



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 348 Black/African American voters age 50 and older in Missouri between August 23-September 1, 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 Missouri's Black/African American voters age 50+ (51%). One-third disapproves of the job performance of Democrats in Congress (33%), and a majority disapproves of the job performance of Republicans in Congress (77%) and President Trump (83%). Only one in five of Missouri's Black/African American voters age 50+ see the U.S. economy getting stronger (21%), and most worry about prices rising faster than their incomes (71%) and feel as if they are not getting ahead in their own personal financial situation (85%).

Candidate Support

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

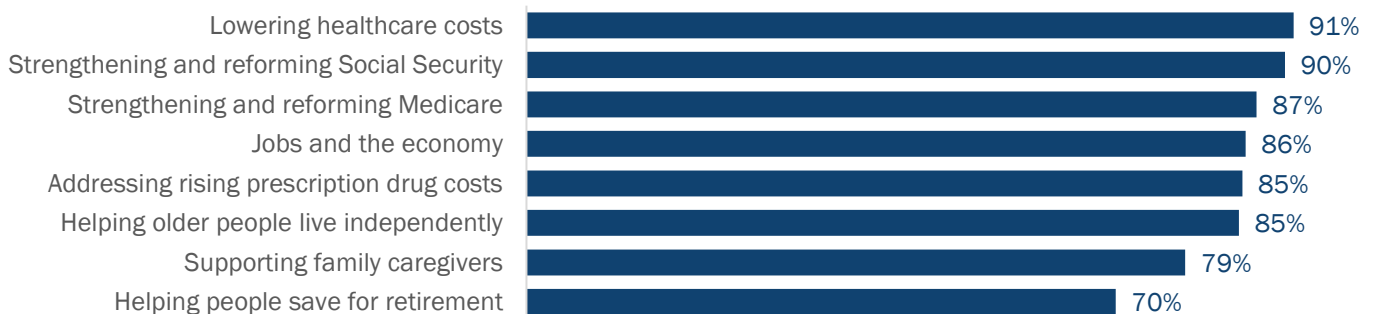
■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Other ■ Undecided



Party	U.S. Senate
Democrat	Claire McCaskill
Republican	Josh Hawley
Other/Independent	Other

Key Electoral Issues

At least seven in ten Black/African American voters age 50+ in Missouri indicated that candidates' positions on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, strengthening and reforming Medicare, jobs and the economy, addressing rising prescription drug costs, helping older people live independently, supporting family caregivers, and helping people save for retirement were very important to them.



VOTERS AGE 50+ INDICATING VERY IMPORTANT (%)

Health Insurance

95%

95% of Black/African American voters age 50+ in Missouri think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **91%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

84% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care, and **76%** do not agree with letting insurance companies charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

90% support the state expanding the Medicaid program so people ages 50-64 who do not have insurance through their jobs or have lost a job can get the care they need.

Prescription Drugs

78%

78% of Black/African American Missouri voters age 50+ are extremely or very concerned about the cost of prescription drugs, and **94%** say it is extremely or very important to them that elected officials support efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable

68% think it should be legal to import prescription drugs from Canada and Europe, and **45%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

70% believe drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

Retirement Security

89%

89% of Black/African American voters age 50+ in Missouri think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **78%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

61% of working Black/African American Missourians age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Caregiving

91%

91% of Missouri's Black/African American voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

58% currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

94% think it is very important that the candidates running for office this fall will work to ensure communities in Missouri are more livable for their residents.



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