



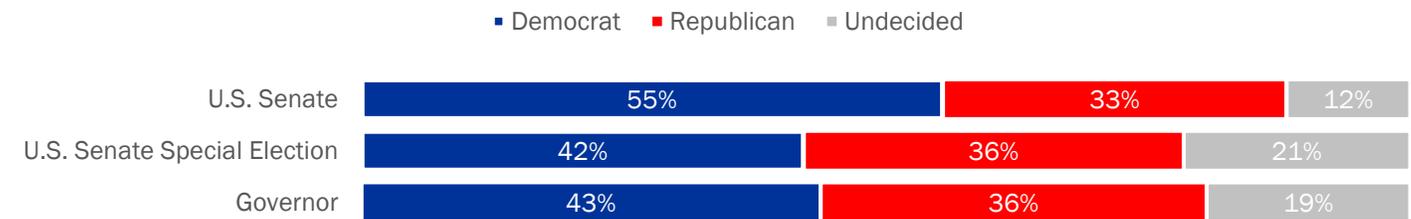
## Background

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 808 voters in Minnesota age 50 and older between August 21-29, 2018, to assess what would be on their minds when they cast their ballots this fall and which candidates they would be backing.<sup>1</sup>

Political divisiveness is a top concern with voters age 50+ (44%), and about half disapprove of the job performances of both Republicans (56%) and Democrats (52%) in Congress, as well as President Trump (51%). While voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (47%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with more than seven in ten feeling like they are not getting ahead.

## Candidate Support

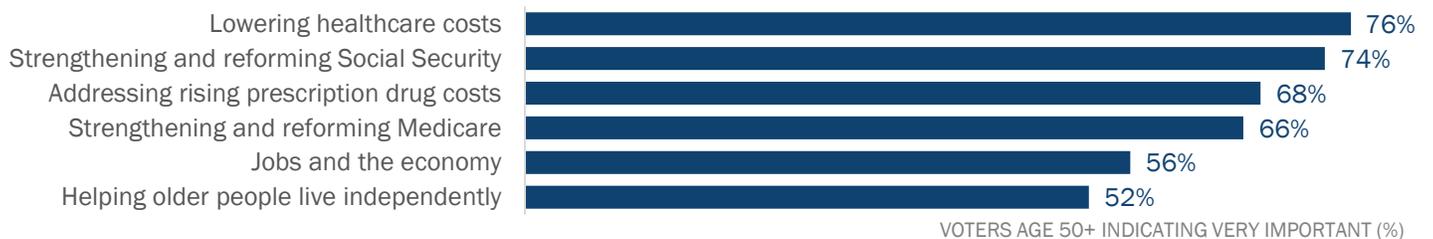
If the election was being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?



Party	U.S. Senate	U.S. Senate Special Election	Governor
Democrat	Amy Klobuchar	Tina Smith	Tim Walz
Republican	Jim Newberger	Karin Housley	Jeff Johnson

## Key Electoral Issues

At least half of the voters age 50+ in Minnesota 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, and helping older people live independently were very important to them.



## Health Insurance

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**92%**

**92%** of voters age 50+ in Minnesota think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **86%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

**81%** think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

**82%** do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

## Prescription Drugs

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**80%**

Most voters age 50+ (**80%**) worry about the cost of prescription drugs and think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress (**67%**).

**87%** support importation of prescription drugs, and **63%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market. **83%** say it is extremely or very important to them that elected officials support efforts to ensure that prescription drugs and health coverage, including public programs such as MinnesotaCare, are accessible and affordable to Minnesota residents.

## Retirement Security

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**82%**

**82%** of voters age 50+ in Minnesota 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.

**54%** of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

**75%** agree elected officials in Minnesota should support legislation that makes it easier for workers to save their own money for retirement so they can take care of themselves in their later years.

## Caregiving

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**80%**

**80%** of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

**46%** of Minnesota voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

**82%** support legislation to expand public oversight of assisted living facilities to ensure consumer protection and quality care.



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<sup>i</sup> Full methodology report and survey instrument at [aarp.org/2018StateVoterSurveys](http://aarp.org/2018StateVoterSurveys)