



## Background

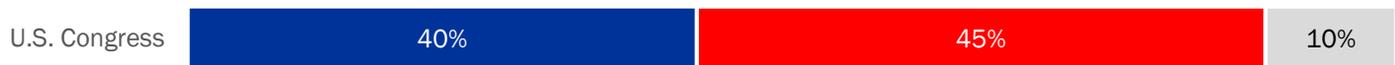
Americans over the age of 50 consistently show up more often to vote compared to younger voters. Given the influence this powerful voting bloc will likely have on the 2018 mid-term elections, AARP surveyed 626 voters age 50 and older in California's 48<sup>th</sup> Congressional District between September 7-20, 2018, to assess what would be on their minds when they cast their ballots this fall and which candidates they would be backing.<sup>i</sup>

Political divisiveness is a top concern with voters age 50+ (47%). While voters age 50+ are split on approval of the job President Trump is doing (44% approve and 45% disapprove), over half disapprove of the performance of Republicans (56%) and Democrats in Congress (59%).

## Candidate Support

If the election was being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?

■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Undecided



Party	U.S. Congress
Democrat	Harley Rouda
Republican	Dana Rohrabacher

## Key Electoral Issues

At least half of voters age 50+ in California CD-48 indicated that candidates' positions on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, addressing rising prescription drug costs, jobs and the economy, strengthening and reforming Medicare, and immigration policy were very important to them.



VOTERS AGE 50+ INDICATING VERY IMPORTANT (%)

## Economy

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**74%**

Although CD-48 voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (**56%**), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with three out of four (**74%**) feeling like they are not getting ahead.

**59%** say they often worry about prices rising faster than their income, and **62%** say candidates' positions on jobs and the economy are very important to them.

## Health Insurance

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**90%**

**90%** of voters age 50+ in California CD-48 think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **80%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

**77%** think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

**78%** don't agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

## Housing

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**66%**

**66%** of CD-48 voters age 50+ agree that elected officials should support legislation to increase the availability of affordable housing in California.

**61%** support building more housing across the state, and the majority would support building new housing in their communities and neighborhoods.

## Retirement Security

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**80%**

**80%** of voters age 50+ in California CD-48 think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **63%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

**52%** of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

## Prescription Drugs

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**66%**

Most voters age 50+ (**66%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

**84%** think it should be legal to import prescription drugs from Canada and Europe, and **54%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

**67%** think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

## Caregiving

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**87%**

**87%** of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

**51%** of California CD-48 voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.



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<sup>i</sup> Full methodology report and survey instrument at [aarp.org/2018StateVoterSurveys](http://aarp.org/2018StateVoterSurveys) For more information, contact Kate Bridges at [kbridges@aarp.org](mailto:kbridges@aarp.org)