Utah Voters 50+ Support Increased Access to High-Speed Internet

AARP Utah is fighting to expand access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet. Recently, AARP surveyed Utah registered voters age 50-plus about how they use the internet and whether they support the expansion of high-speed internet, especially to rural areas currently lacking it. Here’s what the voters say:

Internet Use

- 92% of Utah registered voters ages 50+ use the internet.
- 81% make purchases online.
- 70% stream TV shows or movies.
- 78% use social media for health-related reasons.
- 73% pay bills online.

Barriers to Internet Use

- 68% of Utahns who say that home internet service is expensive.
- 45% of rural areas face greater challenges when it comes to accessing high-speed internet with more saying it is a problem in their community.

Utah voters support policies to expand high-speed internet

Many Utah voters 50-plus are more likely to vote for a candidate who had helped increase access to affordable high-speed internet.

- 84% of Republicans, 96% of Democrats, and 89% of Independents are more likely to vote for a candidate who increased access to high-speed internet.

Regardless of political party, most Utah voters agree on what the state’s priorities should be when determining how to spend funds for high-speed internet.

- Build out infrastructure in rural areas and other underserved areas to ensure that high-speed internet is available to all: 84% of Republicans, 96% of Democrats, and 89% of Independents.
- Make high-speed internet more affordable for people with low-incomes so that more families can afford high-speed internet at home: 83% of Republicans, 95% of Democrats, and 84% of Independents.
- Ensure that all Utahns have free access to high-speed internet at public places such as libraries, community centers, and similar locations: 86% of Republicans, 91% of Democrats, and 84% of Independents.
- Increase digital literacy so that people who are less familiar with the internet and technology can learn more about what the internet has to offer and how to use it: 76% of Republicans, 87% of Democrats, and 77% of Independents.

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