VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Alabama Adults
Age 45 and Older, October 2021

Annotated Questionnaire

VITAL VOICES

Issues That Impact Alabama Adults Age 45 and Older

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For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Cassandra Cantave at CCantave@aarp.org.

Interviews were conducted with 734 Alabama residents age 45 and older between September 16, 2021 and October 3, 2021. All data have been weighted by age, gender, and race/ethnicity according to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey (CPS) statistics. Survey results have a 3.6% margin of error.

Hello, this is _____ calling from Alan Newman Research, a national opinion research firm. We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We are interested in your thoughts about issues of importance to you and people like you in Alabama. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. (Web: "We are interested in your thoughts about issues of importance to you and people like you in Alabama. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation.")

Screener

S1. Our study is interested in the opinions of certain age groups. Could you please tell me your age as of your last birthday? (IN YEARS) [RECORD AGE; TERMINATE IF UNDER AGE 45 OR REFUSED] (Web: "Our study is interested in the opinions of certain age groups. What is your age as of your last birthday?")

%	n=734
0	Under 45 [TERMINATE]
12	45-49
15	50-54
17	55-59
15	60-64
11	65-69
12	70-74
7	75-79
6	80-84
4	85+
0	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say") [TERMINATE]

S2. What is your 5-digit zip code? _____ [ENTER ZIP CODE; VERIFY MATCH – IF NOT A MATCH TO ALABAMA OR DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK FOR RESIDENT IN HH; TERMINATE IF NO ONE IN HH IS AGE 45+ RESIDENT OF ALABAMA] (Web: TERMINATE IF NOT A MATCH)

S4. Are you registered to vote in Alabama?

%	n=734
89	Yes
10	No
1	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

S5. Did you vote in the November 2020 election?

%	n=655
90	Yes
9	No
<1	Don't know (Web: "Don't recall")
1	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

S8. Do you plan on voting in the 2022 elections for Alabama's Senate, House of Representatives, and state offices including Governor?

%	n=734
82	Yes
8	No
9	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

Pr-E1. [ASK ALL] How do you plan on voting in the elections coming up in 2022? (READ LIST)

%	n=734
72	In-person on election day
8	By absentee ballot or mail-in ballot
4	In-person before election day
12	Don't know
5	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

S3. What is your current employment status? (READ LIST AS NEEDED TO CLARIFY)

%	n=734
7	Self-employed full-time
3	Self-employed part-time
20	Employed full-time
3	Employed part-time
6	Unemployed and looking for work
48	Retired and not working at all
14	Or are you not in the labor force for other reasons
1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

Health

I1. Next, I am going to read a list of issues, and I'd like you to please tell me how important each is to you, personally. Is [ITEM] extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you? [RANDOMIZE ORDER] (Web: "For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you, personally." [MATRIX LAYOUT])

n=734	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Having adequate health insurance coverage	63	31	5	1	1	<1	0
B. Having Medicare benefits available to you in the future	63	29	6	2	1	1	0
C. Staying mentally sharp	59	35	5	1	<1	1	<1
D. Staying physically healthy	55	37	6	1	<1	<1	<1
E. Paying for prescription drugs	49	34	12	2	2	1	<1
F. Paying for health care expenses, including premiums and co-pays	53	34	9	2	1	1	<1

Caregiving

CARE1. Are you currently providing unpaid help to a relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? This would include doing things for them such as grocery shopping, providing transportation, managing finances, arranging for healthcare or other services, or preparing meals.

%	n=734
28	Yes
71	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

CARE1_A. [IF CARE1≠Yes] Have you ever provided this type of unpaid help in the past?

%	n=528
45	Yes
54	No
1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

ADM-1. Adult guardianship is a process by which a judge appoints an individual to care for the well-being, and possibly finances, of another person who is unable to make decisions for him- or herself. Guardians, also known as conservators, can be family members, friends, or non-related professionals appointed by a judge. Do you currently serve as a guardian or conservator for someone who is unable to manage his or her own affairs?

%	n=734
11	Yes
89	No
<1	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

ADM-2. How likely is it that you will serve as a guardian or conservator for someone in the future? (READ LIST)

%	n=734
10	Extremely likely
11	Very likely
21	Somewhat likely
23	Not very likely
27	Not likely at all
8	Don't know (VOL)
0	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

ADM-4. Currently in Alabama, in cases where an individual has been declared incompetent, the law allows judges to appoint a guardian without looking for other options. How important do you think it is for Alabama to make a policy change to require judges to look at each case to see if other options are available so the individual can have input or make decisions about their care and finances when they are able? (READ LIST)

%	n=734
48	Extremely important
31	Very important
14	Somewhat important
2	Not very important
2	Not important at all
3	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

COVID-19

CVD-6. How worried are you about getting COVID-19 in the next year? (READ LIST)

%	n=734
13	Extremely worried
16	Very worried
29	Somewhat worried
21	Not very worried
19	Not at all worried
1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

CVD-14. Should nursing homes require all people who visit the nursing home to be vaccinated for COVID-19?

%	n=734
67	Yes
29	No
3	Don't know (Web: Do not include this response option)
1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Wealth

I1. Next, I am going to read a list of issues, and I'd like you to please tell me how important each is to you, personally. Is [ITEM] extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you? [RANDOMIZE ORDER] (Web: "For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you, personally." [MATRIX LAYOUT])

n=734	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
G. Having adequate Social Security benefits available to you in the future	61	31	4	1	1	1	0
H. Having good employment opportunities in your community	34	34	16	6	10	1	<1
I. Protection from age discrimination	41	32	18	5	4	1	0
J. Maintaining relevant job skills and experience	27	28	23	10	11	2	<1
K. [IF S3≠Retired and not working at all] Having enough income or savings to retire (n=385)	65	27	5	1	1	1	0
L. [IF S3=Employed (full-time, part-time), self-employed (full-time, part-time), or unemployed and looking for work] Being able to stop working for pay at the age you want (n=279)	47	32	14	3	3	1	<1
M. Protecting yourself against consumer fraud	52	35	10	2	1	1	0
N. Protecting yourself against unfair financial practices	51	36	10	2	1	1	0
O. Having online security	42	34	15	4	4	2	<1

Self

Q1. What do you think is the single most important problem or challenge facing mid-life or older adults as they age? [ENTER VERBATIM RESPONSE] (Web: Large text box, open-end) [CODED OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES]

%	n=734
29	Retirement/ Social Security/ finances/ cost-of-living
21	Access to healthcare (finding insurance, providers, etc.)
17	Health generally/ health problems
6	Economy
6	Healthcare cost (insurance cost, cost for services)
5	Government
4	COVID-19/ coronavirus/ pandemic
4	Prescription drug costs
2	Transportation
2	Employment
2	Assistance/ care at home
1	Loneliness/ social isolation
1	Staying involved/ connected/ contributing to society
1	Housing
<1	Not being respected/ accepted
<1	Climate change/ environment
<1	Keeping up with technology
<1	Racial justice
<1	Nursing home safety
6	Other
7	Don't know/ refused

Independent Living and Long-Term Care

I1. Next, I am going to read a list of issues, and I'd like you to please tell me how important each is to you, personally. Is [ITEM] extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you? [RANDOMIZE ORDER] (Web: "For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you, personally." [MATRIX LAYOUT])

n=734	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Not very important %	Not at all important %	Don't know %	Refused %
P. Staying in your own home as you get older	56	34	7	1	2	0	0
Q. Having high quality long-term care in your community	46	36	13	3	2	1	<1
R. Getting to the places you need to go independently	48	38	11	1	1	<1	<1
S. Caring for a loved one	53	32	8	3	3	2	0

Broadband

TECH2. About how often do you go online or use the Internet? This includes access from home, work, a mobile device such as a smartphone, or somewhere else. (READ LIST)

%	n=734
69	Several times a day
7	About once a day
7	A few times a week
4	A few times a month
2	Less often than a few times a month
11	Never
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH6. Thinking about all of the places where the Internet is available to you, even if you haven't actually used the Internet at these places— in which of the following places is access to the Internet available to you? (READ LIST) (Web: *"Please select all that apply."*) [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED FOR 1-7]

%	n=734
83	At home
56	At a library or school
43	At a coffee shop or business other than your workplace
34	At work
28	At a community center or senior center
24	At a place of worship
1	Somewhere else [SPECIFY]
5	None of the above
2	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH18. Do you have access to high-speed Internet in your home?

(IF NEEDED, READ: *High-speed Internet service includes cable Internet service, DSL, Fiber Optic, Satellite, and mobile data plans. Companies that provide these high-speed services include Comcast, Time Warner, Charter, Cox, AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon DSL, Verizon FIOS, Google Fiber, HughesNet, Viasat, Exede, T-Mobile, Sprint, Verizon Wireless, and AT&T Wireless.*)

(Web: Display on page: *“High-speed Internet service includes cable Internet service, DSL, Fiber Optic, Satellite, and mobile data plans. Companies that provide these high-speed services include Comcast, Time Warner, Charter, Cox, AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon DSL, Verizon FIOS, Google Fiber, HughesNet, Viasat, Exede, T-Mobile, Sprint, Verizon Wireless, and AT&T Wireless.”*)

%	n=734
79	Yes
18	No
3	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH18_1. [IF TECH18=Yes] Do you feel it's affordable?

%	n=578
67	Yes
29	No
5	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH18_2. [IF TECH18=No] Is the reason you do not have high-speed Internet at home because it is not affordable?

%	n=134
45	Yes
51	No
4	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH18_3. Do you have somewhere you can go in your community to access high-speed Internet easily, affordably, and privately?

%	n=734
50	Yes
29	No
21	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH8. [IF TECH18=Yes] Thinking again about your Internet connection at home, how often do you experience problems with the Internet connection, such as trouble connecting, disconnects, slow service, or other problems? (READ LIST)

%	n=578
5	Always
13	Often
28	Sometimes
43	Rarely
9	Never
2	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH9_1. [IF TECH18=Yes] Thinking about your Internet connection at home, in the past 12 months, how often has [ITEM] limited your use of the Internet at home? (READ LIST) [ROTATE ORDER]

n=578	Always %	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Cost of Internet access	3	7	16	18	53	3	<1
B. Quality of Internet access	4	12	24	37	22	2	<1

TECH10. [IF TECH2≠Never] In the past 12 months, when you needed help with using the Internet, where or to whom did you turn for answers? [CODE RESPONSE; MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED FOR 1-96]

%	n=651
24	Child/ grandchild
19	Service provider/ manufacturer
13	Spouse
11	Other family member
10	Friend
8	Online search
2	Neighbor
2	Co-worker
1	Other [SPECIFY]
28	Does not apply/ haven't needed help with the Internet in the past 12 months (VOL)
3	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

TECH16. Do you support or oppose the following policies that may be proposed in Alabama? (And is that strongly or somewhat?) (Web: Do not include “And is that strongly or somewhat?”) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=734	Strongly support %	Somewhat support %	Somewhat oppose %	Strongest oppose %	Don't know %	Refused %
E. State action to develop policies to plan for high-speed Internet activities in partnership with state government, providers, local nonprofits and the business community and establish proper procurement processes to ensure all interested entities receive fair treatment and equal opportunity to expand high-speed Internet services in Alabama	52	31	6	4	7	1

TECH15. The following are reasons why some people believe that high-speed Internet should be available to everyone. For each, please tell me whether you personally feel it's an important reason or not an important reason to invest in developing high-speed Internet across Alabama. (Phone: For first three items assigned, "as a reason to invest in developing high-speed Internet across Alabama" should also be read along with the statement, and re-read as needed for this series of questions.)

(Web: “The following are reasons why some people believe that high-speed Internet should be available to everyone. For each, do you personally feel it's an important reason or not an important reason to invest in developing high-speed Internet across Alabama?”) [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

n=734	Important %	Not important %	Don't know %	Refused %
A. Because rural communities in Alabama need it in order to thrive economically	89	7	4	<1
B. Because farmers and ranchers in Alabama need it in order to be competitive	83	11	6	1
C. Because low-income communities across Alabama need it in order to thrive economically	85	10	5	<1
D. To ensure older adults in Alabama, especially those with health challenges, aren't isolated from family and friends	91	6	2	1
E. To ensure people anywhere in Alabama can access educational resources such as online courses that would enable them to further their education	92	6	2	<1
F. Because businesses in Alabama need it to be competitive	83	12	4	<1
G. To ensure people in Alabama can access healthcare in a timely manner such as 24/7 online healthcare including video chats with doctors	90	7	3	<1

Demographics

D1. Other than a data plan on your cell phone, do you have high-speed Internet service at home such as cable Internet, DSL, FIOS, or satellite Internet service?

%	n=734
79	Yes
18	No
3	Don't know
0	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

D2. Have you or a family member ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES FOR 1-2]

%	n=734
22	Yes, I have
50	Yes, a family member has
33	No
1	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

Thank you for your time so far. I have just a few final questions for classification purposes. All of your responses will be completely confidential. (Web: Do not include)

LIVCOMM2. How would you describe where you live? Would you say you live in (an urban area, a suburban area, a small city, a town, or in a rural area)?

%	n=734
34	Rural area
23	Suburban area
19	Small city
13	Urban area
10	Town
1	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

D3. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? (CODE BELOW; READ TO CLARIFY IF NEEDED)

%	n=734
7	0 through 12 th grade (no diploma)
25	High school graduate (or equivalent)
5	Post- high school vocational or technical training
30	Some college (no degree), Associate's degree, 2-year college degree
19	College graduate (4-year degree)
2	Post-graduate study
13	Graduate or professional degrees (Master's degree/ PhD/ Law)
<1	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

D4. How do you identify your gender? (CODE BELOW; READ TO CLARIFY IF NEEDED)

%	n=734
53	Female
47	Male
0	Other gender identity [SPECIFY]
0	Don't know (VOL)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D5. What is your current marital status? (CODE BELOW; READ TO CLARIFY IF NEEDED)

%	n=734
50	Married
4	Living with a partner
15	Widowed
19	Divorced or separated
11	Never married
0	Don't know (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)
<1	Refused (VOL) (Web: Do not include this response option)

D6. [IF D5=Married or 'Not married, living with a partner'] Are you or your (spouse/partner) currently a member of AARP? [IF D5≠Married or 'Not married, living with a partner'] Are you currently a member of AARP?

%	n=734
26	Yes
72	No
2	Don't know
<1	Refused (Web: Do not include this response option)

D7. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino background?

%	n=734
2	Yes
97	No
<1	Don't know
1	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D8. Which of the following best describes your race? (READ LIST)

%	n=734
72	White
24	Black or African American
2	American Indian or Alaska Native
<1	Asian
0	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
<1	Some other race [SPECIFY]
1	Multi-race [SPECIFY]
1	Don't know (VOL)
1	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D9. In general, how would you describe your political views? Would you say you are conservative, moderate, liberal, or something else? (Web: "In general, how would you describe your political views?")

%	n=734
47	Conservative
29	Moderate
14	Liberal
1	Other [SPECIFY]
7	Don't know
3	Refused (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D10. Are you...? (READ LIST) [ROTATE ORDER]

%	n=734
28	Democrat
45	Republican
19	Independent
2	Progressive
<1	Other [SPECIFY] (VOL)
4	Don't know (VOL)
3	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

D11. What income range includes your household's total income from all sources in 2020? (READ LIST)

%	n=734
10	Less than \$10,000
18	\$10,000 to less than \$25,000
21	\$25,000 to less than \$50,000
18	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
10	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
9	\$100,000 to less than \$150,000
3	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
2	\$200,000 or more
9	Refused (VOL) (Web: "Prefer not to say")

Thank you very much for participating in this survey.