What The Economy Means To Colorado Voters 50+

Key findings from survey conducted July 2012 for

You've Earned a Vote for Retirement Security.

AARP
Methodology

- Statewide telephone survey conducted in Colorado July 10 to 16, 2012, among registered voters age 50 and over

Total sample sizes:

- 425 voters age 50 and over (MOE = 4.8 percentage points), including
  - 155 “Boomers” – non-retired voters age 50 to 64 (MOE = 7.9 percentage points)
  - 238 age 50+ Retired voters (MOE = 6.4 percentage points)
Overview

◆ Non-retired Boomers in Colorado feel great economic anxiety across party lines. This is reflected in a new “Anxiety Index” that measures their worries on such issues as prices rising faster than income, health expenses, and retirement security. They also feel that political gridlock negatively affects their economic circumstances.

◆ A major driver of economic anxiety is concern over retirement security: 71% believe they will have to delay retirement, 55% worry they won't have a comfortable retirement, and 49% don't think they'll ever be able to retire. This insecurity leads Boomers to conclude that Medicare and Social Security have become even more important for their future.
Overview (continued)

◆ This anxiety underscores the importance of strengthening Medicare and Social Security for current and future generations. Voters 50+ believe the next president and Congress will need to act to strengthen Medicare and Social Security for the future, and that both parties will have to come together to find a solution.

◆ 50+ voters in Colorado want to know where the candidates stand on Medicare, Social Security, and other vital issues. But they report that the candidates have done a poor job explaining their plans on priority issues, including strengthening Social Security (76%), strengthening Medicare (71%), reducing the budget deficit (76%), and taxes (62%).
Colorado 50+ Voters’ Financial Outlook: Dissatisfied & Anxious
Three In Four See National Economy In “Bad” Condition

How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days?

Colorado voters age 50/over

- Very good: 0%
- Good: 20%
- Very bad: 41%
- Bad: 77%
Colorado Voters 50+ Fairly Satisfied With Their Personal Financial Situation, Though Boomers Less So

How satisfied are you with your own financial situation today?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

63%
36%
19%
16%

76%
30%
23%
10%

Boomers
Retirees
However, Colorado Voters 50+ Are Worried About Reaching Financial Goals

Looking ahead to the next five years or so, how do you feel about being able to achieve your economic and financial goals?

- Hopeful/confident
- Worried/concerned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Hopeful/confident</th>
<th>Worried/concerned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boomers</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Colorado 50+ Voters’ Financial Worries

*Colorado voters age 50/over who say they worry very/somewhat often about each*

- Prices rising faster than my income: 60%
- Not having financial security in retirement: 52%
- Having to pay too much in taxes: 51%
- Having health expenses I cannot afford: 50%
- Not being able to retire when I want for financial reasons: 37%
- Having to take care of aging parent/relative: 34%
- Not being able to afford education for self/children: 22%
- Not being able to keep up with mortgage/rent: 21%
- Not being able to get full-time job with benefits: 20%
- Having more credit card debt than I can handle: 14%
Anxiety Index

For each one of the top five economic concerns about which they say they are worried, voters are assigned 20 points. A minimum score of 0 reflects no economic anxiety, while a maximum score of 100 indicates a great deal of economic anxiety.

The five components of the Anxiety Index are:

- “I am worried about…”
  - Prices rising faster than my income
  - Not having enough financial security in retirement
  - Having to pay too much in taxes
  - Not being able to retire when I want for financial reasons
  - Having health expenses I cannot afford
Components Of The Anxiety Index

Colorado voters who worry very/somewhat often about this:

- Not having financial security in retirement: 62% Boomers, 43% Retirees
- Not being able to retire when I want for financial reasons: 60% Boomers, 15% Retirees
- Prices rising faster than my income: 58% Boomers, 60% Retirees
- Having to pay too much in taxes: 57% Boomers, 47% Retirees
- Having health expenses I cannot afford: 57% Boomers, 45% Retirees

28% of Colorado Boomers are worried about not being able to find a full-time job with benefits.
Colorado Boomers Have Higher Rating On Anxiety Index

*Mean Anxiety Index Score*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boomers</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three In Four Colorado Boomers Expect To Delay Retirement

Do you think you will end up delaying your retirement to save more money in order to be able to live comfortably in retirement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boomers</th>
<th>Will probably have to delay retirement</th>
<th>Will not</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fewer Than Half Of Colorado Boomers Believe They Will Ever Be Able To Retire

How confident are you that you will be able to retire at some point?

Boomers

- 44% Very confident
- 21% Not at all confident
- 51% Just somewhat/not confident
Colorado Boomers Voice Little Confidence They Will Have Secure Retirement

*How confident are you that you will have enough money to live comfortably throughout your retirement years?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boomers</th>
<th>Retirees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confident</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very confident</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all confident</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just somewhat/not confident</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all confident</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Colorado 50+ Voters’ Satisfaction With Retirement Savings

*How satisfied are you with the amount of money you are saving or have saved for retirement?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boomers</th>
<th>Retirees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majority Of Colorado Boomers Plan To Rely On Social Security & Medicare Even More Due To Downturn

“As a result of the recent economic downturn, I am planning to rely even more on Social Security and Medicare to provide economic and health care security in retirement.”

Boomers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Agree**
  - Men: 57%
  - Women: 63%
  - Non-college graduates: 69%

*Among all Colorado voters 50+*
Colorado 50+ Voters
And The 2012 Election
Overview

◆ Colorado voters 50+ are searching for information, but candidates aren’t delivering.

◆ Social Security and Medicare remain voting issues of central importance to these voters because of their economic anxiety.

◆ Voters 50+ are looking for bipartisan solutions for strengthening Social Security and Medicare.
Colorado 50+ Voters Affected By Economic Downturn And Political Gridlock

My personal economic circumstances have been negatively affected by:

Economic Downturn of Past 4 Years

Political Gridlock in Washington

69%

38%

46%

Negatively affected:

- Some/a little
- A great deal
Low Approval For President Obama, Very Low For Congress

Job Approval of Barack Obama
**Colorado voters age 50/over**
- **Approve**: 40%
- **Disapprove**: 54%
- **Not sure**: 6%

Job Approval of Congress
**Colorado voters age 50/over**
- **Disapprove**: 87%
- **Approve**: 6%
- **Not sure**: 7%

Boomers
- **Approve**: 39%
- **Disapprove**: 56%
- **Not sure**: 5%

- **Disapprove**: 83%
- **Approve**: 9%
- **Not sure**: 8%
Colorado 50+ Voters’ Presidential Preference

Presidential Trial Heat
Voters age 50/over

- Barack Obama: 41% (includes 1% leaning Obama)
- Mitt Romney: 52% (includes 4% leaning Romney)
- Not sure: 7%

Net: +11
## Colorado 50+ Voters’ Presidential Preference, Among Key Subgroups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Obama voters</th>
<th>Romney voters</th>
<th>Differential: Obama – Romney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All voters age 50/over</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boomers</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence in Retirement:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confident</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>+11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not confident</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>-27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
50+ Voters Say It’s Hard To Find Objective, Reliable Information About Candidates

How easy/hard is it to find objective and reliable information about the record and positions of candidates running for office this November?

Colorado voters age 50/over

- Very easy: 12%
- Very hard: 35%
- Easy: 31%
- Hard: 60%

Hard to find reliable information:
- Obama voters: 56%
- Uncommitted: 65%
- Romney voters: 64%
Candidates Not Doing Good Job Explaining Their Plans For Addressing Key Problems

How good a job have the presidential candidates done explaining their plans on these issues?

- Strengthening/reforming Social Security: 76% (Not so good/poor job), 15% (Very/fairly good job)
- Reducing the budget deficit: 76% (Not so good/poor job), 16% (Very/fairly good job)
- Strengthening and reforming Medicare: 71% (Not so good/poor job), 21% (Very/fairly good job)
- Strengthening the economy/creating jobs: 66% (Not so good/poor job), 27% (Very/fairly good job)
- Improving public education: 65% (Not so good/poor job), 25% (Very/fairly good job)
- Taxes: 62% (Not so good/poor job), 30% (Very/fairly good job)
- Improving health care: 62% (Not so good/poor job), 28% (Very/fairly good job)
Limited Confidence In Social Security, Especially Among Boomers

How confident are you that Social Security will be there for you and for future generations?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident

Colorado Boomers

- Very confident: 32%
- Somewhat confident: 66%
- Not very confident: 10%
- Not at all confident: 12%

Colorado Retirees

- Very confident: 39%
- Somewhat confident: 58%
- Not very confident: 12%
- Not at all confident: 21%
Strengthening Social Security Is Critical For Economic Security

“Social Security is critical to the economic security of seniors.”

“The next president and Congress need to strengthen Social Security so that it is able to provide retirement security for future generations.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Total agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obama voters</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitted</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romney voters</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Obama voters</td>
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<td>68%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>76%</td>
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</table>

Colorado voters age 50/over

93% Strongly agree
76% Total agree
6% Disagree

90% Strongly agree
72% Total agree
6% Disagree
Broad Interest In Candidates’ Plans For Social Security

How helpful would learning the candidates’ plans on strengthening and reforming Social Security be in your presidential vote decision?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
<th>Fairly helpful</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Colorado voters age 50/over</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boomers</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Colorado Boomers Are Less Confident In Medicare’s Future

How confident are you that Medicare will be there for you and for future generations?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident

<table>
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<td>24%</td>
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Strong Commitment To Medicare Among 50+ Voters In Colorado

“Medicare is critical to maintaining the health of seniors.”

“"The next president and Congress need to strengthen Medicare so that it is able to provide health coverage in retirement for future generations.”

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<td>89%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voters age 50/over

91%

74%

8%

Voters age 50/over

89%

69%

8%

Obama voters

Uncommitted

Romney voters

Men

Women

Total agree

Strongly agree

Obama voters

87%

81%

Uncommitted

84%

65%

Romney voters

84%

60%

Men

87%

84%

Women

91%

87%

83%

91%
Broad Interest In Candidates’ Plans For Medicare

**How helpful would learning the candidates’ plans on strengthening and reforming Medicare be in your presidential vote decision?**

<table>
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<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Colorado 50+ Voters Looking For Bipartisan Solution For Social Security And Medicare

“Finding a long-term solution for Social Security and Medicare is too big a problem for either party to fix. Instead, Republicans and Democrats need to come together to find a solution to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for future generations.”
What The Economy Means To Colorado Voters 50+

Key findings from survey conducted July 2012 for