and part of the health care debate in congress
31	No, it should not be considered as part of the health care debate in congress
13	Not sure

- Q8. Which of the following statements do you agree with more with regard to prescription drugs?

%	n=802
18	Government interference with pricing decisions by drug companies means fewer jobs, less drug research, and higher costs for everyone. If we want drug companies to develop the medications we need to cure and treat diseases, we have to keep Medicare out of the price-setting game
66	The taxpayers who work hard to fund Medicare can't keep paying more each year so that drug companies can run advertising campaigns and lobby in Washington. Letting Medicare negotiate lower drug prices will help put Medicare on stable financial ground and save seniors money on the medications they need to stay healthy
16	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

- Q9. Last year, Congress passed a law that required drug companies to contribute more to close the Medicare Part D coverage gap, also known as the “doughnut hole”. As a result, seniors with high out-of-pocket prescription drug costs are paying less for their medications. Some drug companies are asking Congress to reverse this law. Do you support or oppose requiring drug companies to contribute more to close the Medicare Part D coverage gap?

%	n=802
57	Strongly support
21	Somewhat support
6	Somewhat oppose
10	Strongly oppose
6	Not sure

- Q10. Current law prohibits insurance companies from charging those with pre-existing conditions more for their health coverage. Some want to repeal this provision of current law because they believe those with pre-existing conditions should pay more. Others believe it is unfair to make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care. Which statement do you agree with more?

%	n=802
84	It is unfair to make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care
12	People with pre-existing conditions should pay more for their health care
4	Not sure

- Q11. Current law allows insurance companies to charge up to three times more for health insurance for those over 50. Some in Congress have proposed increasing this to allow insurance companies to charge up to five times more for health insurance. Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

%	n=802
12	Older Americans use more health care and it is not fair to force younger people to shoulder a larger burden
83	Older people already pay more than younger people and increasing it from three to five times more would make insurance unaffordable for people who need it most
5	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

Q12. Thinking about America's tax system in our country, would you say it is fair or unfair?

%	n=802
24	Fair
68	Unfair
8	Not sure

Q13. As you may know, President Trump signed a new tax law into effect in early 2018 that includes changes to the tax system. Do you think you will personally receive a reduction in your taxes as a result of this new law?

%	n=802
25	Yes
55	No
21	Not sure

Q14. Do you think this new tax law will help you financially/hurt you financially (rotate) or have no effect on you financially?

%	n=802
16	Help a lot
6	Help a little
38	Hurt a little
14	Hurt a lot
15	No effect
11	Not sure

Q15. As you may know, the new tax law allowed for individuals to deduct their health care expenses if they exceed 7.5% of their income. Congress has to pass legislation to preserve the current deduction or many individuals could no longer qualify. Do you support or oppose congress taking action to allow individuals continue to deduct their health care expenses if they exceed 7.5% of their income?

%	n=802
51	Strongly support
28	Somewhat support
7	Somewhat oppose
4	Strongly oppose
9	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

- Q16. A family caregiver is someone who provides unpaid care for an adult loved one who is ill, frail, elderly, or has a disability. This unpaid care may include assisting with personal needs like bathing and dressing, household chores, meals, shopping, transportation, or managing finances or medical care. Are you currently a family caregiver, or providing UNPAID care to an adult loved one?

%	n=802
22	Yes, I currently provide care
78	No
<1	Not sure

- Q16a. Have you been an unpaid family caregiver at any time in the past?

%	n=473 (question added mid-field)
52	Yes, provided care in the past
48	No
0	Not sure

- Q17. (If Q16=no) How likely do you think it is that you will provide any caregiving or assistance on an unpaid basis for an adult loved one at some point in the future?

%	n=625
10	Extremely likely
13	Very likely
21	Somewhat likely
25	Not very likely
27	Not at all likely
4	Not sure

- Q18a. Now I'm going to ask if you support or oppose some proposals that would provide help for working family caregivers. Do you support or oppose ...? *Requiring employers to provide a limited amount of unpaid leave to employees who have to take time off for family caregiving purposes. [IF NECESSARY READ: The Family Medical Leave Act does provide for longer term, unpaid leave for persons to care for a family member who has a serious condition. The unpaid leave mentioned here is more limited in duration, such as only one day, and can be used for routine or emergency care needs, like medical appointments]?*

%	n=802
48	Support strongly
33	Support somewhat
7	Oppose somewhat
5	Oppose strongly
6	Not sure
1	Refused

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

Q18b. Now I'm going to ask if you support or oppose some proposals that would provide help for working family caregivers. Do you support or oppose ...? *Requiring employers to provide some paid leave to all employees that can be used for family caregiving purposes?*

%	n=802
47	Support strongly
30	Support somewhat
11	Oppose somewhat
6	Oppose strongly
6	Not sure
<1	Refused

Q18c. Now I'm going to ask if you support or oppose some proposals that would provide help for working family caregivers. Do you support or oppose ...? *Ensuring employers cannot fire an employee for taking time off for family caregiving purposes?*

%	n=802
67	Support strongly
20	Support somewhat
4	Oppose somewhat
4	Oppose strongly
4	Not sure
<1	Refused

Q18d. Now I'm going to ask if you support or oppose some proposals that would provide help for working family caregivers. Do you support or oppose ...? *Requiring employers to allow employees to use their existing sick leave for family caregiving purposes?*

%	n=802
61	Support strongly
25	Support somewhat
5	Oppose somewhat
6	Oppose strongly
3	Not sure
<1	Refused

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

Q19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *Stronger laws are needed to protect older workers from age discrimination.*

%	n=802
65	Strongly agree
23	Somewhat agree
5	Somewhat disagree
4	Strongly disagree
3	Not sure

Q20. The Supreme Court changed our nation's age discrimination law and made it harder to prove age discrimination than to prove other types of discrimination, for instance based on race or gender. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *Older Americans should be protected from age discrimination just as strongly as they are protected from discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin and religion.*

%	n=802
77	Strongly agree
18	Somewhat agree
2	Somewhat disagree
2	Strongly disagree
2	Not sure

Q21. Right now, there are discussions in Washington about putting in place a rule that would require professional financial advisors, when giving investment advice to people about retirement savings accounts, to give advice that is in the best interest of the account holders. Do you agree or disagree that the government should establish this type of rule?

%	n=802
47	Strongly agree
21	Somewhat agree
11	Somewhat disagree
12	Strongly disagree
9	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

Q22. As you may know, the Trump Administration recently imposed new tariffs on steel and aluminum imported into the United States. Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's decision to impose new tariffs on steel and aluminum imports?

%	n=802
24	Strongly approve
19	Somewhat approve
12	Somewhat disapprove
36	Strongly disapprove
9	Not sure

Q23. Which of the following ways would you prefer to hear from your Member of Congress about issues being discussed in Washington? (Multiple responses allowed)

%	n=802
40	Mail
14	Telephone
46	Email
28	Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
30	In-person events
22	Online events
23	Teletown halls
4	Other
7	Not sure

Q23a. Of the following ways, which one would you choose the most? (Skip if Q23=Not sure)

%	n=749
25	Mail
3	Telephone
30	Email
12	Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
13	In-person events
6	Online events
7	Teletown halls
4	Other
1	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

D1. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you...

%	n=802
47	Retired and not working
9	Retired and working at least part time
24	Employed full time
6	Employed part time
4	Not employed but looking for work
9	Not employed and not looking for work
1	Not sure

D2. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

%	n=802
<1	Grade school
2	Some high school
21	High school graduate
25	Some college, no degree
16	Vocational training/ 2-year college
19	4-year college/ bachelor's degree
3	Some postgraduate work, no degree
10	2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/ master's degree
3	Doctoral/ law degree
<1	Not sure/ refused

D3. Are you currently single and never married, unmarried and living with a partner, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

%	n=802
13	Single
3	Unmarried, living with partner
50	Married
2	Separated
13	Widowed
20	Divorced
<1	Other
<1	Not sure/ refused

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

D4. Are you (IF MARRIED ADD: or your spouse) a member of A-A-R-P?

%	n=802
43	Yes, AARP member
56	No, not AARP member
1	Not sure

D5. Do you currently have any health insurance coverage through Medicare?

%	n=802
55	Yes
45	No
1	Not sure

D6. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

%	n=802
7	Yes, Hispanic
92	No, not Hispanic
1	Not sure

D7. What is your race— white, black or African American, Asian, or something else?

%	n=802
80	White
10	Black/African American
3	Asian
2	Other
4	Other: Hispanic
1	Not sure

D8. Which of the following do you feel best describes your political perspective?

%	n=802
24	Liberal or progressive
32	Moderate
38	Conservative
6	Not sure

AARP 2018 Mid-Term Voter Issues Survey: Registered Likely Voters Age 50 and Older

D9. Do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?

%	n=802
28	Strong Democrat
8	Not very strong Democrat
11	Independent/ lean Democrat
8	Strictly Independent
10	Independent/ lean Republican
8	Not very strong Republican
23	Strong Republican
2	Other
2	Not sure/ nothing

D10. Finally, if you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home in 2017, would the total be ...?

%	n=802
6	Less than \$10,000
11	Between \$10,000 and \$20,000
12	Between \$20,000 and \$30,000
10	Between \$30,000 and \$40,000
10	Between \$40,000 and \$50,000
18	Between \$50,000 and \$75,000
9	Between \$75,000 and \$100,000
16	More than \$100,000
8	Not sure/ Refused

Re-contact survey question. (Question added after fielding end.) Do you support or oppose replacing the current health insurance system in the United States with a taxpayer-funded national plan like Medicare, which would cover all Americans? Is that...?

%	n=512 (64% of 802)
30	Strongly support
23	Somewhat support
16	Somewhat oppose
22	Strongly oppose
9	Not sure