



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 611 voters age 50 and older in Texas' 7th Congressional District between September 6-20, 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+ (48%). Although half of CD-7 voters age 50+ approve of the job President Trump is doing (50%), half disapprove of the performance of Republicans in Congress (50%) and even more disapprove of the performance of Democrats in Congress (64%). While voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (61%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with about six in ten (63%) 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. Congress
Democrat	Lizzie Pannill Fletcher
Republican	John Culberson

Key Electoral Issues

About seven in ten voters age 50+ in Texas' CD-7 indicated that candidates' positions on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening and reforming Social Security, jobs and the economy, addressing rising prescription drug costs, and strengthening and reforming Medicare were very important to them.



Health Insurance

85%

85% of voters age 50+ in Texas CD-7 think Medicare is very important for people's health in retirement, and **85%** agree that Congress should make changes to ensure the program can continue to cover hospital benefits as it does now beyond 2029.

77% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

77% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Retirement Security

75%

75% of voters age 50+ in Texas CD-7 think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **65%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

45% of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Prescription Drugs

69%

Most voters age 50+ (**69%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

80% think it should be legal to import prescription drugs from Canada and Europe, and **58%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

66% think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

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.

46% of Texas CD-7 voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

74% of voters age 50+ would chose home care over assisted living (13%) or nursing home care (2%) if a family member needed long-term care.



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