



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 604 voters age 50 and older in New Jersey's 5th Congressional District between September 7-20, 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 voters age 50+ (53%). More than half disapprove of the performance of Republicans (60%) and Democrats (53%) in Congress, and 53% disapprove of the job President Trump is doing. While about half of voters age 50+ see the U.S. economy getting stronger (52%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with three out of 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?

■ Democrat ■ Republican ■ Other ■ Undecided



Party	U.S. Congress
Democrat	Josh Gottheimer
Republican	John McCann
Other	Wendy Goetz James Tosone

Key Electoral Issues

At least seven in ten voters age 50+ in New Jersey CD-5 indicated that candidates' positions on strengthening and reforming Social Security, lowering healthcare costs, addressing rising prescription drug costs, jobs and the economy, and strengthening and reforming Medicare were very important to them.



VOTERS AGE 50+ INDICATING VERY IMPORTANT (%)

Health Insurance

94%

94% of voters age 50+ in New Jersey CD-5 think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **84%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

82% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care, and **79%** do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

76% support New Jersey preserving Medicaid expansion so lower income people who don't have coverage through their jobs can get the care they need.

Prescription Drugs

72%

Most voters age 50+ (**72%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

79% think it should be legal to import prescription drugs from Canada and Europe, and **55%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

72% are concerned about opioid abuse in the state.

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

Retirement Security

84%

84% of voters age 50+ in New Jersey CD-5 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.

48% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

70% support New Jersey creating a retirement savings program for workers who do not have a way to save for retirement.

Caregiving

87%

87% of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

49% of New Jersey CD-5 voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

77% would prefer home care over assisted living or nursing home care for a loved one, and **57%** oppose the state restricting the number of people who can get care at home by capping Medicaid.



ⁱ Full methodology report and survey instrument at aarp.org/2018StateVoterSurveys
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