

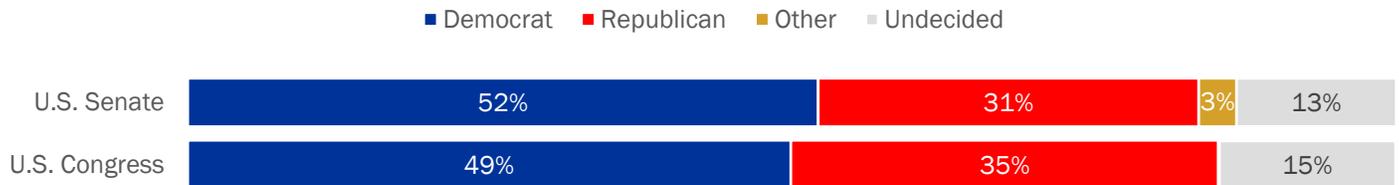
Background

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 602 voters in Virginia's 10th Congressional District age 50 and older between September 7-17, 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%). While half disapprove of the job performance of Democrats in Congress (51%), more than half disapprove of the job performances of Republicans (63%) and President Trump (57%). Nine out of ten (91%) believe Democrats and Republicans should work together and be willing to compromise to pass legislation.

Candidate Support

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



Party	U.S. Senate	U.S. Congress
Democrat	Tim Kaine	Jennifer Wexton
Republican	Corey Stewart	Barbara Comstock
Libertarian	Matt Waters	---

Key Electoral Issues

Three out of five or more voters age 50+ in Virginia CD-10 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

87%

87% of voters age 50+ in Virginia CD-10 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.

81% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care, and **80%** do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

78% believe their leaders should work across party lines to shore up the health care system and protect access to coverage for people who need it.

Prescription Drugs

65%

Most voters age 50+ (**65%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

77% support importation of prescription drugs, and **58%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

64% think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.



Retirement Security

77%

77% of voters age 50+ in Virginia CD-10 think that Social Security is very important for financial security in retirement, and **67%** believe the government should do something to strengthen Social Security immediately.

Although Virginia CD-10 voters age 50+ generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger (49%), this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with seven in ten (69%) feeling like they are not getting ahead and **44%** of working voters age 50+ are not confident they are saving enough for retirement.

Caregiving

86%

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

42% of Virginia CD-10 voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

74% would choose home care over assisted living or nursing home care if an older loved one needed long-term care.



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