



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 800 voters in Missouri age 50 and older 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.¹

Political divisiveness is a top concern with voters age 50+ (46%), and while about half approve of the job President Trump is doing (47%), half disapprove of the job performance of Republicans (50%) and Democrats (56%) in Congress. Although voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (50%), 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?

■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Other ■ Undecided



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

Key Electoral Issues

At least half of the voters age 50+ in Missouri 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, helping older people live independently, and addressing opioid and drug addiction problems were very important to them.



Health Insurance

92%

92% of voters age 50+ in Missouri think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **89%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

83% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care, and **85%** do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

74% support the state expanding the Medicaid program so people ages 50-64 who don't have insurance through their jobs or have lost a job can get the care they need.

Prescription Drugs

73%

73% of Missouri voters age 50+ are extremely or very concerned about the cost of prescription drugs and most (**77%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

69% think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

77% support importation of prescription drugs, and **56%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market.

Retirement Security

85%

85% of voters age 50+ in Missouri think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **69%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

58% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Caregiving

86%

86% of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

51% of Missouri voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

63% 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