



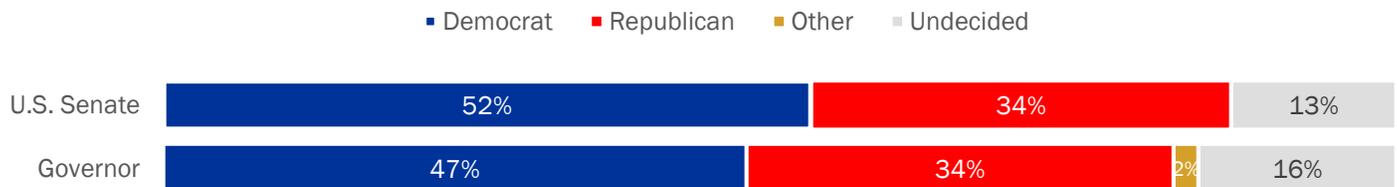
Background

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 in Michigan age 50 and older between August 21-28, 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+ (42%). Most disapprove of the job performances of both Republicans (60%) and Democrats (51%) in Congress, and 50% disapprove of the job President Trump is doing. While many voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (44%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security, with three in four (76%) 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	Governor
Democrat	Debbie Stabenow	Gretchen Whitmer
Republican	John James	Bill Schuette
Other/Independent	---	Bill Gelineau

Key Electoral Issues

At least half of the voters age 50+ in Michigan indicated that candidates' positions on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, addressing rising prescription drug costs, strengthening and reforming Medicare, jobs and the economy, addressing opioid and drug addiction problems, and helping older people live independently were very important to them.



Health Insurance

92%

92% of voters age 50+ in Michigan think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **87%** were able to identify one or more changes they think Congress should make to put the program on stable ground for the future.

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

81% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Prescription Drugs

80%

Most voters age 50+ (**80%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them, and **64%** think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

74% support importation of prescription drugs, and **53%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market.

Retirement Security

86%

86% of voters age 50+ in Michigan think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **70%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

57% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Caregiving

82%

82% of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

55% of Michigan 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