



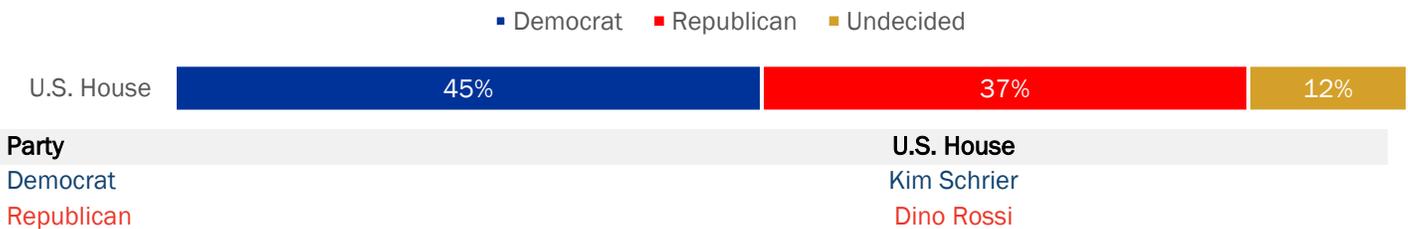
Background

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 616 voters age 50 and older in Washington's 8th Congressional District between September 7-19, 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+ (51%). Half disapprove of the job performance of Democrats in Congress (49%), while more than half disapprove of the job performances of Republicans (57%) and President Trump (54%). Although many voters age 50+ (46%) generally see the U.S. economy getting stronger, this optimism is not reflected in their own financial security with three out of four 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?



Key Electoral Issues

At least half of voters age 50+ in Washington CD-8 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.



Health Insurance

91%

91% of voters age 50+ in Washington CD-8 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.

80% think it is unfair to deny coverage or make those with pre-existing conditions pay more for their health care.

80% do not agree with allowing insurance companies to charge older people up to five times more for health insurance.

Prescription Drugs

72%

Most voters age 50+ (**72%**) feel that candidates' positions to address rising prescription drug costs are very important to them.

86% think it should be legal to import prescription drugs from Canada and Europe, and **57%** support preventing drug companies from stopping competitors from entering the market with generics.

63% are concerned about heroin and opioid abuse in the state.

70% think drug companies have a lot of influence over Members of Congress.

Retirement Security

81%

81% of voters age 50+ in Washington CD-8 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.

Most voters age 50+ (**65%**) are confident they will retire someday because they will want to stop working, but less than half (**44%**) have calculated what they will need to save for retirement years, and **54%** 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.

45% of Washington CD-8 voters age 50+ currently or have previously provided unpaid care for an adult loved one.

78% would choose home care over assisted living or nursing home care if their 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