



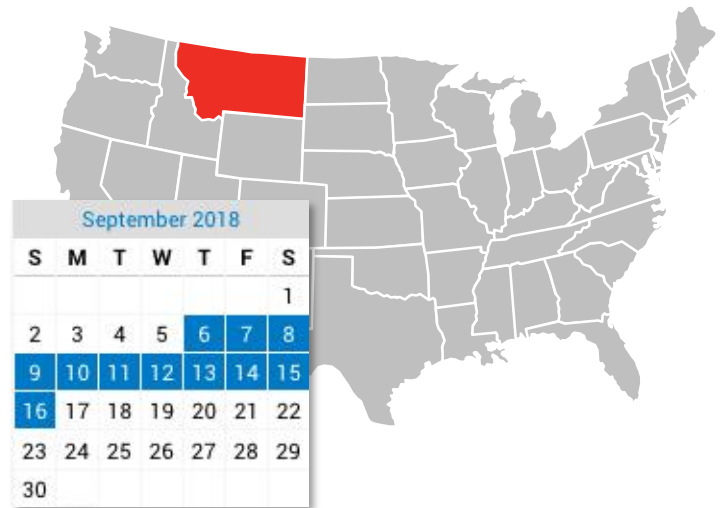
Montana
THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND 50+ VOTER MINDSET



Benenson Strategy Group and GS Strategy Group conducted 950 interviews – by phone, using registered voter lists – with likely 2018 voters in Montana from September 6th through 16th 2018.

This included an oversample of 350 voters 50+ for additional analysis.

Data was weighed to ensure it was representative of the likely voting universe.



The margin of error for the entire data set is $\pm 3.10\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

- Among likely voters over the age of 50, the margin of error is $\pm 3.58\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

Due to rounding, answer choices may not always add up to 100%.

Note: All reported data is among 50+ voters except when otherwise specified.

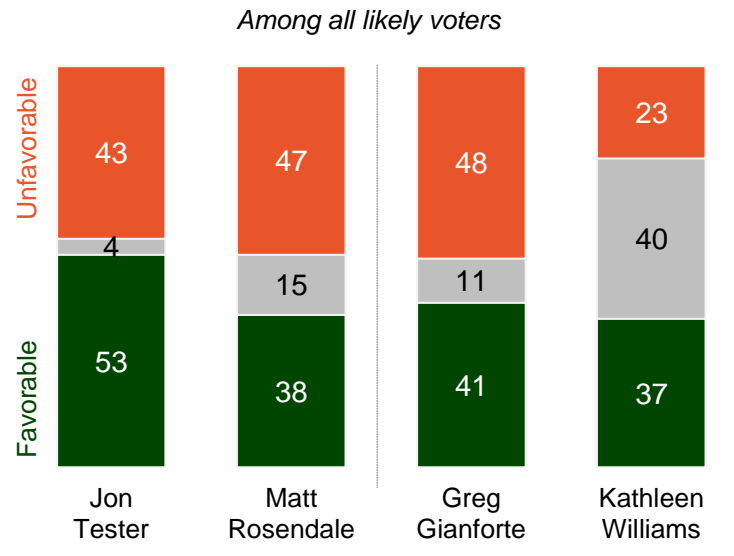
Partisan crosstabs in this report represent how people identify themselves when asked, not how they are registered.

For more information, contact Kate Bridges at kbridges@aarp.org

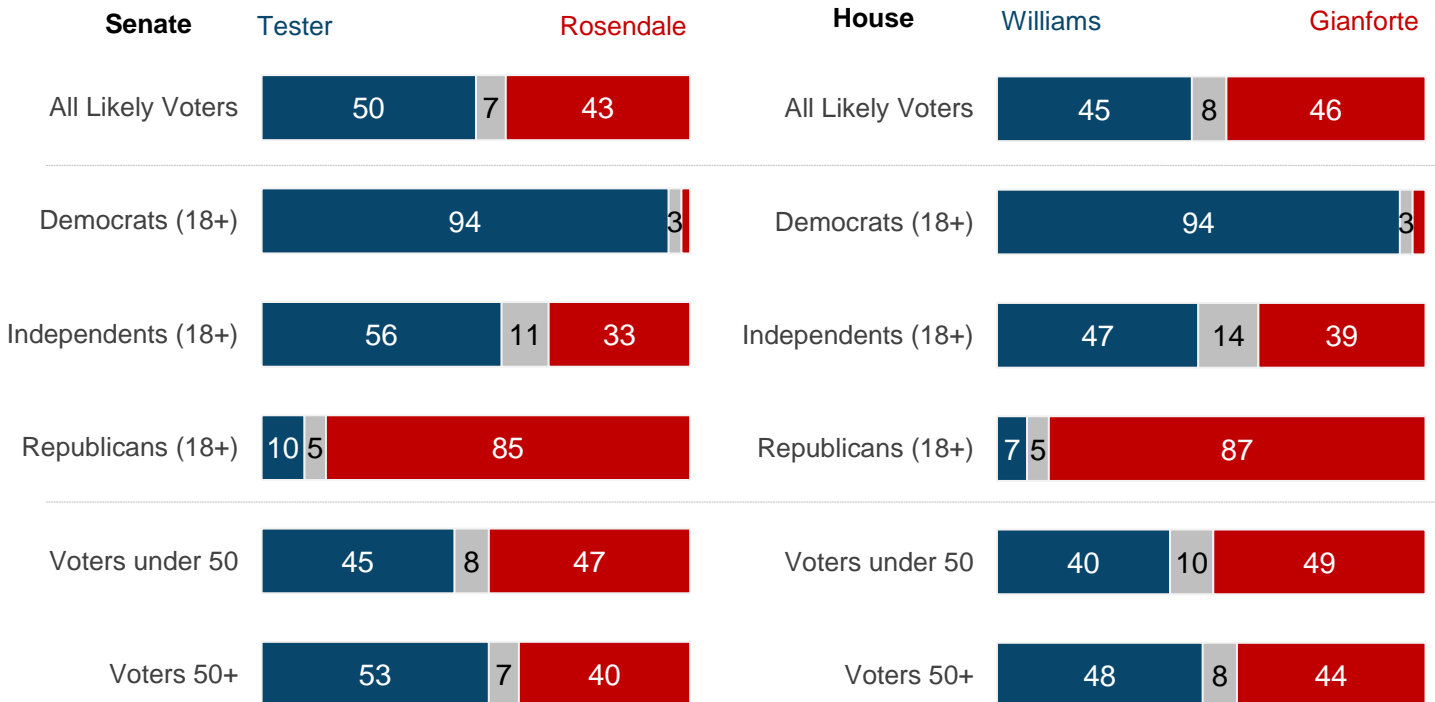


Among those on the ballot this November, Senator Tester leads in favorability, while Representative Gianforte and challenger Kathleen Williams are in a close race.

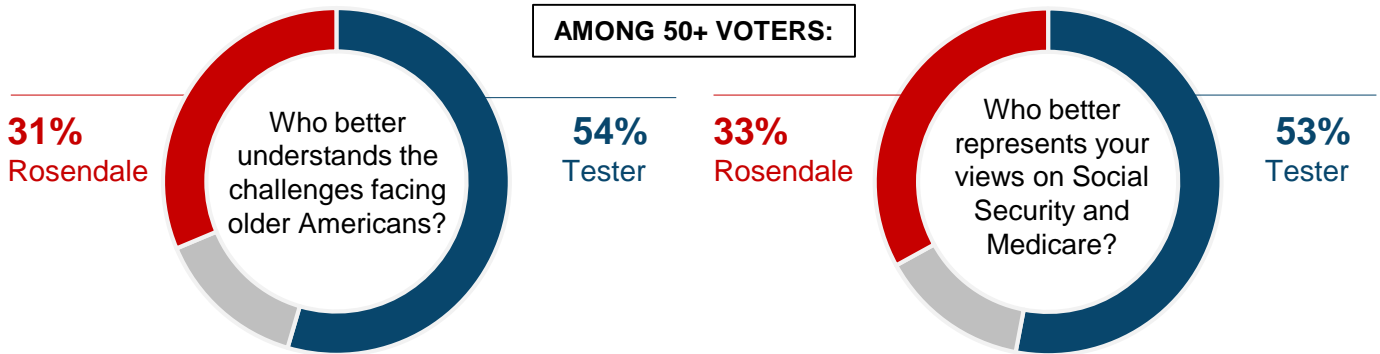
Plenty of ticket splitting going on, while voters 50+ and Independents drive Tester's lead in the horserace.



Younger voters are leaning Republican; 50+ voters and Independents are leaning Democratic



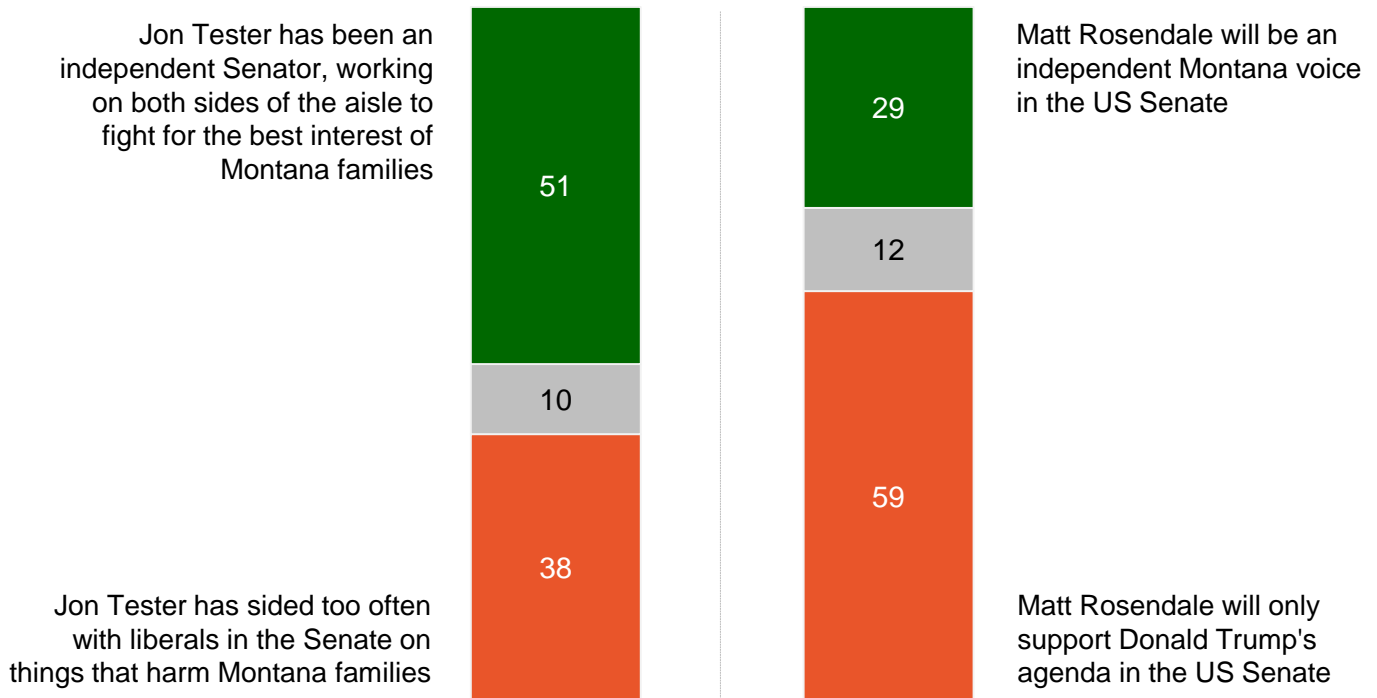
Voters 50+ feel like Senator Tester better understands the challenges they face.



A slim majority feels Senator Tester is ready to cross the aisle to get things done.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING COMES CLOSEST TO YOUR OPINION...

AMONG 50+ VOTERS:



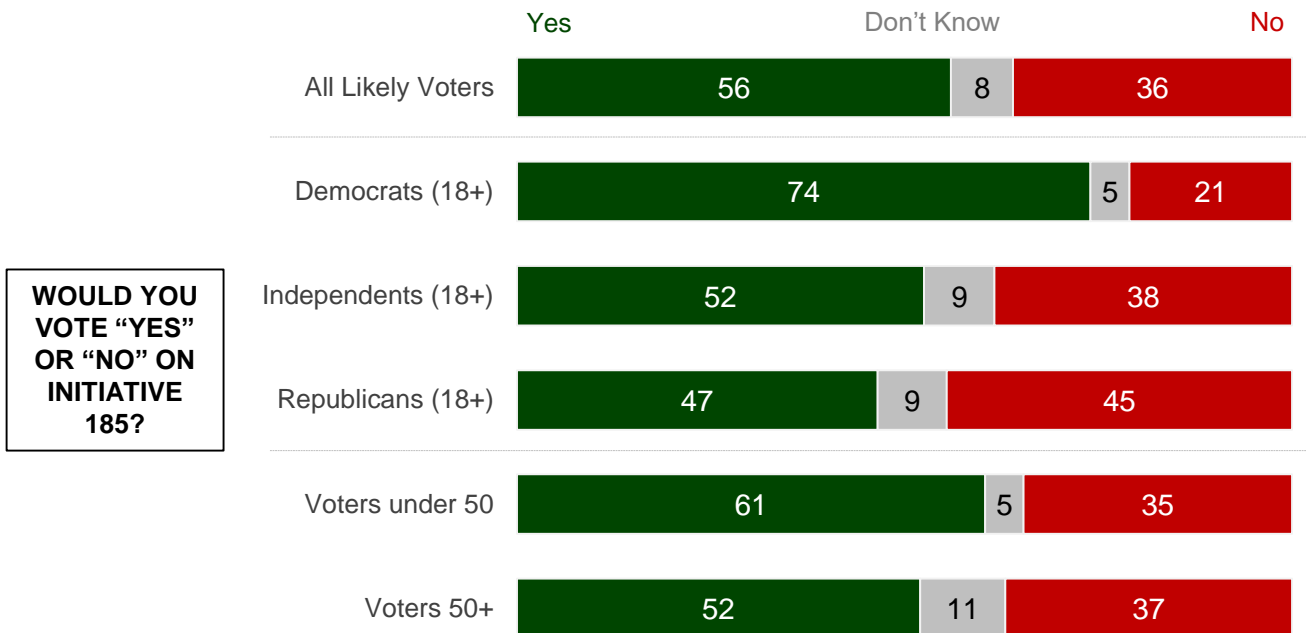
Initiative 185



AT A GLANCE

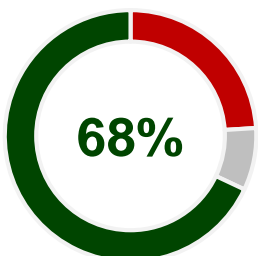
When asked yes or no on I-185, Montana voters support the initiative 56 to 36.

Initiative 185 increases taxes on tobacco products and uses the funds to expand Medicaid, veterans care, smoking prevention, and long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities.



WOULD YOU VOTE "YES" OR "NO" ON INITIATIVE 185?

There is a desire to expand Medicaid and it is bipartisan.



Would **support** expanding Medicaid to provide health care coverage to individuals earning less than 17,000 dollars a year.

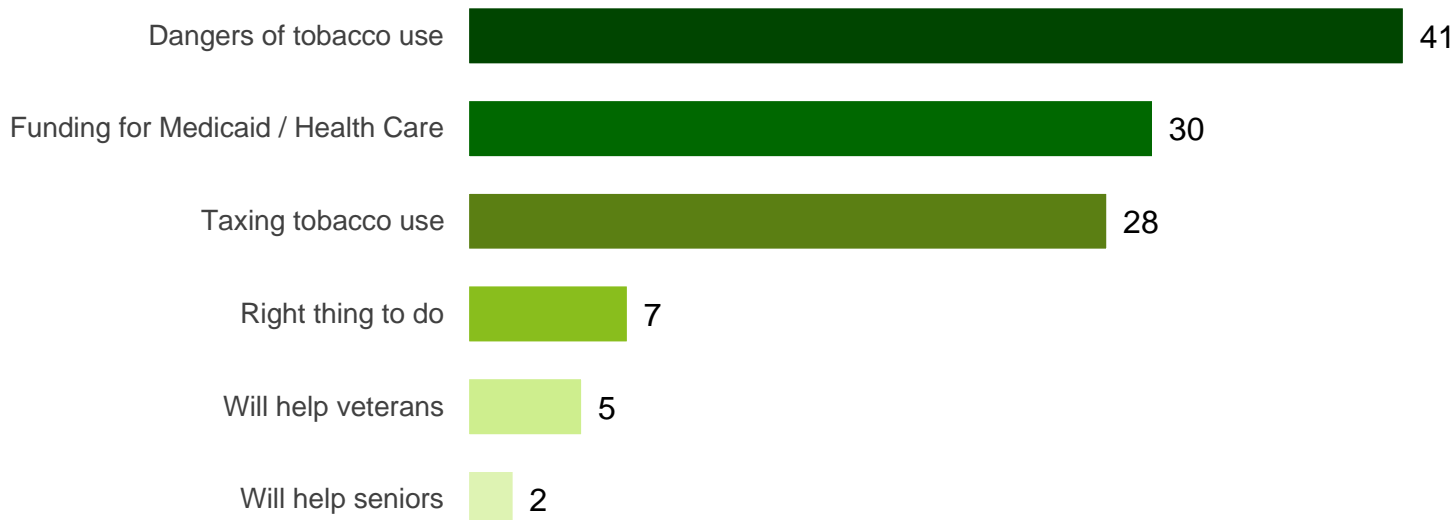
Democrats: **91%** support
 Independents: **68%** support
 Republicans: **52%** support

Understanding the support and opposition for Initiative 185

On an open-ended basis, **health concerns about tobacco** and **potential to raise more funds for Medicaid and healthcare** push the bulk of the support for Initiatives 185. Meanwhile, resistance about **raising taxes** or **unfairly targeting smokers** underpins opposition to Initiative 185.

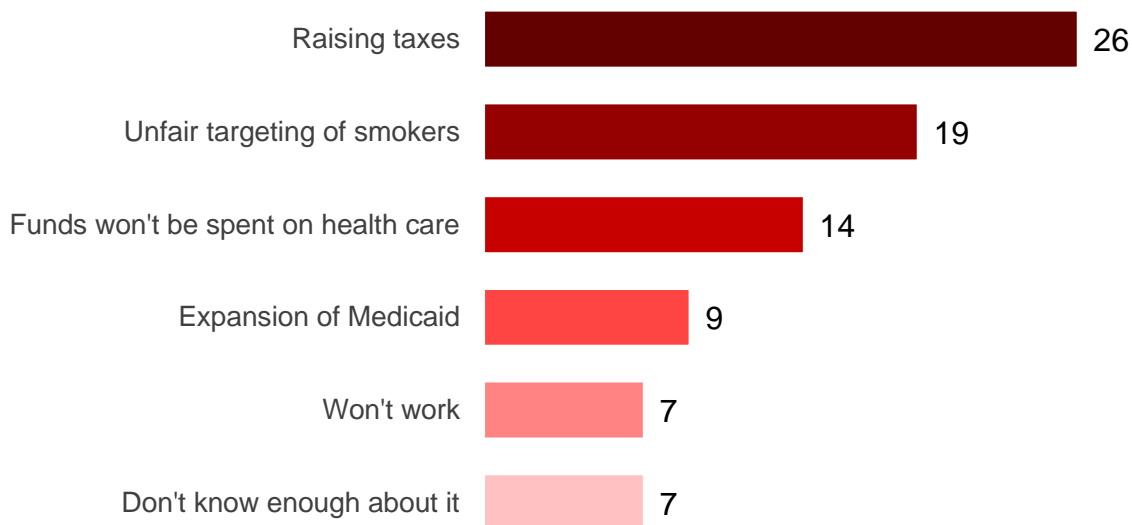
What's the main reason you would vote "yes" on this initiative?

Open-ended responses among all likely Voters who'd vote "Yes" on Initiative 185



What are your biggest concerns about this initiative?

Open-ended responses among all likely Voters who'd vote "No" on Initiative 185



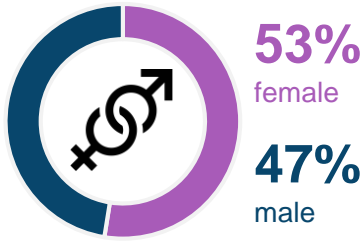


The 50+ Voter Mindset

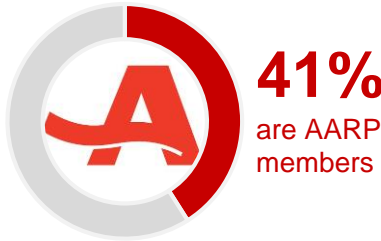
Profile Of Montana 50+ Likely Voters



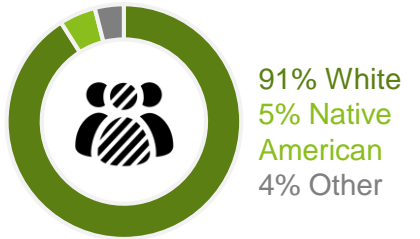
GENDER



AARP



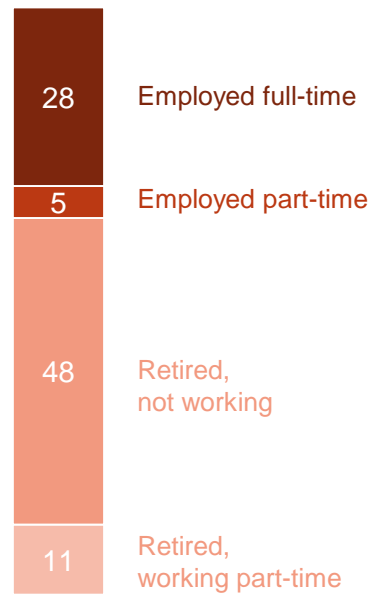
RACE



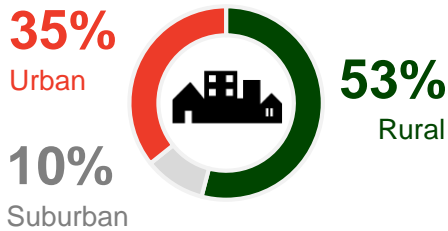
EDUCATION



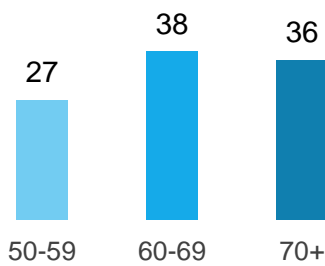
EMPLOYMENT



LIVING IN...



AGE



PARTY ID

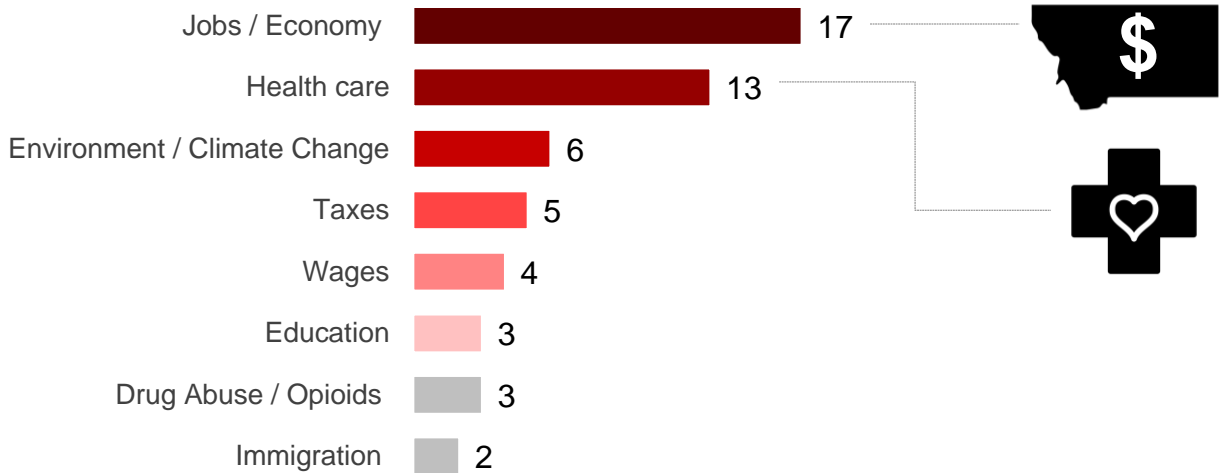


The 50+ Voter Mindset: Issues & The Economy

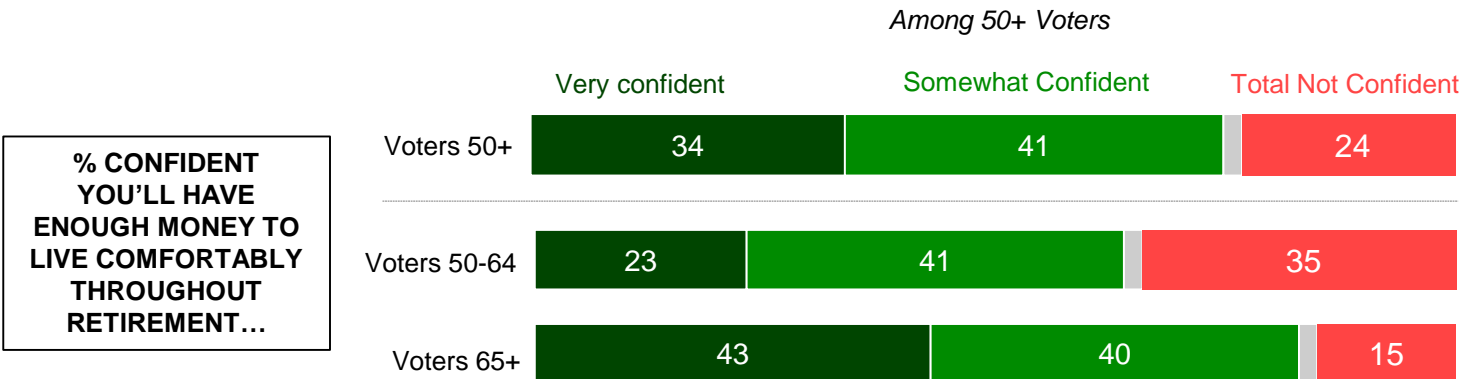


Jobs, the economy and health care are top-of-mind among Montana's 50+ voters – far out-pacing concerns about the environment, taxes and education. Even among voters 65+, jobs and the economy are top responses.

WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING MONTANA TODAY?
Open-ended responses among 50+ Voters



Just 1-in-3 50+ voters are very confident they will have enough money to live comfortably in retirement, with near-retirees the most concerned. 1-in-3 50-64 year olds are not confident about their financial security for their retirement, and just fewer than 1 in 4 are very confident.



The 50+ Voter Mindset: On The Issues



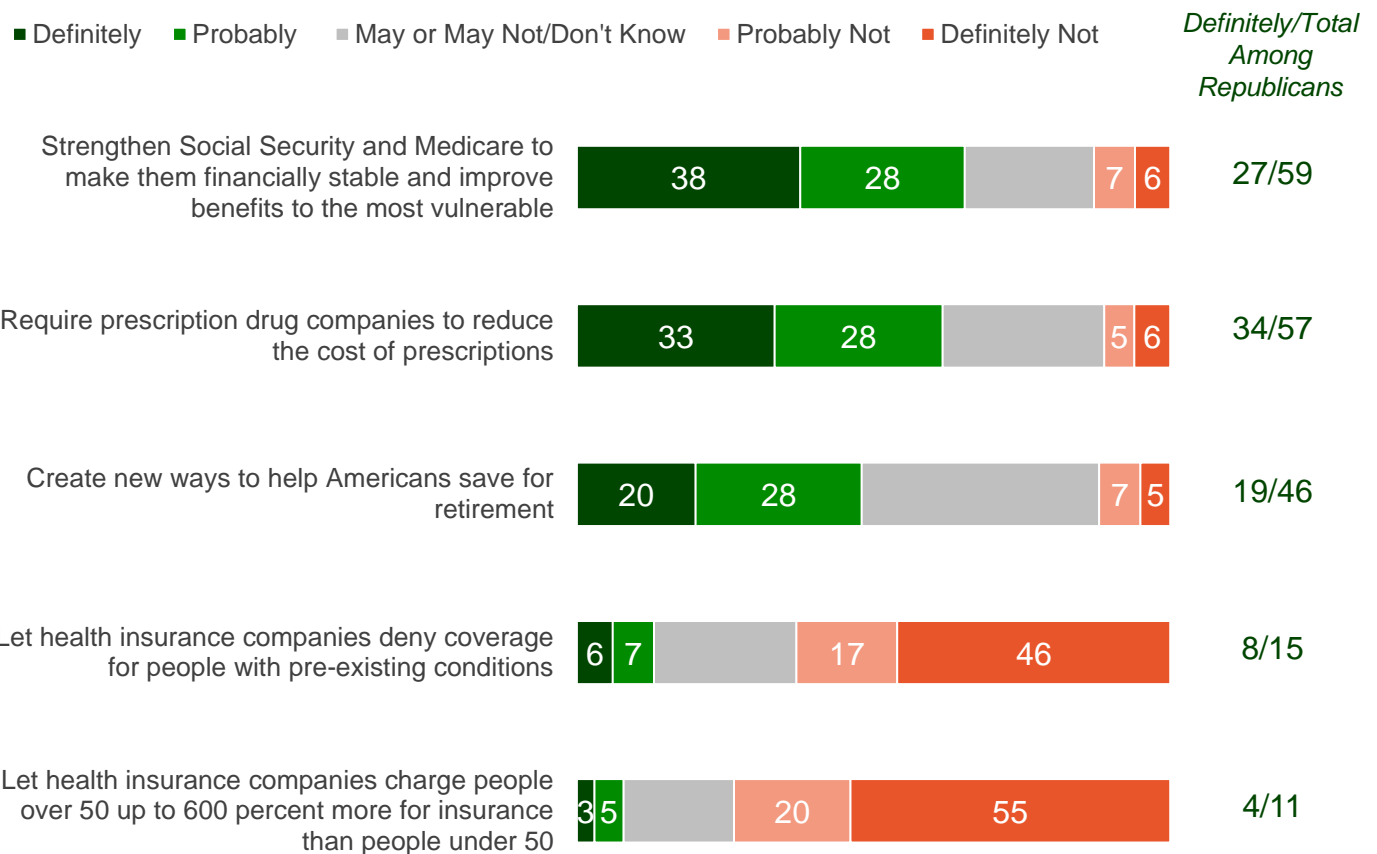
AT A GLANCE

Montana's 50+ voters widely support AARP's priorities.

Lead by a desire to strengthen Social Security and Medicare so they protect society's most vulnerable and prevent prescription drug companies from charging sky-high prices; across AARP's key issues, 50+ voters in Montana, both Democrat and Republican, are on the same page as AARP.

If a candidate wanted to do this, would you...vote for them?

Among 50+ Voters



The 50+ Voter Mindset: Prescription Drugs



AT A GLANCE

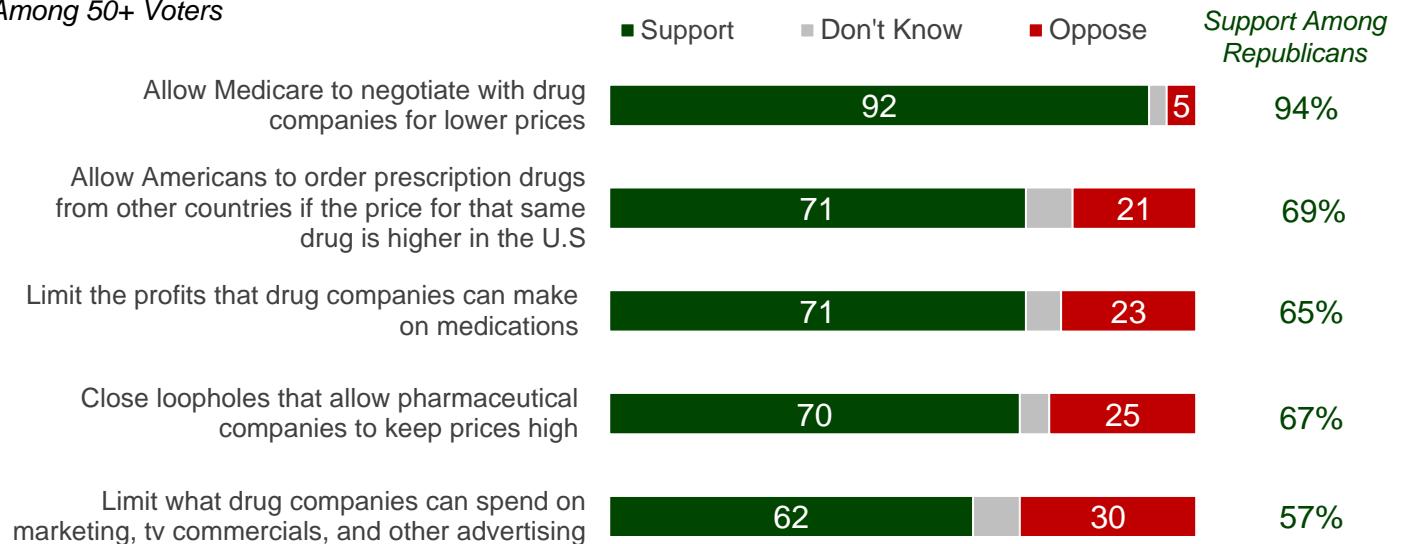
Montana's 50+ voters think it's high time the government did something to bring down out-of-control drug costs.

Remarkably, in an era of hyper partisanship, support for letting Medicare negotiate directly with drug companies gets nearly unanimous support among Montana's 50+ voters— with especially strong support from Republicans.

But seven-in-ten of all 50+ voters in the state also want to make it possible to buy prescriptions from abroad, limit the profits pharmaceutical companies are allowed to make, and close loopholes that let pharmaceutical companies charge sky-high prices.

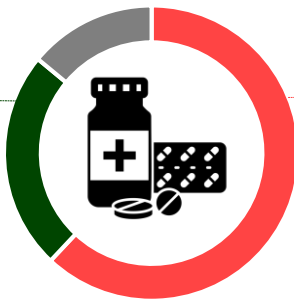
Support for policy proposals to lower the cost of prescription drugs

Among 50+ Voters



WOULD YOU SAY THAT PRESCRIPTION DRUG COMPANIES....
Among 50+ Voters

24%
Charge as much as they need to for drugs because research and development is expensive and many drugs fail to reach market



62%
Charge as much as possible for drugs because they know that people who are sick, have a health condition or are in pain will pay for it

The 50+ Voter Mindset: Social Security



AT A GLANCE

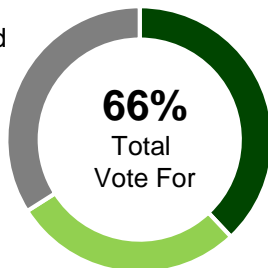
Social Security is one of the most important issues to 50+ voters.

They want to see immediate action to shore it up, but they want to do so in a way that expands benefits to the most vulnerable and they are on guard against Congressional reforms that would harm seniors.

50+ voters want Social Security to be stable and improved for the most vulnerable...

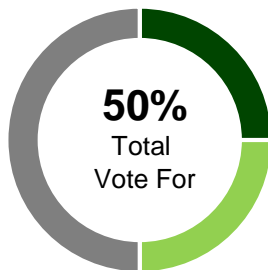
% WOULD VOTE FOR A...

Candidate who would strengthen Social Security and Medicare to make them financially stable and improve benefits to the most vulnerable



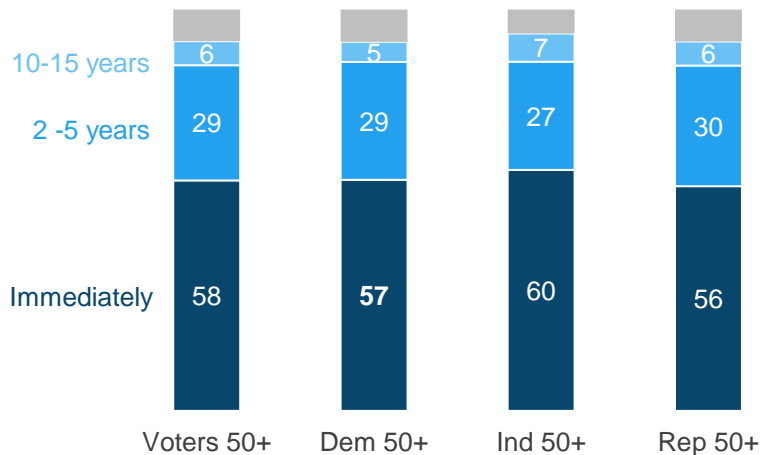
16 points more appealing than a...

Candidate who would reform Social Security and Medicare to make them financially stable



According to projections in the latest Social Security Trustees' report, **Social Security can pay full benefits for 16 more years, but if nothing is done to make the program financially sound for the long term, benefits will be cut by nearly 25% starting in 2034.**

HOW SOON, IF AT ALL, DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE?



...But they worry that reforms, if not done right, could jeopardize seniors' well being.

WHICH CONCERNS YOU MORE?
Among 50+ Voters

40%
Congress will make changes to Social Security that will harm seniors

34%
Congress won't make changes to Social Security and the program will go bankrupt

17%
Both/Neither

The 50+ Voter Mindset: Medicare & Medicaid

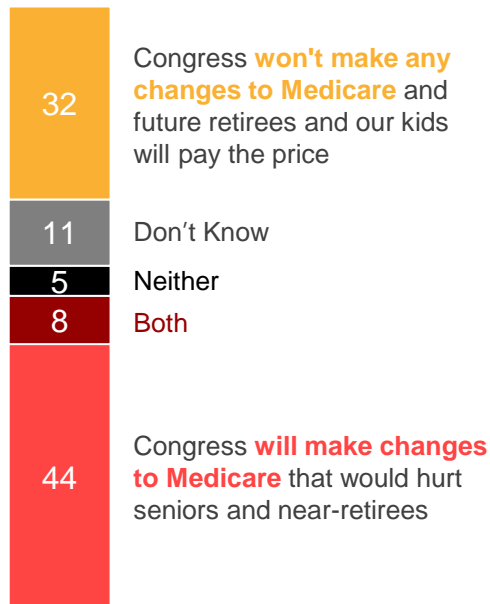


MEDICARE AT A GLANCE

Premium support is very unpopular among Montana's 50+ voters.

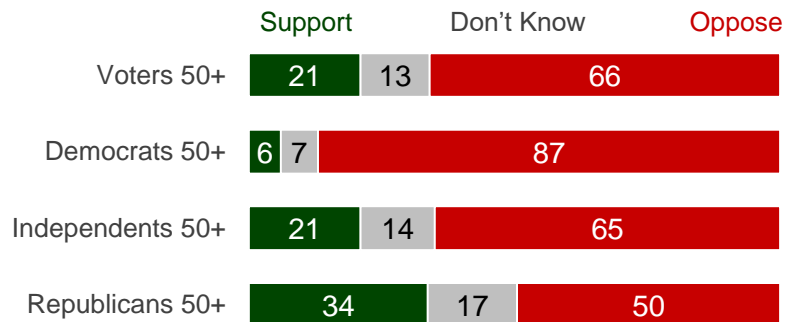
A plurality fears Medicare reform of any kind may actually harm seniors more than it would help.

WHICH CONCERNS YOU MORE? Among 50+ Voters



There is a proposal in Congress which says that for future seniors, Medicare would no longer pay for health care services directly but instead would provide each senior with a set amount of money to help purchase an insurance plan in the private marketplace.

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH IS SOMETIMES CALLED PREMIUM SUPPORT?



MEDICAID AT A GLANCE

Medicaid is popular among Montana's 50+ voters.

A strong majority of voters across party lines are favorable to the program.

WOULD YOU SAY YOU HAVE A FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE VIEW OF MEDICAID? Among 50+ Voters

63% Favorable

76% Democrats
60% Independents
55% Republicans



27% Unfavorable