



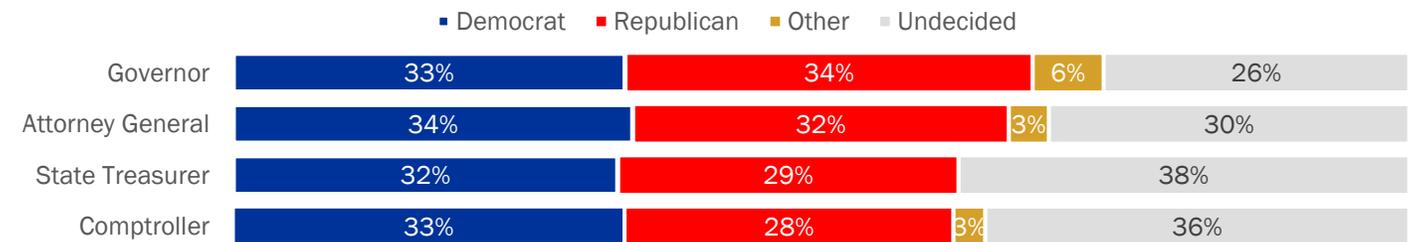
Background

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 807 voters age 50 and older in Connecticut between September 12-20, 2018, to assess what would be on their minds when they cast their ballots this fall and which candidates they would be backing.¹

Political divisiveness is a top concern with voters age 50+ (48%). About half disapprove of the performance of the Democrats (48%) and Republicans (56%) in Congress, and 53% disapprove of the job President Trump is doing. While many voters age 50+ (43%) generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger, this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with eight in ten (81%) feeling like they are not getting ahead.

Candidate Support

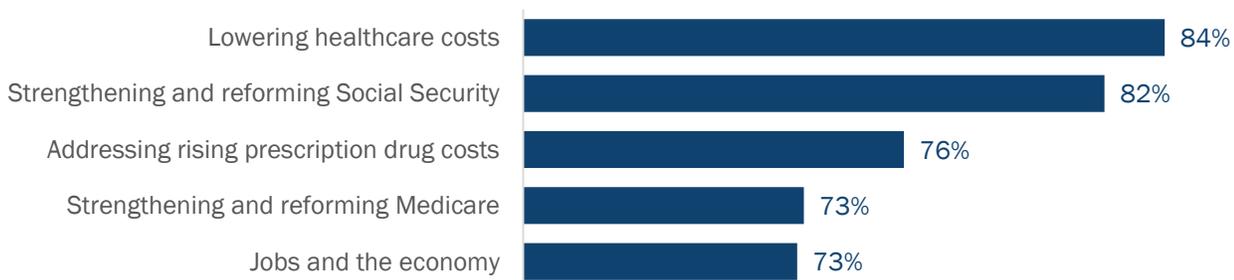
If the election was being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?



Party	Governor	Atty. General	State Treasurer	Comptroller
Democrat	Ned Lamont	William Tong	Shawn Wooden	Kevin Lembo
Republican	Bob Stephanowski	Susan Hatfield	Thad Gray	Kurt Miller
Other	Rod Hanscomb Oz Griebel	Peter Goselin		Ed Heflin

Key Electoral Issues

At least seven in ten voters age 50+ in Connecticut indicated that candidates' positions on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, addressing rising prescription drug costs, strengthening and reforming Medicare, and jobs and the economy were very important to them.



VOTERS AGE 50+ INDICATING VERY IMPORTANT (%)

Retirement Security

87%

87% of voters age 50+ in Connecticut think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **74%** believe the government should do something immediately to strengthen Social Security.

61% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

77% think it is important for the next administration to work to get the Connecticut Retirement Security program started so more workers have a way to save for retirement.

Prescription Drugs

79%

79% of voters 50+ think it should be legal to import prescription drugs from Canada and Europe, and **58%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

71% are concerned about heroin and opioid abuse in Connecticut.

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

Health Insurance

94%

94% of voters age 50+ in Connecticut think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **87%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

83% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

86% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Caregiving

84%

84% of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they have been caregivers, and **85%** support providing paid leave to employees who take time off for family caregiving.

50% of Connecticut voters age 50+ have provided unpaid care for an adult loved one, and one in five have left a job to provide care. **58%** of these caregivers believe that taking this time off impacted their ability to save for retirement.

80% would choose home care over assisted living or nursing home care if an older loved one needed long-term care.

76% support shifting some of the state's long-term care funds so more is spent on home care and less on institutional care.



ⁱ Full methodology report and survey instrument at aarp.org/2018StateVoterSurveys
For more information, contact Kate Bridges at kbridges@aarp.org