



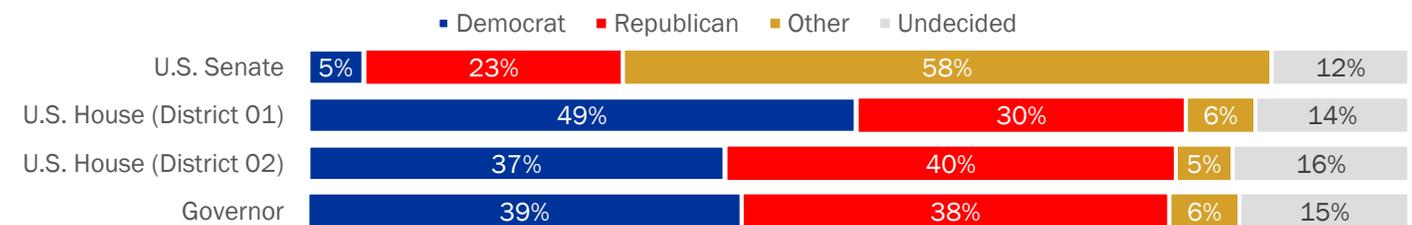
Background

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 804 voters in Maine age 50 and older between August 16-26, 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+ (52%), and most disapprove of the job performances of both Republicans (61%) and Democrats (58%) in Congress, as well as President Trump (53%). While many Maine voters age 50+ see the U.S. economy getting stronger (48%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with more than eight in ten feeling like they are not getting ahead.

Candidate Support

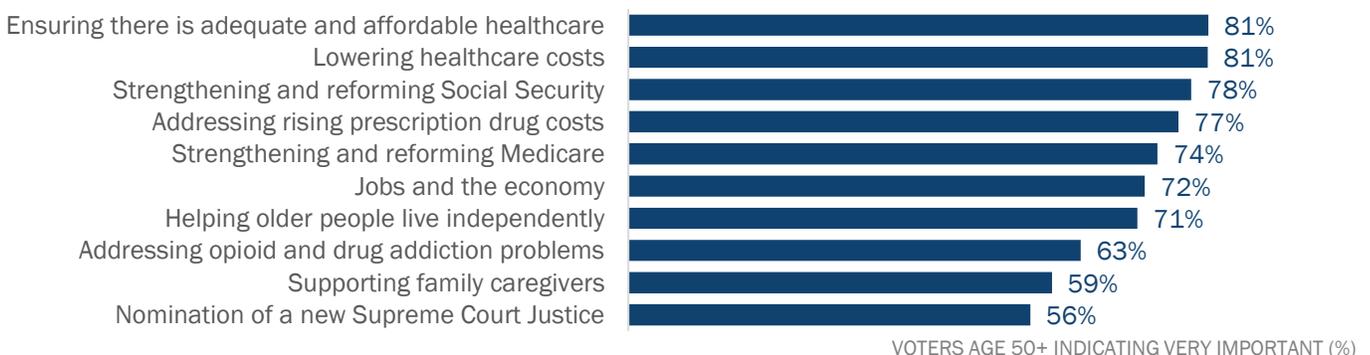
If the election was being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?



Party	U.S. Senate	U.S. House	Governor
Democrat	Zak Ringlestein	Chellie Pingree (District 01); Jared Golden (District 02)	Janet Mills
Republican	Eric Brakey	Mark Holbrook (District 01); Bruce Poliquin (District 02)	Shawn Moody
Other/Independent	Angus King Chris Lyons	Marty Grohman (District 01); Tiffany Bond (District 02); Will Hoar (District 02)	Alan Caron Terry Hayes

Key Electoral Issues

Among voters age 50+ in Maine, 70% or more indicated that candidates' positions on ensuring there is adequate and affordable healthcare in Maine, lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, addressing rising prescription drug costs, strengthening and reforming Medicare, jobs and the economy, and helping older people live independently were very important to them.



VOTERS AGE 50+ INDICATING VERY IMPORTANT (%)

Health Insurance

95%

95% of voters age 50+ in Maine think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **97%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

82% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

80% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Prescription Drugs

77%

Most voters age 50+ (**77%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them, and **75%** think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

86% support importation of prescriptions drugs, **81%** support allowing Medicare to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs, and **50%** strongly support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market.

Retirement Security

90%

90% of voters age 50+ in Maine think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **68%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

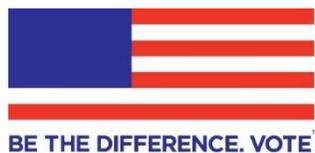
48% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Age-Friendly Communities

71%

71% of voters age 50+ say candidates' positions on helping older people live independently are very important in deciding who to vote for in the election.

66% say it is very important to them that candidates running for office will work to ensure communities in Maine are more livable for their residents.



ⁱ Full methodology report and questionnaire at aarp.org/2018StateVoterSurveys
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