



50+ VOTERS AND THE GEORGIA SENATE RUNOFF ELECTIONS

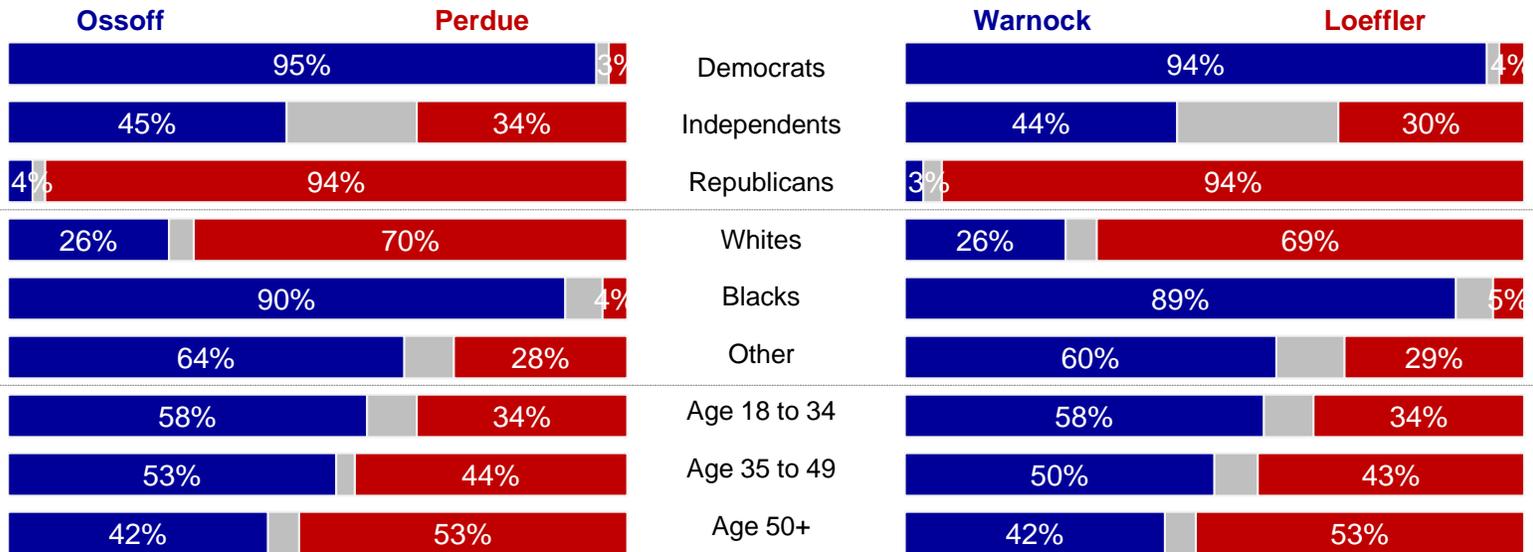
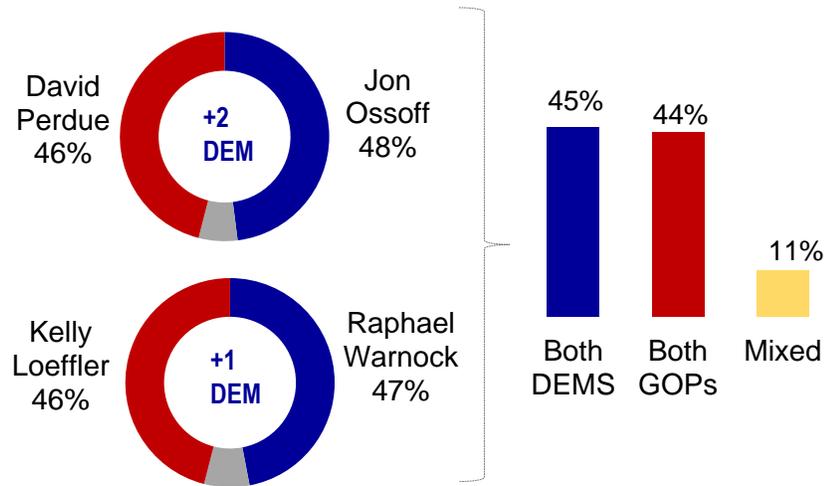


Survey among 1,250 likely Georgia runoff voters (all ages), including 857 age 50+ voters and 358 Black age 50+ voters, conducted November 30 to December 4, 2020.

Among 2020 voters age 18+

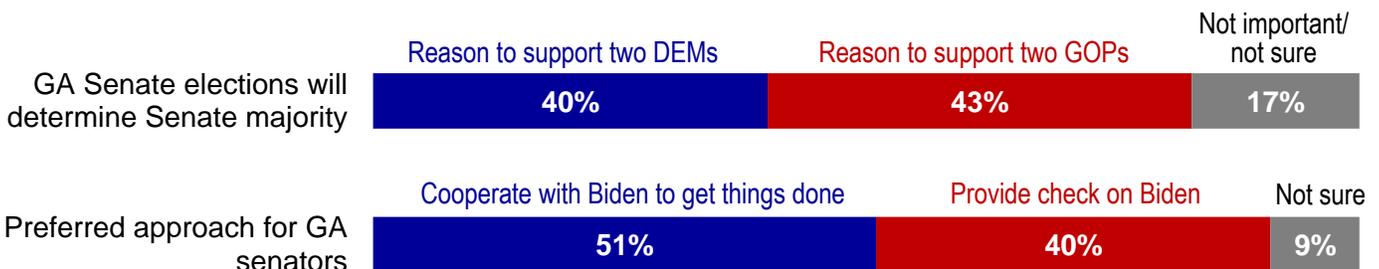
U.S. Senate Races

Both Georgia Senate runoff races are extremely close today, with the outcomes very much in doubt. John Ossoff has a two-point edge (48-46) over David Perdue, while Raphael Warnock enjoys an even narrower one-point edge (47%-46%) over Kelly Loeffler. The races are highly polarized along partisan lines, with nine in 10 Georgia voters planning to vote either for both Democrats (45%) or both Republicans (44%). Vote preference varies considerably by age of voter: Ossoff (+25) and Warnock (+23) both enjoy huge margins among Millennials, and solid leads from voters age 35 to 49. The story is very different among 50+ voters, though, who favor both Republicans by 11-point margins.



Party Control of Senate at Stake

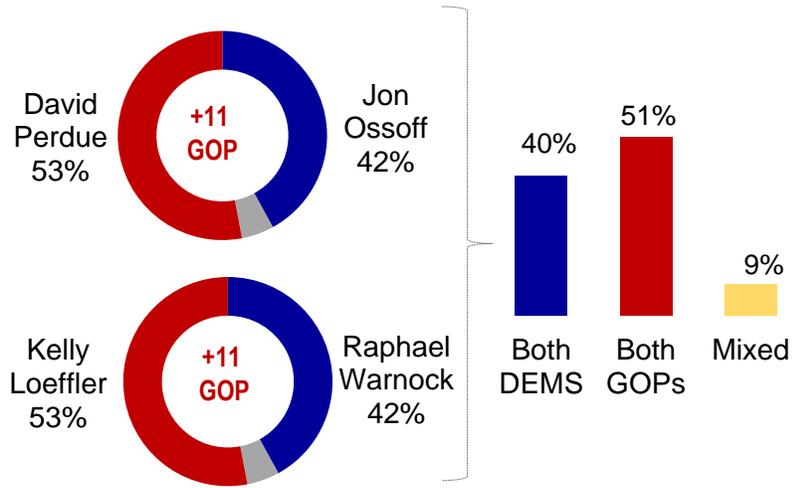
Georgia voters recognize the national stakes of these decisions, but the impact is uncertain. By a narrow 43%-to-40% margin, voters say partisan control of the Senate is a reason to support the Republican candidates. But by a larger 51%-to-40% margin, they want their senators to cooperate with Joe Biden to get things done more than provide a check on him. Loeffler and Perdue's ability to leverage concern over one-party government may depend on convincing voters that they will be watchdogs, not obstructionists.



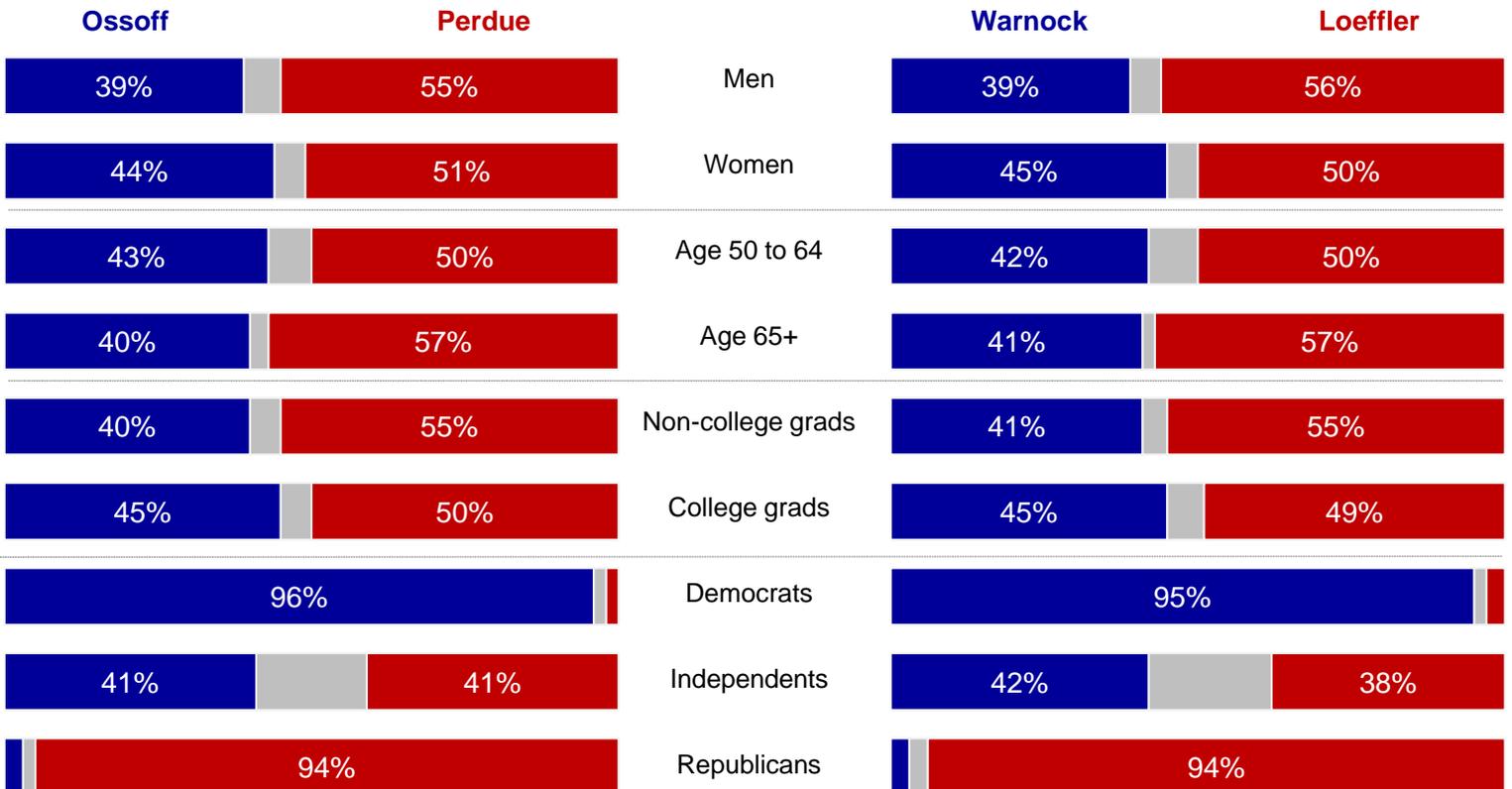
Among 2020 voters age 50+

50+ Voters and the U.S. Senate Races

Voters age 50+ are supporting the Republican candidates in both Georgia Senate runoff races by identical margins of 53% (Perdue, Loeffler) to 42% (Ossoff, Warnock), with just 5% undecided. The races are highly polarized along partisan lines, with nine in 10 50+ voters planning to vote either for both Republicans (51%) or both Democrats (40%). Perdue's and Loeffler's advantages stem in part from older Georgians' higher level of identification with the Republican party, as 50+ Democrats and 50+ Republicans are both voting similarly to partisans of all ages. In addition, the GOP candidates run about even among 50+ independents (Perdue: even, Loeffler: -4) while clearly trailing among all independents (Perdue: -11, Loeffler: -13).

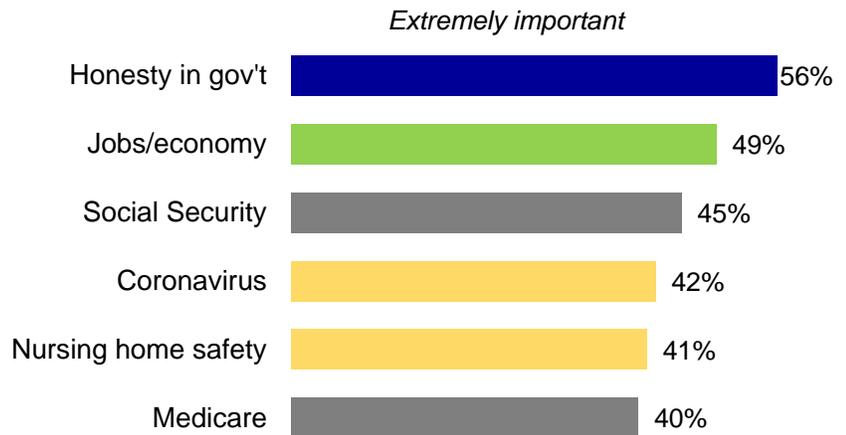


While voters 65+ have a strong preference for the two GOP candidates (Perdue +17, Loeffler +15), the races are much more competitive among voters age 50 to 64 (Perdue +7, Loeffler +7). Similarly, non-college 50+ voters favor both Republicans by 14 points, but the GOP advantage is much smaller among 50+ college graduates (+4 in both cases). Finally, we see gender gaps in both races, with men preferring the GOP candidate by larger margins than women. Interestingly, the gap is slightly larger in the special election, with men favoring Loeffler by 17 points and women giving her just a five-point edge.



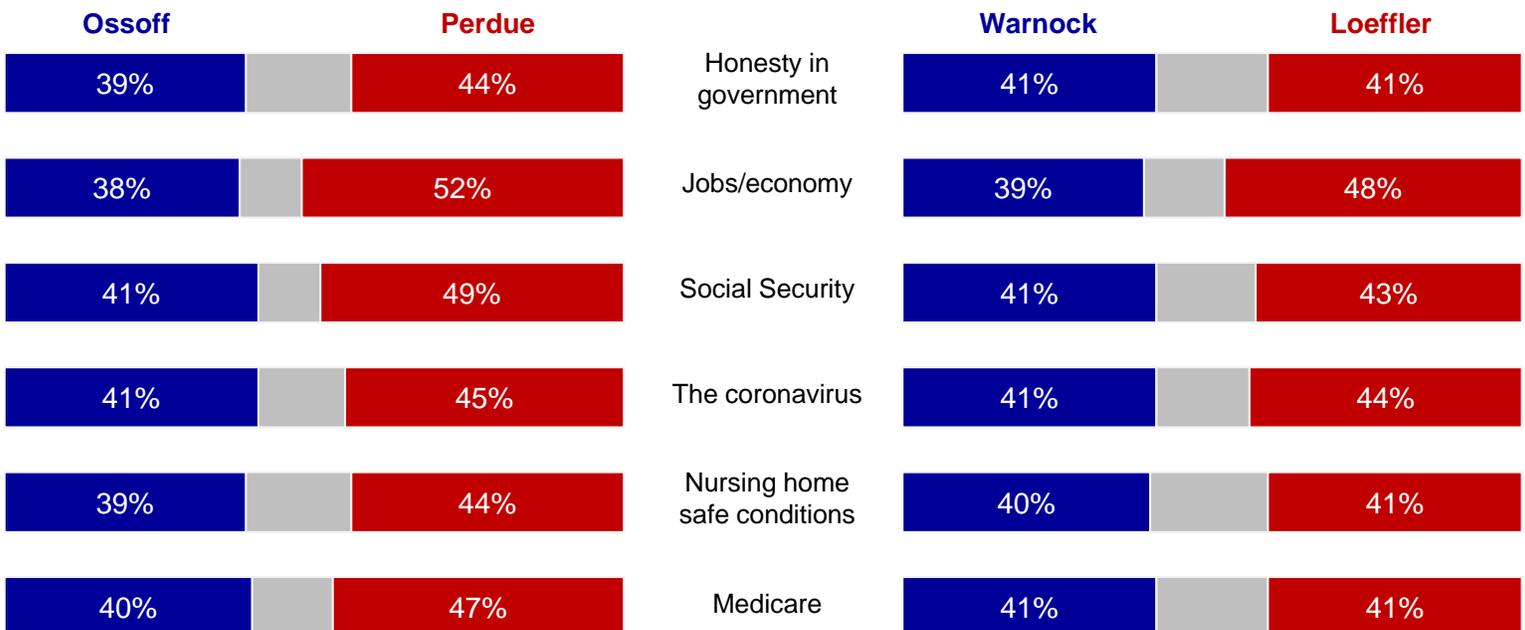
Top Issues for 50+ Voters

The survey identifies six key issues as being especially important for helping 50+ voters make their Senate voting decisions: honesty in government, jobs and the economy, Social Security, the coronavirus pandemic, nursing home safety, and Medicare. Although 50+ voters provide equal overall support to the two GOP candidates, they appear to have a clearer perception of incumbent Senator David Perdue, who is favored over John Ossoff on all six issues. In contrast, they prefer Kelly Loeffler over Raphael Warnock only on handling jobs and the economy, while trusting these candidates equally on other issues.



Honesty in Government: The single highest-rated issue is honesty in government (56% extremely important). Concern about honesty is broad, encompassing both urban (59%) and rural (59%) communities, Democrats (64%) and Republicans (55%), and men (53%) and women (59%). While Perdue is slightly favored on the issue (+5 points), Loeffler and Warnock are even.

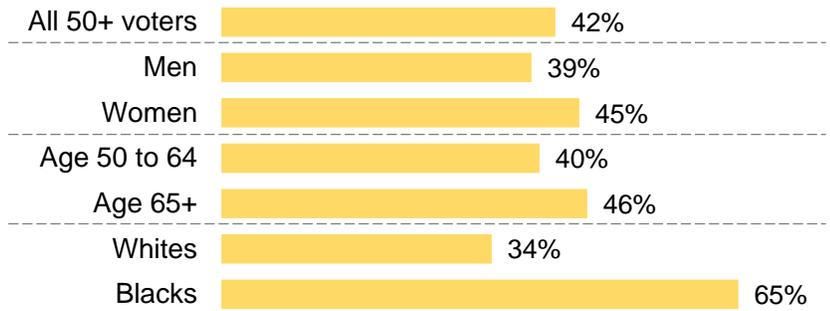
Nursing home safety: Two in five 50+ voters say nursing home safety is extremely important this year. It's especially important to Black voters (53%), people who know someone who died from COVID-19 (51%), those who worry a lot about getting COVID-19 (48%), and those with a relative in a care facility (45%).



Coronavirus Importance

Over two in five 50+ voters say the coronavirus pandemic is an extremely important voting issue. It is important both to men and women, and those age 50 to 64 and 65+. It is particularly salient for Black voters (65%), those who know someone who died from COVID-19 (53%), and women 65+ (47%). Both Perdue and Loeffler are seen as slightly stronger on the issue than their opponents (though by less than their overall vote advantages).

The coronavirus is an extremely important issue in my vote for senator:



Ossoff

Perdue



Warnock

Loeffler

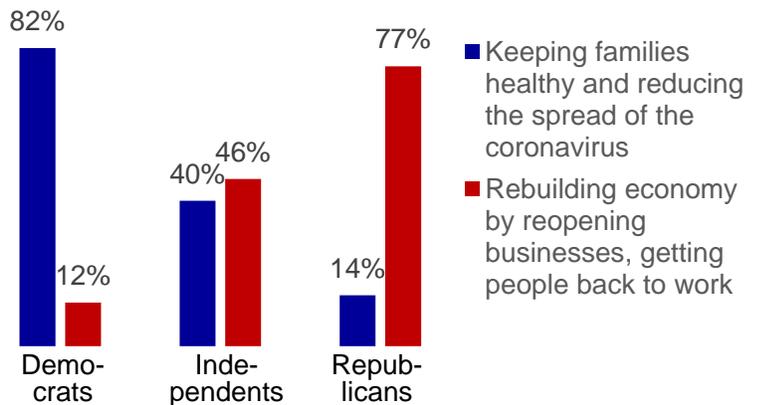
Who would handle the coronavirus better?



The Coronavirus and the Candidates

Despite their concern over the virus, 50+ voters prefer a candidate who would focus on getting people back to work (49%) over one focused on reducing the spread of the coronavirus (42%). This choice is sharply polarized along party lines: Republicans 50+ (77%), white voters 50+ (62%), and rural voters 50+ (56%) prioritize getting people back to work, while Democrats 50+ (82%), Black voters 50+ (74%), and urban voters 50+ (54%) prefer a focus on reducing the spread of the coronavirus.

50+ voters more likely to vote for a candidate who is focused on:



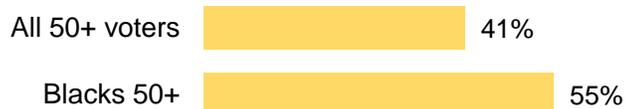
The COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 is personal and real for many 50+ voters. Fully 41% know someone who has died from the disease, including 55% of Black 50+ voters, and one in five have a close family member living in a long-term care facility.

Worry a lot/some that I/immediate family member may get COVID-19:



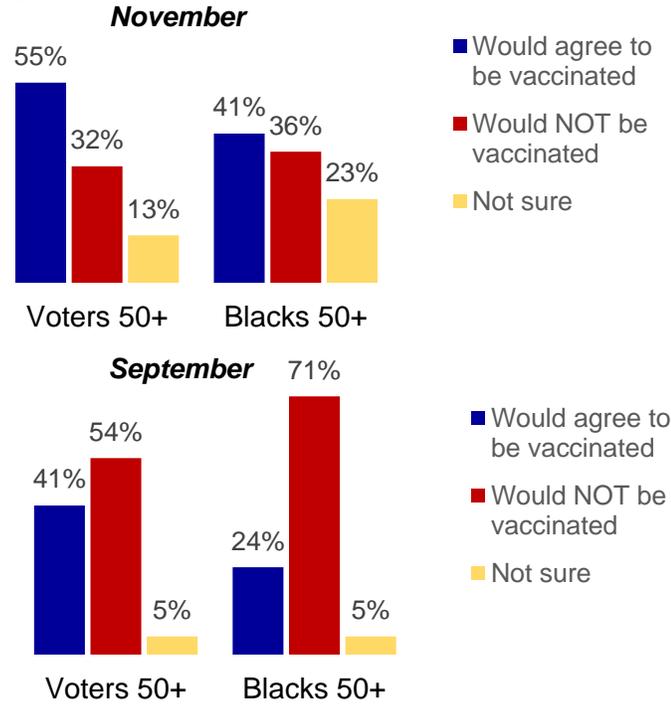
Know someone who died of COVID-19:



Willingness to Get Vaccinated Grows

50+ Georgians' willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19 has increased a substantial 14 points—from 41% to 55%—since September, when over half said they would *not* agree to be vaccinated. This improvement has been driven in part by Democrats, whose willingness has increased by 24 points since September (from 32% to 56%). Over half of both Republicans (55%) and Democrats would now agree to get vaccinated—a notable shift from back in September, when Republicans were more willing than Democrats by 14 points.

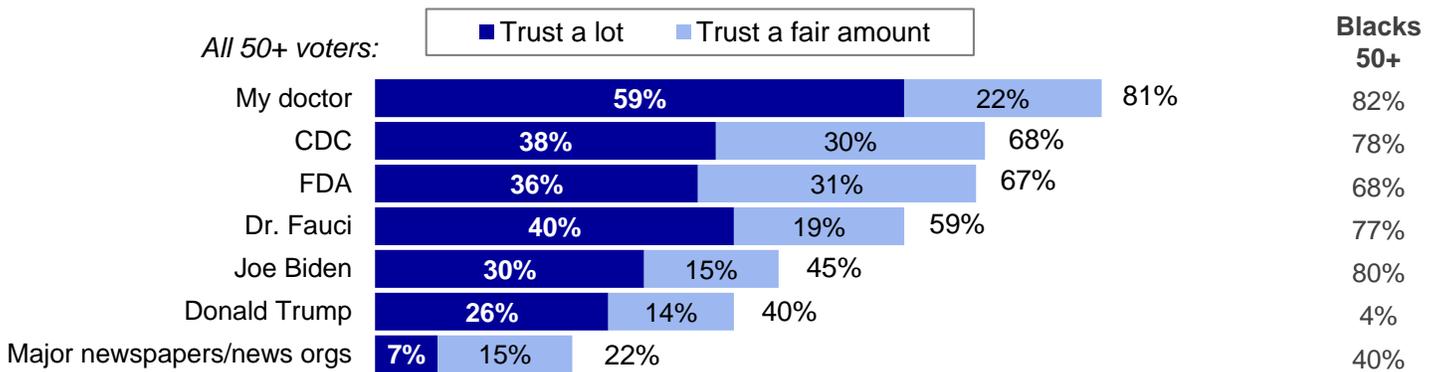
If an FDA-approved vaccine to prevent the coronavirus was available right now at no cost, would you agree to be vaccinated?



Skepticism about the coronavirus vaccine remains: a third say definitively that they would not agree to take an FDA-approved vaccine available now even at no cost, and the remaining 13% are not sure if they would do so. Black voters (41%), Black women (33%), and women age 50 to 64 (43%) are among the groups least likely to say they would get vaccinated. Still, 72% overall feel very or fairly confident that an FDA-approved vaccine will be safe.

Trust in Vaccine Messengers

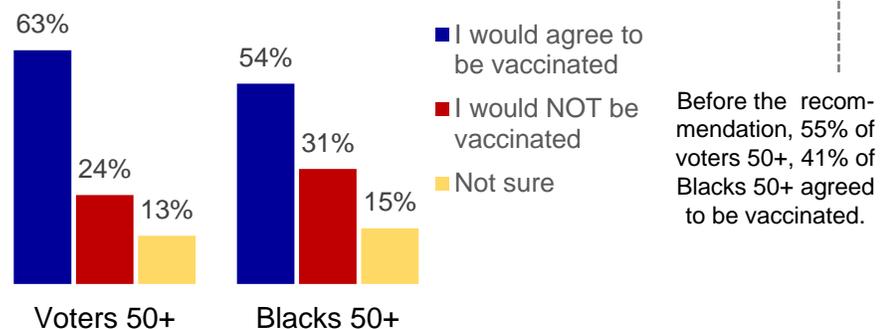
50+ voters place the highest trust in their own doctor when it comes to recommendations about whether people should get vaccinated, while major news organizations are the least trustworthy. Black voters 50+ are especially likely to trust their own doctor, Joe Biden, the CDC, and Dr. Anthony Fauci.



An Effective Recommendation

A COVID vaccine that came with a bipartisan stamp of approval, along with the endorsement of primary care doctors, would be accepted by many 50+ Georgians. Fully 63% say they would take such a vaccine, 8% higher than initially indicate a willingness to get vaccinated, while the proportion refusing the vaccine drops from 32% to 24%.

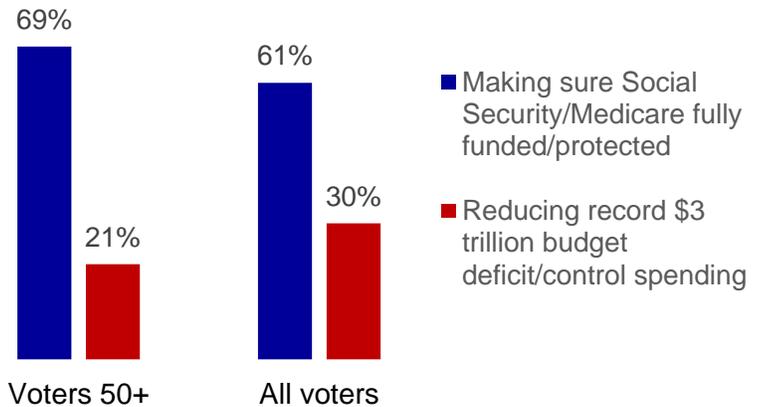
If an FDA-approved vaccine was available right now at no cost, and was recommended as safe/effective by Trump, Biden, and your doctor:



Protect Medicare and Social Security

Protecting Social Security and Medicare is a popular position not only among 50+ voters, but across the entire Georgia electorate. Majorities of both 18+ and 50+ voters are much more likely to support a candidate who advocates for protecting Social Security and Medicare from cuts. Indeed, supporting these programs takes precedent over reducing the deficit for majorities of all age groups, especially Democrats 50+ (84%) and Black 50+ voters (81%).

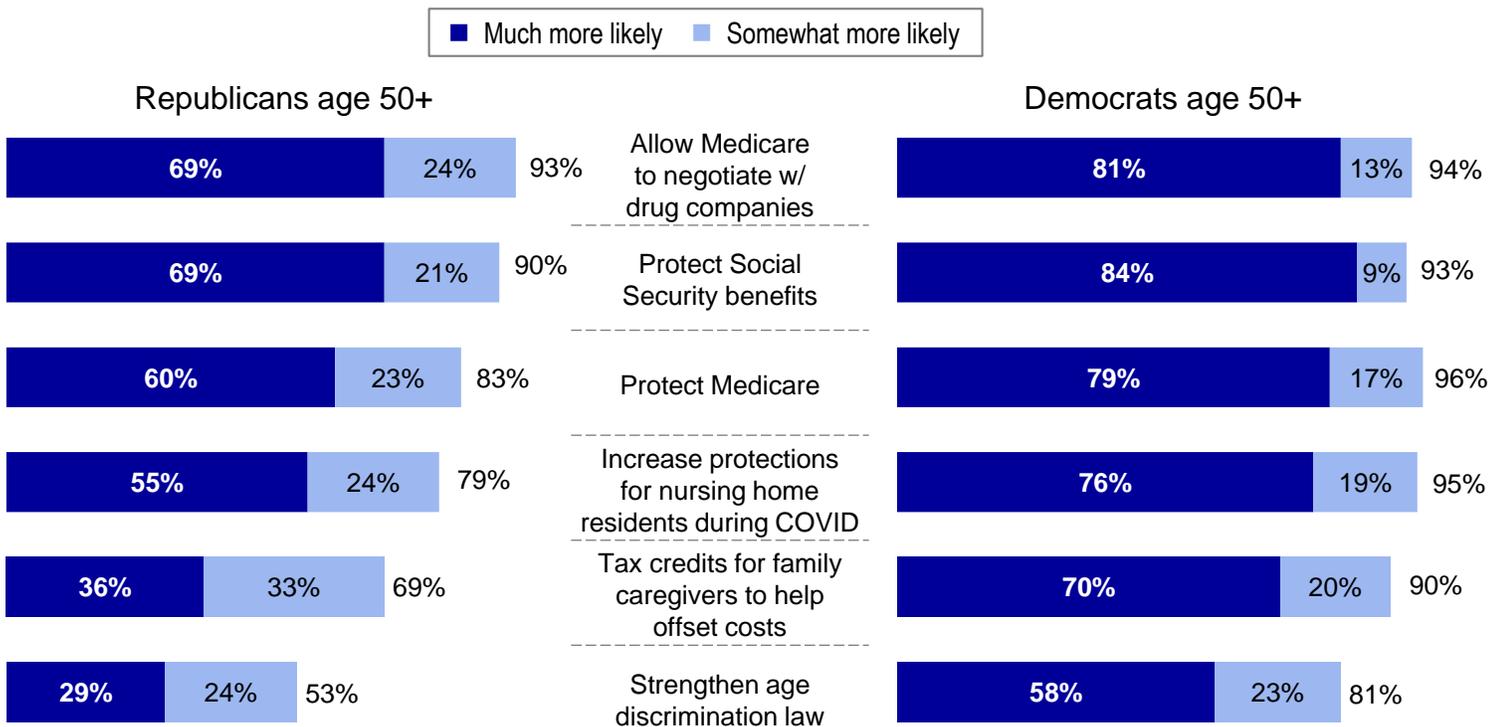
I am more likely to vote for a candidate who is focused on:



Policies Protecting Older Americans Motivate 50+ Voters of Both Parties

Majorities of both 50+ Republicans and 50+ Democrats say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate advocating a range of policies designed to protect and support older Americans. Commitments to protect Social Security, protect Medicare, and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices all increase a candidate’s appeal to at least 80% of both Democrats and Republicans. A candidate can also enjoy trans-partisan support by advocating for nursing home resident protections, a family caregiver tax credit, and stronger laws against age discrimination.

I would be more likely to support a Senate candidate who advocates this:



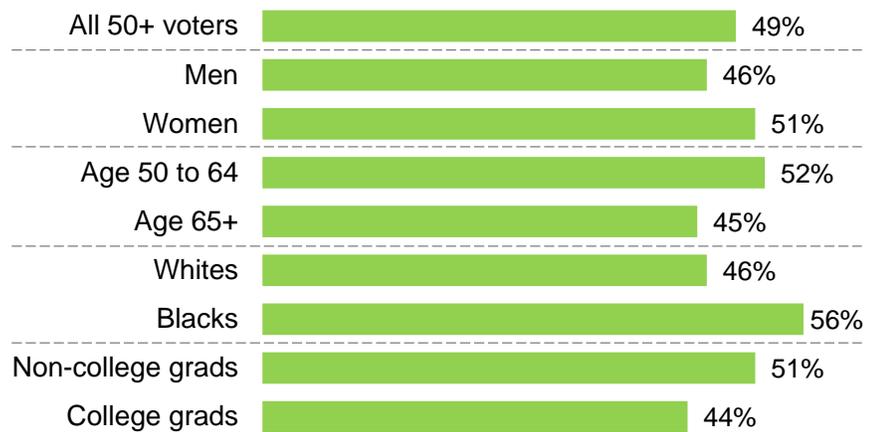
Jobs/Economy Is Key Voting Issue

The issue of jobs and the economy are extremely important when deciding their vote for U.S. Senate for nearly half of voters 50+, second only to honesty in government. It's particularly salient among age 50 to 64, Black 50+, rural, and non-college 50+ voters.

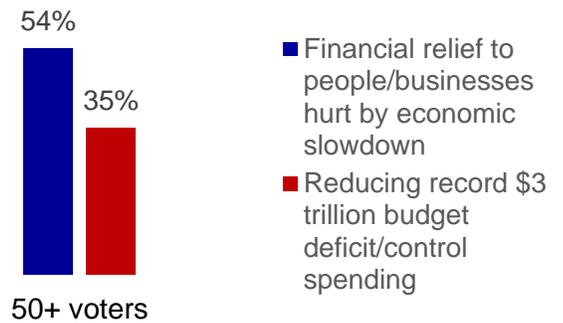
Financial Relief vs. Control Spending

The majority of these voters prefer a candidate who focuses on providing financial relief to people and businesses hurt by the economic slowdown over one focused on reducing the deficit. This is a strong preference for voters 50 to 64 (61% to 33%), while 65+ voters are more divided (44% to 39%). Women (59%) and Democrats (74%) strongly favor relief, while pluralities of conservatives (45%) and Republicans (48%) prefer to control spending.

Jobs/Economy is an extremely important issue in my vote for senator:



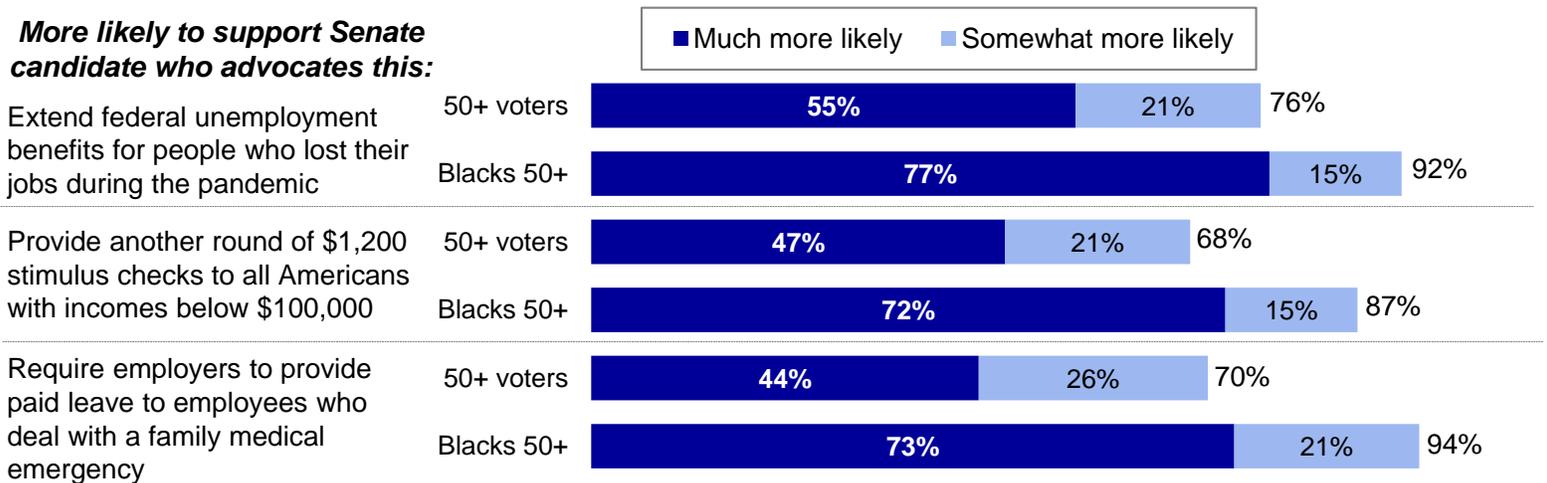
I am more likely to vote for a candidate who is focused on:



Policy Priorities for 50+ Voters

When it comes to specific relief measures, advocating to extend federal unemployment insurance to people who have lost their jobs during the pandemic and provide another round of stimulus checks would greatly increase popularity among Georgia voters of all ages. Black 50+ voters are even more likely to vote for candidates who support extending unemployment insurance (92%) and providing stimulus checks (87%).

More likely to support Senate candidate who advocates this:

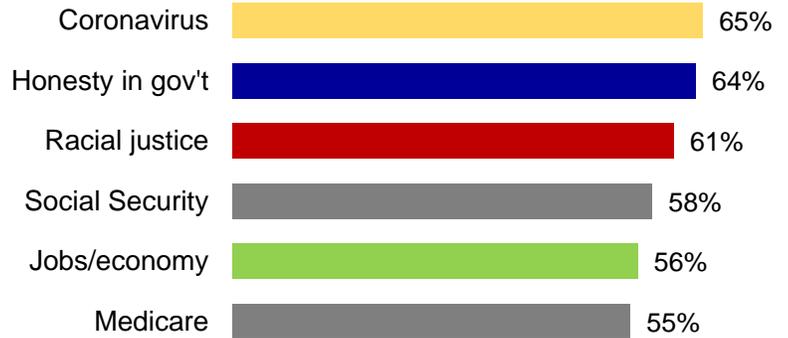


Among Black 2020 voters age 50+

Top Issues for 50+ Black Voters

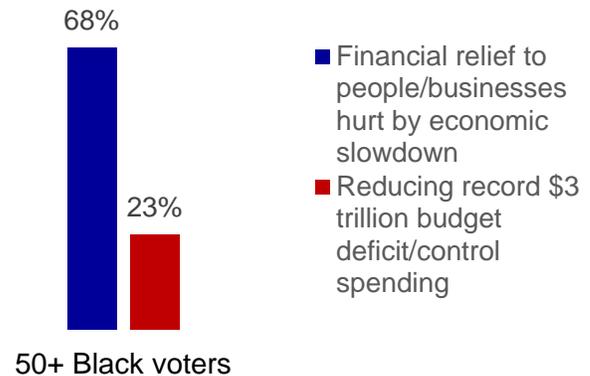
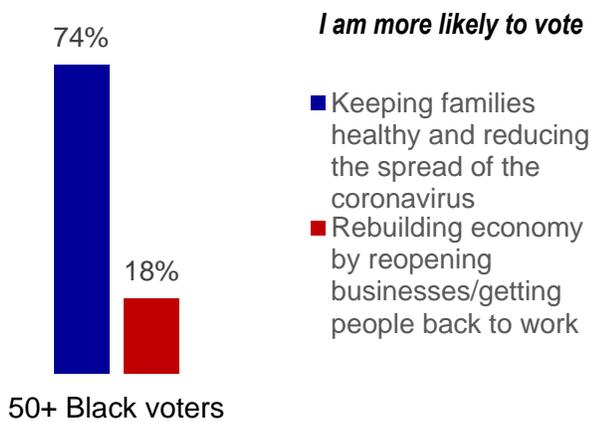
Black 50+ voters overwhelmingly support Warnock (93% to 3%) and Ossoff (92% to 3%). The coronavirus pandemic, honesty in government, and racial justice are their top voting issues, and slightly smaller majorities say Social Security, jobs and the economy, and Medicare are extremely important in deciding their vote.

Extremely important issue in my vote for senator:



Fund Relief, Social Security, and Medicare

Worrying about the budget deficit takes a back seat to valued public funding in the eyes of Black 50+ voters, who prefer a candidate focused on providing financial relief to those hurt by the economic slowdown over a candidate focused on reducing the budget deficit and spending. Despite the high importance these voters place on the economy and extending unemployment benefits, three in four prefer a candidate focused on reducing the spread of the coronavirus in their community over one focused on rebuilding the economy and getting people back to work.



Candidate Priorities for 50+ Black Voters

Advocating for a number of positions, including reducing healthcare costs, funding key programs, and protecting the vulnerable during a pandemic, would greatly increase a candidate's appeal among 50+ Black voters.

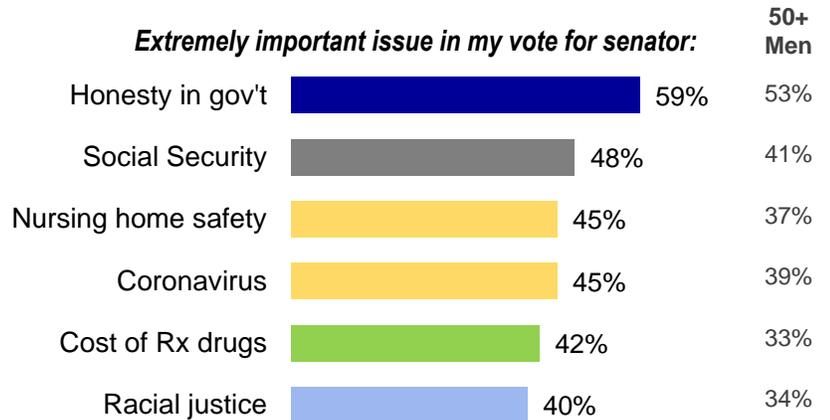
I would be MUCH MORE LIKELY to support a Senate candidate who advocates this:



Among women 2020 voters age 50+

Top Issues for 50+ Women

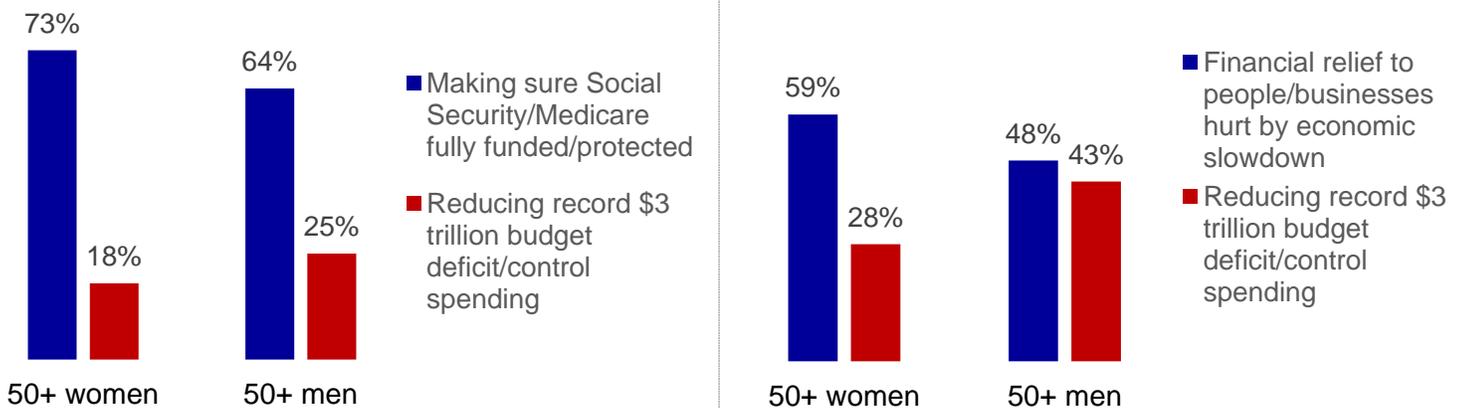
Six key issues stand out as being of particular importance to 50+ women, relative to men: the cost of Rx drugs, safe conditions in nursing homes, Social Security, racial justice, honesty in government, and the pandemic. For women age 50 to 64, the top two issues are honesty and the economy, while women 65+ identify honesty and Social Security as most important.



Financial Relief, Social Security, and Medicare

The budget deficit is currently a relatively low priority for 50+ women (36% extremely important). As a result, they prioritize protecting Medicare and Social Security (73%) over reducing the deficit (18%). Similarly, they prefer candidates who favor COVID relief spending (59%) over deficit reduction (28%).

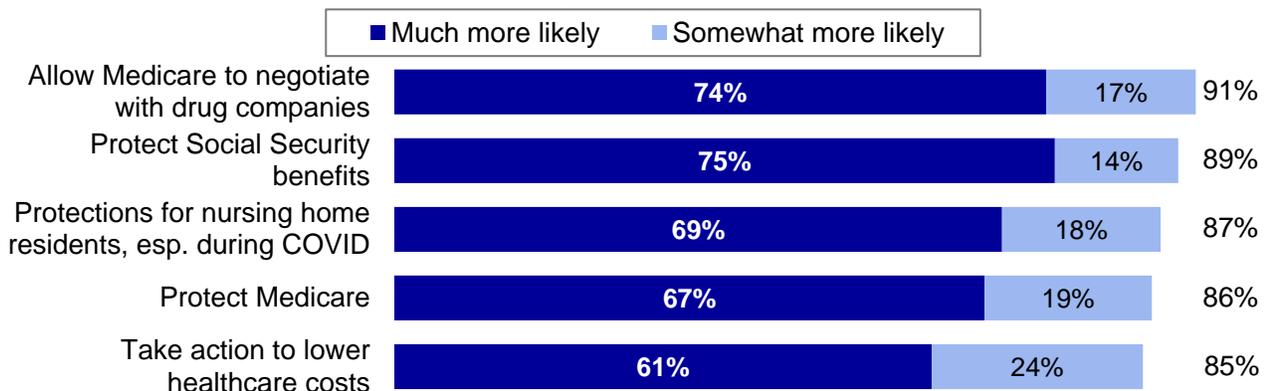
I am more likely to vote for a candidate who is focused on:



Issue Positions with Strong Appeal to 50+ Women

50+ women say they will reward candidates who will allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices (74% much more likely), protect Social Security benefits (75%), protect nursing home residents (69%), protect Medicare (67%), or lower healthcare costs (61%).

I would be more likely to support a Senate candidate who advocates this:



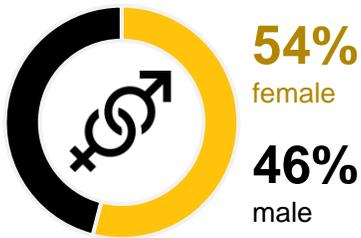
Profile Of Georgia 50+ Likely Voters

AARP TEXT: AARP commissioned the bipartisan polling team of Hart Research Associates and Fabrizio Ward to conduct a poll of likely voters in Georgia's runoff elections for U.S. Senate. The firms interviewed a total of 1,250 2020 Georgia voters, including 857 age 50+ voters and 358 Black age 50+ voters, between November 30 and December 4, 2020. The interviews were conducted via landline and cellphone. The margin of sampling error for all 2020 voters is $\pm 3.2\%$, for all age 50+ voters is $\pm 3.8\%$, and Black age 50+ voters is $\pm 5.9\%$.

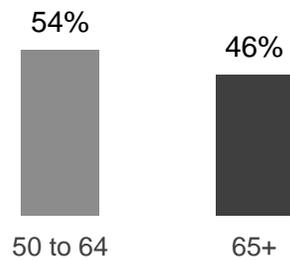
All reported data is among 50+ voters except when otherwise specified. Partisan crosstabs in this report represent how people identify themselves when asked, not how they are registered.

For more information, contact Kate Bridges at kbridges@aarp.org

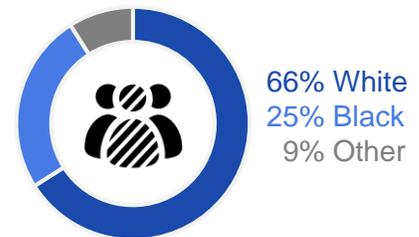
GENDER



AGE



RACE



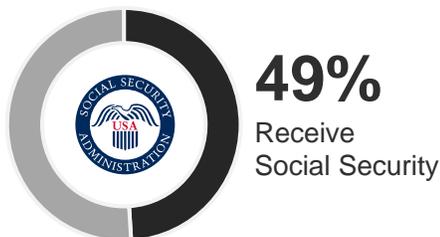
EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



SOCIAL SECURITY



MEDICARE



LIVING IN...



PARTY ID

