

AARP 2026 Michigan Statewide Survey: Annotated Questionnaire

Study population: Likely 2026 Voters (Age 18+)

Field dates: August 9-11, 2026

Data collection vendor: Fabrizio Ward / Impact Research

TOTAL sample size (and breakout of any subgroups):
Total likely voters 18+ - 877
Total likely voters 50+ - 517

MOE or appropriate estimate of error: ± 3.3 pct pts for total population

Notes:

- Data is weighted to represent the Michigan midterm voting population
 - Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%
 - Default base for all tables is 877 unless otherwise stated
 - Cell values of “-” mean the cell contains no data
 - A value of 0% represents a percentage that is less than 1%,
-

Research study page: <https://www.aarp.org/mi2026voterpoll>



1. Are you over 18 and registered to vote in Michigan?

	Total	50+
Yes	100	100
No/All Other Responses [TERMINATE]	-	-

2. How likely are you to vote in the 2026 general election later this fall for Governor, U.S. Senate and Congress? Would you say you will definitely vote, probably vote, be a 50-50 chance to vote, probably not vote or definitely not vote?

	Total	50+
Definitely Vote	87	93
Probably Vote	8	5
Be A 50-50 Chance To Vote	5	2
Probably NOT Vote [TERMINATE]	-	-
Definitely NOT Vote [TERMINATE]	-	-
DK/Refused [TERMINATE]	-	-

3. In what year were you born? [TERMINATE IF 2009 OR LATER; TERMINATE AGE REFUSALS]

	Total	50+
18-34	19	-
35-49	22	-
50-64	30	51
65+	29	49
Refused	-	-

4. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?

	Total	50+
Yes	4	3
No	95	96
DK/Refused	1	1



5. Which of the following categories indicates the race or races that you consider yourself to be? (Select all that apply) (RANDOMIZE 1-3)

	Total	50+
White	84	85
African American/Black	12	12
Asian American	2	0
Other (SPECIFY:)	1	1
DK/Refused	2	3

6. What is your gender?

	Total	50+
Female	54	54
Male	46	46
Other (Vol.)	-	-

7. With which political party are you registered? (ROTATE 1-2)

	Total	50+
Republican	33	37
Democrat	33	33
Independent or Unaffiliated	31	29
Something Else (SPECIFY: __)	2	1
DK/Refused	1	1

8. **[ASK IF INDEPENDENT/SOMETHING ELSE/REFUSED]** Do you consider yourself closer to (ROTATE) the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

	Total n298	50+ n157
Democratic Party	29	32
Republican Party	36	34
Purely Independent	29	29
Refused	6	5



9. What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed?

	Total	50+
TOTAL <COLLEGE	62	66
TOTAL COLLEGE+	38	34
Some Grade School	1	0
Some High School	2	2
High School Graduate	23	26
Technical Or Vocational School Graduate	5	6
Some College	21	21
College Graduate With An Associate's Or 2-Year Degree	11	12
College Graduate With A Bachelor's Or 4-Year Degree	24	21
Post-Graduate Degree	14	13
DK/Refused	0	0

10. Many people were not able to vote in the 2024 election for President, U.S. Congress, and other offices. How about you? Did you vote or did you not get a chance to vote in the 2024 election?

[IF VOTED ASK]

11. In the 2024 election for President, for whom did you vote? (ROTATE 1-2)

	Total	50+
Donald Trump	45	49
Kamala Harris	44	43
Voted For Someone Else	1	1
Did Not Vote For President In 2024	1	0
Did Not Vote In Previous Election	5	3
Refused	4	4



12. On a scale of 0-10 where 0 means not at all motivated to vote, 5 means somewhat motivated to vote and 10 means extremely motivated to vote, how motivated are you to vote in the November election for Governor, U.S. Senate, and Congress?

	Total	50+
10 - Extremely Motivated To Vote	80	86
8-9	8	7
0-7	12	7
9	3	3
8	5	3
7	3	2
6	1	1
5 – Somewhat Motivated To Vote	6	3
4	1	1
3	0	0
2	0	-
1	0	-
0 - Not At All Motivated To Vote	1	0
DK/Refused	0	1

13. Would you say that things in this country are headed in the right direction or would you say that they are headed in the wrong direction?

	Total	50+
Right Direction	33	37
Wrong Direction	63	59
DK/Refused	4	3



14. All other things being equal, if the election for Congress were held today, would you be more likely to vote for (ROTATE) the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate for Congress?

[ASK OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "UNSURE" IN PREVIOUS QUESTION]

15. Just for the purposes of this survey, if you had to decide today, do you think you would vote for (ROTATE) the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate for Congress?

	Total	50+
TOTAL DEMOCRATIC	50	46
TOTAL REPUBLICAN	45	49
Definitely Democratic	44	41
Probably Democratic	5	5
Lean Democratic	1	1
Lean Republican	2	1
Probably Republican	7	7
Definitely Republican	35	41
Unsure	6	5



From the following list of names, would you say you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person or entity? If you have no opinion or have never heard of the person, just say so.

RANDOMIZE	Total Fav- orable	Total Unfav- orable	Very Fav- orable	Smwt Fav- orable	Smwt Unfav- orable	Very Unfav- orable	No Opin- ion	Never Heard Of
16. John James								
Total	38	41	19	19	10	32	12	9
50+	43	42	20	23	10	31	10	5
17. Jocelyn Benson								
Total	43	38	21	21	10	27	11	8
50+	44	40	28	16	9	30	10	7
18. Mike Rogers								
Total	38	44	23	15	8	36	12	6
50+	44	39	27	18	7	32	12	4
19. Abdul El-Sayed								
Total	43	44	32	12	5	39	9	4
50+	38	51	24	14	7	44	8	4
20. The Republican Party								
Total	42	50	24	17	7	43	7	1
50+	46	47	28	19	7	41	6	1
21. The Democratic Party								
Total	42	50	19	23	13	37	7	1
50+	44	50	24	20	10	40	5	1



22. If the election for Governor were held today and the candidates were (ROTATE) John James, the Republican and Jocelyn Benson, the Democrat, for whom would you vote?
(ASK OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "UNDECIDED" IN PREVIOUS QUESTION)
23. Just for the purposes of this survey, if you had to decide today, do you think you would vote for (ROTATE) John James, the Republican, or Jocelyn Benson, the Democrat?

	Total	50+
TOTAL JOCELYN BENSON	49	47
TOTAL JOHN JAMES	44	48
Definitely Benson	41	42
Probably Benson	7	5
Lean Benson	1	1
Lean James	2	1
Probably James	7	6
Definitely James	35	41
Other/Someone Else	1	1
Not Sure/Undecided	6	5

24. If the election for U.S. Senate were held today and the candidates were (ROTATE) Mike Rogers, the Republican and Abdul El-Sayed, the Democrat, for whom would you vote?
(ASK OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "UNDECIDED" IN PREVIOUS QUESTION)
25. Just for the purposes of this survey, if you had to decide today, do you think you would vote for (ROTATE) Mike Rogers, the Republican, or Abdul El-Sayed, the Democrat?

	Total	50+
TOTAL ABDUL EL-SAYED	48	43
TOTAL MIKE ROGERS	47	52
Definitely El-Sayed	41	37
Probably El-Sayed	5	5
Lean El-Sayed	2	2
Lean Rogers	1	1
Probably Rogers	6	6
Definitely Rogers	40	45
Other/Someone Else	0	0
Not Sure/Undecided	5	4



26. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?

	Total	50+
TOTAL APPROVE	41	47
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	56	51
Strongly Approve	25	30
Somewhat Approve	16	16
Somewhat Disapprove	5	4
Strongly Disapprove	51	47
DK/Refused	3	2

27. Now specifically, from the following list, please tell me which issue is personally most important to you in deciding your vote this November?

(IF CHOICE MADE IN PREVIOUS QUESTION, ASK)

28. And which of the remaining issues would be next most important to you personally in deciding your vote this November?

	Total 1+2	Total 1st	50+ 1+2	50+ 1 st
Rising Prices And Affordability	38	22	33	17
Threats To Democracy	26	17	26	16
Immigration And Border Security	25	14	29	18
Taxes, Government Spending And Debt	20	10	20	10
Social Security And Medicare	19	8	30	14
Health Care	19	8	16	7
Foreign Policy And Military Defense	12	5	12	5
Abortion And Reproductive Issues	8	3	5	2
Gun Control/Gun Rights	7	2	6	2
Jobs	7	3	4	2
The Environment And Climate Change	6	3	4	2
Crime	6	2	5	2
DK/Refused	4	3	5	4

CONTINUE TO ALL

29. How worried are you about your personal financial situation?

	Total	50+
TOTAL WORRIED	54	49
TOTAL NOT WORRIED	45	49
Very Worried	18	16
Somewhat Worried	36	33
Not Too Worried	27	29
Not Worried At All	17	20
DK/Refused	1	2



30. Which two of the following are you most concerned about in regard to rising prices and affordability? If you are not concerned about any rising prices, please just say so.
(RANDOMIZE 1-6) (ALLOW MAX TWO CHOICES)

	Total	50+
Groceries	46	46
Health Care	35	40
Gasoline	31	31
Utilities Like Electricity	27	26
Housing	23	15
Prescription Drugs	10	12
Not Concerned	4	5
Refused	1	1

31. A family caregiver is someone who provides care or assistance to an older or ill adult, or someone with a disability. Do you consider yourself to be a current or former family caregiver? (Specify)

	Total	50+
TOTAL YES	42	50
Yes – Current	16	16
Yes – Former	19	25
Yes – Both Current and Former	7	9
No	58	50
Don't Know/Refused	0	1



CONTINUE TO RESPONDENTS AGE 50 OR OLDER (BORN 1976 OR EARLIER)

Please tell me how important each of the following issues are when deciding your vote this November: extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important.

RANDOMIZE	Total Impt	Smwt Impt	Total Not Impt	Extre-mely Impt	Very Impt	Not Too Impt	Not At All Impt	DK/ Ref-used
32. Social Security								
50+	86	9	4	49	37	1	3	1
33. Medicare								
50+	77	15	7	39	38	4	4	1
34. Cost of prescription drugs								
50+	65	24	10	30	34	6	4	1
35. Policies to help seniors live independently at home as they age								
50+	72	21	6	31	40	4	2	1
36. Cost of health care								
50+	78	15	6	41	37	4	2	1
37. Rising prices for everyday essentials, like groceries and gasoline								
50+	78	17	6	41	36	4	1	-



Thinking about issues that could be addressed in Washington, for each of the following statements, please tell me if you would be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate that advocated this position. If it would have no impact on your vote, just say so.

RANDOMIZE	Total More Likely	Total Less Likely	Much More Likely	Smwt More Likely	Smwt Less Likely	Much Less Likely	No Impact	DK/ Ref- used
38. Making sure workers get the Social Security they paid into and earned through a lifetime of hard work								
50+	93	2	77	16	1	1	4	0
39. Protecting Social Security from any cuts such as a reduction in payments, reducing annual increases or raising the retirement age								
50+	82	9	67	16	4	5	8	1
40. Provide support for unpaid family caregivers who are helping their loved ones live independently in their homes								
50+	74	11	45	30	5	6	14	1
41. Providing a tax credit for unpaid family caregivers who work to help cover the costs associated with caring for a family member								
50+	71	12	43	28	8	4	16	1
42. Provide paid leave so unpaid family caregivers can care for loved ones without losing their job or salary.								
50+	71	15	43	28	8	6	13	1
43. Expand Medicare's ability to negotiate drug prices to help lower the costs of prescription drugs								
50+	86	7	58	28	4	3	7	1



44. Criminals are increasingly using cryptocurrency ATMs—often located in gas stations and convenience stores—to trick consumers into depositing their own money as part of a scam. In 2025 alone, \$389 million was stolen nationwide through these scams, with the majority of victims being age 60 and older. To help prevent this fraud, policymakers are considering stronger state regulations on cryptocurrency ATMs. Which of the following policies comes closest to your opinion?

	50+
Cryptocurrency ATMs should remain legal without additional regulations.	6
Cryptocurrency ATMs should remain legal but be subject to stronger regulations.	29
Cryptocurrency ATMs should be banned in Michigan.	41
Not Sure	24

45. Michigan is facing a shortage of affordable housing. One proposal to help address this shortage is to allow more Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)—small homes, often called in-law suites or granny flats, that are built on the same property as an existing home. ADU's can provide housing for older adults, caregivers, or family members. Would you support or oppose requiring local communities to permit more ADU's?

	50+
TOTAL SUPPORT	75
TOTAL OPPOSE	14
Strongly Support	43
Somewhat Support	32
Somewhat Oppose	6
Strongly Oppose	8
Not Sure	11

46. Would you support or oppose stronger state oversight of where and how new data centers are developed in Michigan?

	50+
TOTAL SUPPORT	63
TOTAL OPPOSE	23
Strongly Support	44
Somewhat Support	19
Somewhat Oppose	7
Strongly Oppose	16
Not Sure	14

CONTINUE TO ALL



47. Would you say you are (ROTATE) a Liberal, Moderate or a Conservative in your political beliefs?

	Total	50+
TOTAL CONSERVATIVE	41	47
MODERATE	22	25
TOTAL LIBERAL	31	22
Very Conservative	24	28
Somewhat Conservative	17	19
Somewhat Liberal	14	13
Very Liberal	17	9
Unsure/Don't Know/Refused	6	6

48. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

	Total	50+
Employed	55	37
Retired	5	3
Unemployed	4	4
Homemaker	2	-
Student	33	55
DK/Refused	1	1

CONTINUE TO RESPONDENTS AGE 50 OR OLDER (BORN 1976 OR EARLIER)

49. Is Social Security now, or do you expect it to be, a major source of income for your household, a minor source of income for your household, or not a source of income for your household?

	50+
Major Source	59
Minor Source	30
Not A Source	7
DK/Refused	3

50. Are you or another member of your household a member of AARP?

	50+
Yes	36
No	62
DK/Refused	2



51. Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey, which is being conducted on behalf of AARP. The overall results of the survey will be shared with the media. Would you be willing to speak with a reporter about your views on the upcoming election and the topics we discussed in this survey?

	50+
Yes	32
No	68

Media Market.

	Total	50+
Alpena	0	0
Detroit	48	44
Duluth-Superior	0	1
Flint-Saginaw-Bay City	11	13
Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo-B. Crk/South Bend	21	21
Green Bay-Appleton	0	0
Lansing	7	9
Marquette	2	3
South Bend-Elkhart	2	2
Toledo	1	1
Traverse City-Cadillac	7	7



About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to the 125 million Americans 50-plus and their families: health and financial security, and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest-circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org/about-aarp/, www.aarp.org/español or follow @AARP, @AARPLatino and @AARPadvocates on social media.



For more information, contact Kate Bridges, KBridges@aarp.org.
For media inquiries, contact media@aarp.org.