

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 616 voters age 50 and older in Iowa's 1st Congressional District between September 7-19, 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+ (42%). About half disapprove of the job performances of Republicans (58%) and Democrats in Congress (47%), as well as President Trump (51%).

Candidate Support

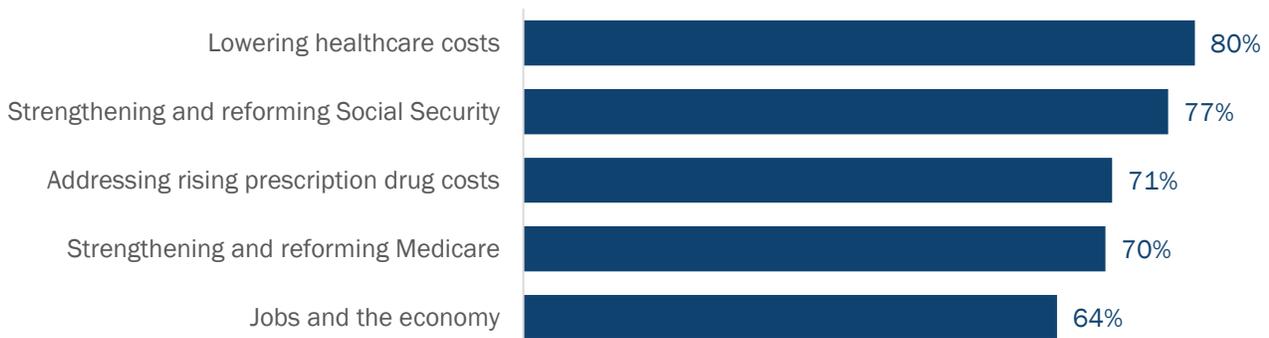
If the election was being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?



Party	U.S. Congress
Democrat	Abby Finkenaur
Republican	Rod Blum
Libertarian	Troy Hageman
Green Party	Henry Gaff

Key Electoral Issues

The majority of voters age 50+ in Iowa CD-1 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 (%)

While many voters age 50+ in Iowa's 1st District view the U.S. economy as getting stronger (40%), only about a quarter (27%) think Iowa's economy is doing so. In fact, 63% think raising tariffs on aluminum, steel, and other imports will hurt Iowa's economy, and 50+ voters 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 other countries (15%). Still, 50% support Trump's plan to provide \$12B in relief funds to farmers and ranchers affected by the recent tariffs.

Health Insurance

92%

92% of voters age 50+ in Iowa CD-1 think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **83%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

Voters 50+ are divided on their opinion of the ACA (41% favorable and 35% unfavorable), but **83%** think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care, and **78%** do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Prescription Drugs

71%

Most voters age 50+ (**71%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

79% support importation of prescription drugs, and **53%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

52% are concerned about heroin and opioid abuse in Iowa.

65% think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

Retirement Security

83%

83% of voters age 50+ in Iowa CD-1 think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **65%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

Three out of four 50+ voters (**77%**) feel like they are not getting ahead, and **67%** worry about prices rising faster than their income.

30% of retired voters are not confident they have saved enough for their retirement, and **56%** of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Caregiving

71%

71% of voters age 50+ would prefer home care over assisted living or nursing home care if a family member needed long-term care.

63% oppose continuation of Medicaid privatization in Iowa which has led to a loss of services for some seniors and people with disabilities.

48% of Iowa CD-1 voters age 50+ have provided unpaid care for an adult loved one, and **83%** of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.



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