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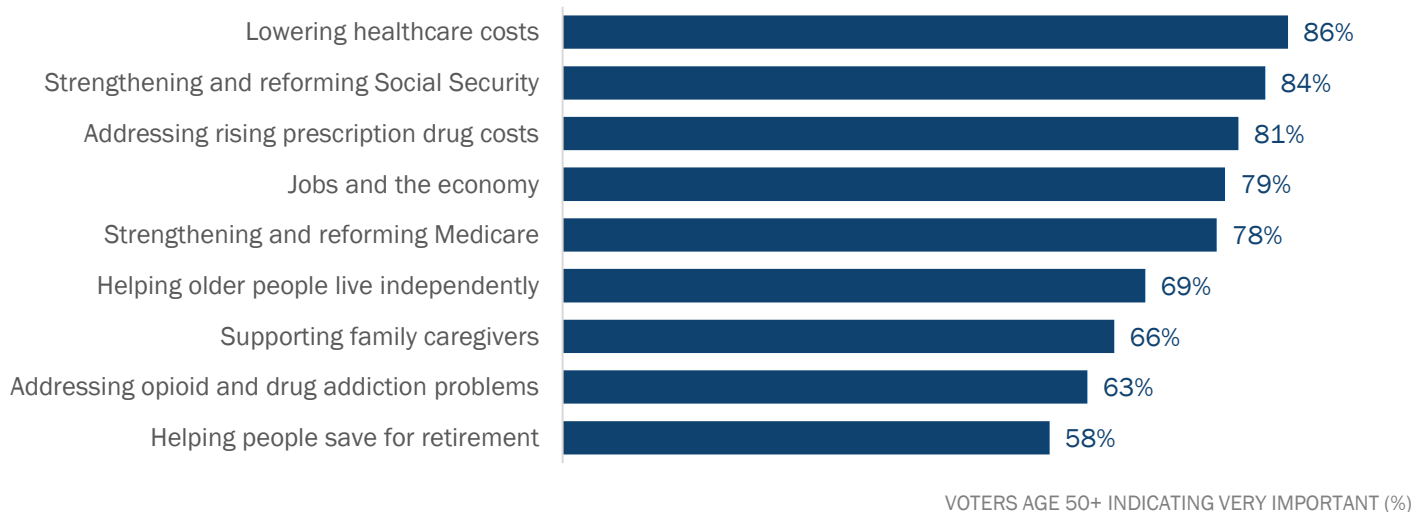
Americans over the age of 50 consistently show up more often to vote compared to younger voters. Given the influence this powerful voting bloc will likely have on the 2018 mid-term elections, AARP surveyed 332 Black/African American voters age 50 and older in Tennessee between August 22 and September 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

Voter Mindset

Political divisiveness is a top concern with Tennessee's Black/African American voters age 50+ (49%). While about one in four (24%) disapproves of the performance of Democrats in Congress, the majority disapprove of the job performances of Republicans in Congress (75%) and President Trump (80%). Only 21% of Tennessee's Black/African American voters age 50+ sees the U.S. economy getting stronger, and this is also reflected in voters' own financial security, with eight in ten (79%) feeling like they are not getting ahead.

Key Electoral Issues

At least six in ten Black/African American voters age 50+ in Tennessee indicated that lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, addressing rising prescription drug costs, jobs and the economy, strengthening and reforming Medicare, helping older people live independently, supporting family caregivers, and addressing opioid and drug addiction problems were very important to them.



Health Care

94%

94% of Black/African American voters age 50+ in Tennessee think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **86%** 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. **78%** do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

79% support modernizing outdated rules to allow nurse practitioners to serve as the primary care provider for patients.

Prescription Drugs

81%

Most of Tennessee's Black/African American voters age 50+ (**81%**) feel that candidates' positions on addressing rising prescription drug costs are very important to them, and

68% support importation of prescription drugs, and **46%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

62% are extremely or very concerned about heroin and prescription drug use in Tennessee, and **62%** think elected officials are doing too little to address this problem.

59% believe that drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

Retirement Security

89%

89% of Black/African American voters age 50+ in Tennessee think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **76%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

62% of working Black/African American voters in Tennessee age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Caregiving

84%

84% of Tennessee's Black/African American voters age 50+ would choose home care over nursing home care (9%) if they needed long-term care services for themselves or family members.

76% support shifting some of Tennessee's long-term care funds so that more money is spent on home care and less on institutional care.

57% have provided unpaid care for an adult loved one, and **88%** support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they have been caregivers.



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