

Americans over the age of 50 consistently show up more often to vote compared to younger voters. Given the influence of this important voter bloc, AARP surveyed 800 voters in Kentucky age 50 and older between August 15 and August 25, 2019. This survey assesses what is on voters' minds leading up to the state and federal elections this fall.

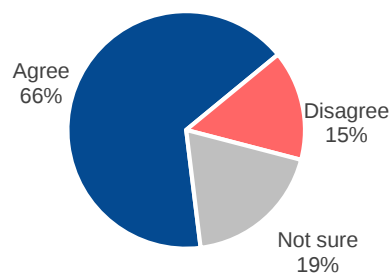
KEY ELECTORAL ISSUES

Economic issues are top of mind for Kentucky voters age 50 and older. When asked to describe their personal financial situation, older Kentuckian voters more often say they are falling behind or struggling to keep up (31%) than they say they are getting ahead (25%), and two-thirds (66%) report they often worry about prices rising faster than their incomes. These voters place jobs and the economy near the top of the list of issues they will be looking to hear candidates talk about leading up to the election.

TAXATION

The majority of Kentucky voters age 50 and older (70%) say they worry about paying too much in taxes. Given this perspective, it is not surprising that 70 percent say candidates' positions on reducing the tax burden on retirees is very important to them, and when asked about increasing various taxes and fees to help balance the state budget, there is greatest opposition (87%) to an increase in the retirement income tax. In fact, two-thirds of Kentucky voters age 50 and older agree that the next governor should restore the pension and retirement income tax exclusion back to \$41,110 from the current \$31,110 amount.

Agreement About Restoring Retirement Income Tax Exclusion



RETIREMENT SECURITY

Kentucky voters age 50 and older are concerned about their financial security in retirement. Among current retirees, only one-quarter (25%) are very confident they have enough money saved for their retirement, and among those still working, only one in five (20%) are very confident that they will have saved enough. Two out of five (40%) say they worry about not being able to retire when they want to due to financial reasons. That said, the majority of voters age 50 and older say that candidates' positions on how they plan to help people save for retirement is important to them (58% very; 28% somewhat) in deciding how to vote.

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