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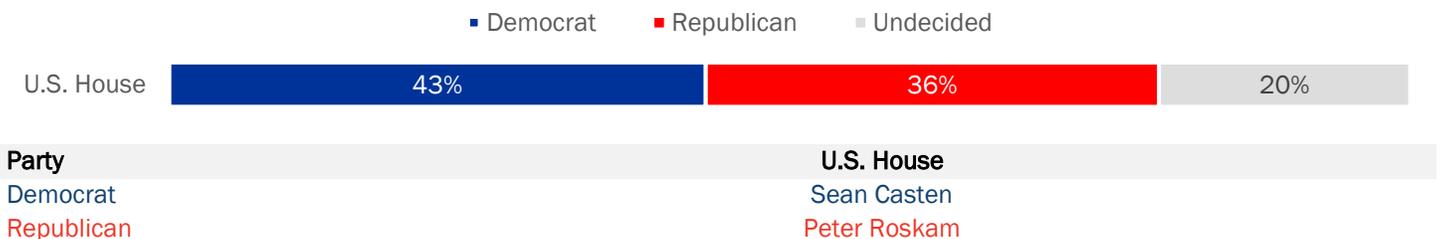
Americans over the age of 50 consistently show up more often to vote compared to younger voters. Given the influence this powerful voting bloc will likely have on the 2018 mid-term elections, AARP surveyed 618 voters in Illinois' 6th Congressional District age 50 and older between September 7-17, 2018, to assess what would be on their minds when they cast their ballots this fall and which candidates they would be backing.ⁱ

Political divisiveness is a top concern with voters age 50+ in Illinois CD-6 (45%). About half disapprove of the job performances of Republicans (55%) and Democrats (53%) in Congress, as well as President Trump (54%).

While many voters age 50+ (47%) see the U.S. economy getting stronger, 68% say Illinois' economy is getting weaker and 75% feel like they are not getting ahead. In fact, 59% of voters 50+ think raising tariffs on aluminum, steel, and other imports will hurt Illinois' economy, and they are four times more likely (66%) to support the government pursuing more free-trade agreements to open additional markets than they are to support the government pursuing tariffs against competing products from other countries (16%).

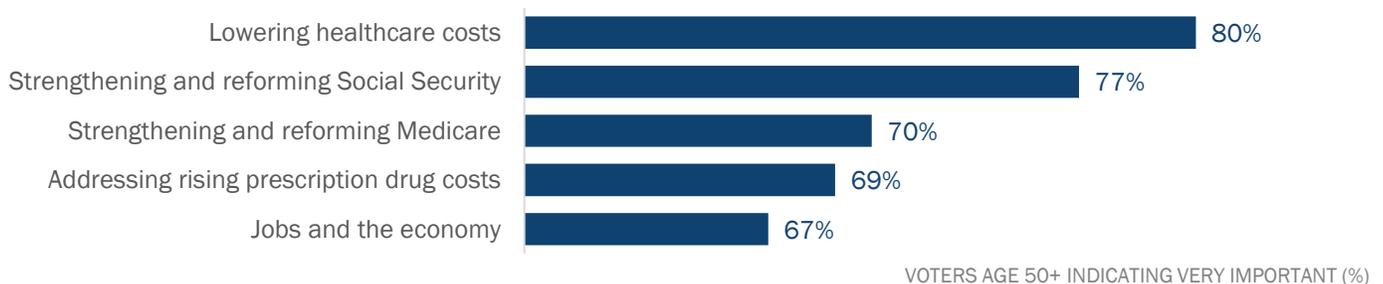
Candidate Support

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



Key Electoral Issues

At least two-thirds of voters age 50+ in Illinois CD-6 indicated that candidates' positions on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, strengthening and reforming Medicare, addressing rising prescription drug costs, and jobs and the economy were very important to them.



Health Insurance

92%

92% of voters age 50+ in Illinois CD-6 think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **85%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

86% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

83% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Prescription Drugs

69%

Most voters age 50+ (**69%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

82% support importation of prescription drugs from Canada and Europe, and **52%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

56% are concerned about heroin and opioid abuse in Illinois.

68% think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

Retirement Security

81%

81% of voters age 50+ in Illinois CD-6 think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **69%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

56% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Caregiving

88%

88% of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

47% of Illinois CD-6 voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.



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