



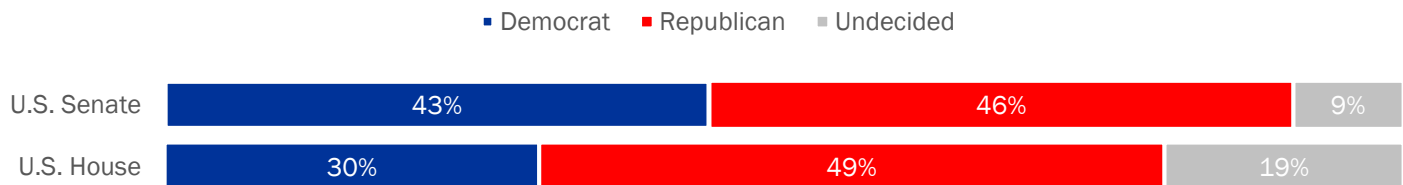
Background

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 806 North Dakotans age 50 and older between August 22-31, 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 those age 50+ (45%), and although half approve of the job President Trump is doing (53%), half disapprove of the job performance of Republicans (51%) and nearly two-thirds disapprove of the job performance of Democrats (63%) in Congress. While those age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (55%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with seven in ten feeling like they are not getting ahead.

Candidate Support

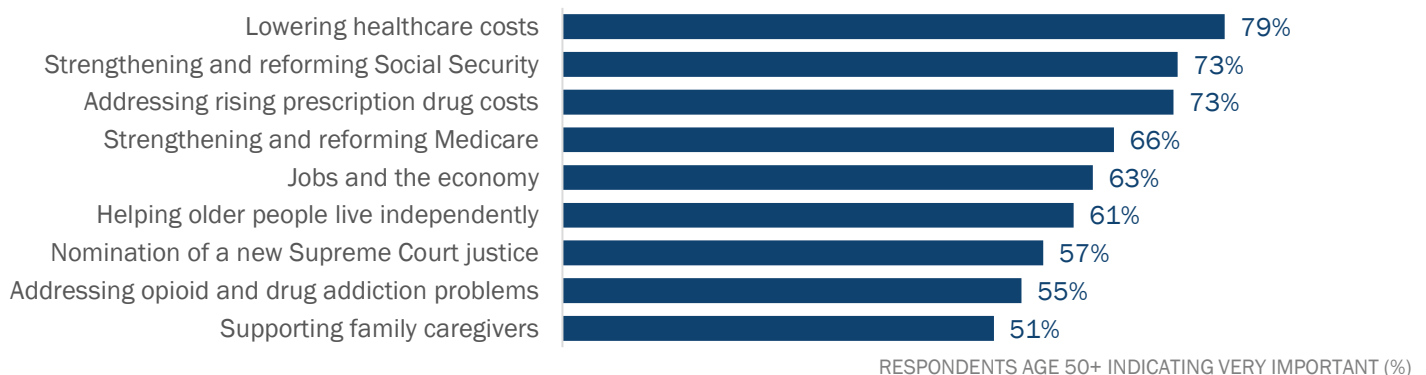
If the election was being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?



Party	U.S. Senate	U.S. House
Democrat	Heidi Heitkamp	Mac Schneider
Republican	Kevin Cramer	Kelly Armstrong

Key Electoral Issues

At least sixty percent of North Dakotans age 50+ 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.



Medicare

90%

90% of residents age 50+ in North Dakota think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **82%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

79% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care, and

78% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Social Security

83%

83% of North Dakotans age 50+ think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **62%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

76% of working adults age 50+ are not very confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Prescription Drugs

73%

Most North Dakotans age 50+ (**73%**) feel that candidates' positions on rising prescription drug costs are very important to them, and **69%** think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

82% support importation of prescription drugs, and **57%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market.

Caregiving

86%

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

54% of North Dakota residents age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

67% oppose restricting the number of people North Dakota can care for in their own homes and communities by capping Medicaid funding.



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