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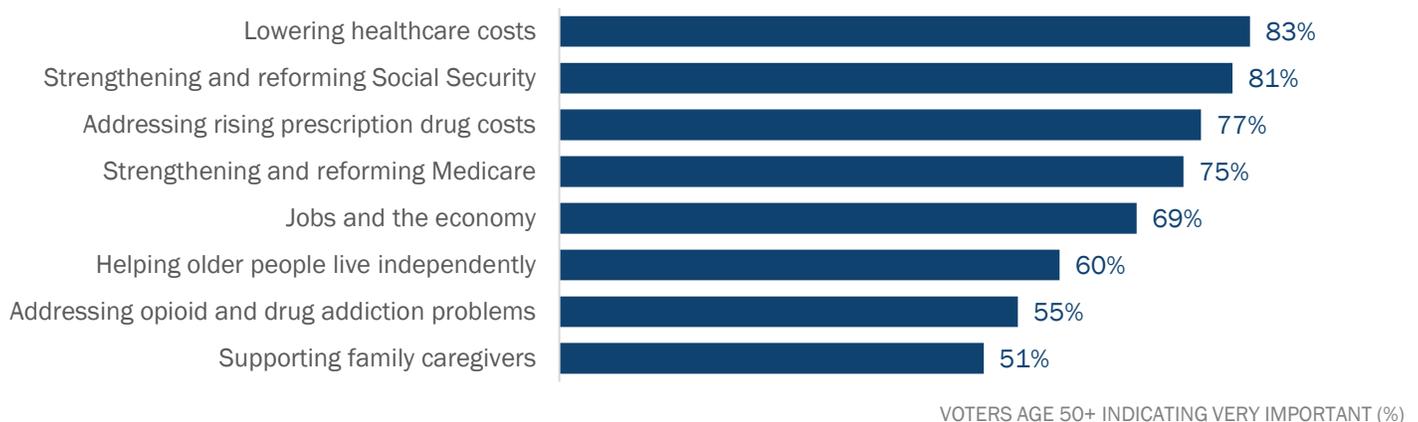
Americans over the age of 50 consistently show up more often to vote compared to younger voters. Given the influence this powerful voting bloc will likely have on the 2018 mid-term elections, AARP surveyed 802 voters in Tennessee age 50 and older between August 22-September 1, 2018, to assess what would 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 voters age 50+ (49%). While about half approve of the job President Trump is doing (53%), only 29% approve of the performance of Republicans in Congress and even fewer approve of the job Democrats in Congress are doing (19%). While voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (56%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with seven in ten feeling like they are not getting ahead.

Key Electoral Issues

At least six in ten voters age 50+ in Tennessee 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.



Caregiving

79%

79% would prefer to receive care at home if they or a family member needed help due to aging or illness, and **79%** support shifting some of Tennessee's long-term care funds so that more money is spent on home care and less on institutional care.

60% of Tennessee voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

88% of voters age 50+ support providing an income tax credit to family caregivers, regardless of whether they are or have been caregivers.

81% support modernizing outdated rules to allow nurse practitioners who have advanced training to serve as the primary or acute care provider for patients.

Prescription Drugs

77%

Most voters age 50+ (**77%**) feel that candidates' positions on address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

79% support importation of prescription drugs, and **55%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market.

68% are very or somewhat concerned about heroin and opioid abuse in Tennessee, and **63%** say elected officials are doing too little to address it.

67% think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

Retirement Security

86%

86% of voters age 50+ in Tennessee think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **71%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

63% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

59% worry about not being able to retire when they want due to financial reasons.

Healthcare

91%

91% of voters age 50+ in Tennessee 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.

81% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

85% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.



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