AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people 50 and over. We provide information and resources; advocate on legislative, consumer, and legal issues; assist members to serve their communities; and offer a wide range of unique benefits, special products, and services for our members. These benefits include AARP Webplace at www.aarp.org, Modern Maturity and My Generation magazines, and the monthly AARP Bulletin. Active in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP celebrates the attitude that age is just a number and life is what you make it.

Acknowledgements

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Key Findings

AARP’s first ever election day poll of voters and likely voters age 45+ in Arkansas found that protecting Social Security is the dominant issue in determining which candidate to support, with over eight in ten saying it is very important. The economy and corporate responsibility are very important to over three in four voters and likely voters in making a decision about which candidate to support. Homeland security and adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare are very important to at least seven in ten voters and likely voters in deciding which candidate to support.

- Over eight in ten (84%) say protecting Social Security is very important to their voting decisions.
- More than three in four say the economy (77%) and making sure large corporations act responsibly (76%) are very important to their decisions.
- About seven in ten say homeland security (72%) and adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare (70%) are very important to their decisions about which Congressional and Senate candidates to vote for.

Arkansas voters and likely voters age 45+ consider passing laws protecting Social Security and adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare to be top or high priorities for the next Congress.

- When Congress returns to Washington in January 2003, over eight in ten consider passing legislation to protect Social Security to be a top (61%) or high (23%) priority for the next Congress.
- Similarly, about three in four consider passing a law to add prescription drug coverage to Medicare to be a top (43%) or high (31%) priority.

Methodology

AARP commissioned ICR, a national survey research firm, to conduct a random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of voters and likely voters age 45 or older in Arkansas. Respondents were screened for age and for their likelihood of voting. A total of 400 interviews were completed from November 2 through noon, November 5, 2002. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percent. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 5 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every voter and likely voter in Arkansas age 45 or older had been surveyed. Responses to all survey questions are in the attached annotated questionnaire.
Figure 1
Very Important Issues to Voting Decisions Among Voters and Likely Voters In Arkansas

- Social Security: 84%
- Economy: 77%
- Corporate responsibility: 76%
- Homeland security: 72%
- Medicare Rx coverage: 70%
- Taxes: 64%
- Environment: 60%
Figure 2
Priority for Action by Next Congress
On Social Security Protection
And Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit
Among Voters and Likely Voters in Arkansas

Protecting Social Security

Adding prescription benefit to Medicare

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Top Priority

High Priority
Hello, I’m _______________ from ICR, a national research firm near Philadelphia. We are conducting a very brief study on some current events and would value the opinions of someone in your household.

IF NECESSARY: This survey is very short and will only take a few minutes of your time.

**SCREENER**

**S-1.** May I please speak to a male 45 years of age OR OLDER who lives in this household?

1 Yes, Male 45+ on phone CONTINUE WITH Q.1
2 Yes, Male 45+ is available ASK TO SPEAK WITH, REPEAT INTRO, GO TO Q.1
3 Male 45+ not available now ASK Q.S-2
4 No Male 45+ lives here ASK Q.S-2
5 No person 45+ living in household THANK AND TERMINATE, TQS1
6 Refused THANK AND TERMINATE, RQS1

**S-2.** Then may I please speak with a female 45 years of age or older who lives in this household?

1 Yes, Female 45+ on phone CONTINUE WITH Q.1
2 Yes, Female 45+ is available ASK TO SPEAK WITH, REPEAT INTRO, GO TO Q.1
3 Female 45+ not available now SET UP CALLBACK
4 No Female 45+ living in household THANK AND TERMINATE, TQS2
5 Refused THANK AND TERMINATE, RQS2
1. May I please have your age?

____________ (45-97)
RR  Refused

(ASK Q.1a IF Q.1 = RR)
1a. Would you say you are between…?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

18 to 44
45 to 49
50 to 64, or
65 or older
Refused

(CONTINUE IF Q.1 = 45 OR MORE OR Q.1a = 2-4; ELSE, THANK AND TERMINATE)
(ASK Q.2 IF SATURDAY OR SUNDAY ONLY)
2. This Tuesday is Election day. How likely are you to vote? Are you…?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Very likely
Somewhat likely
Not too likely
Not at all likely
(DO NOT READ) Already voted absentee
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know
(DO NOT READ) Refused

(ASK Q.2a MONDAY ONLY)
2a. Tomorrow is Election day. How likely are you to vote? Are you…?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Very likely
Somewhat likely
Not too likely
Not at all likely
(DO NOT READ) Already voted absentee
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know
(DO NOT READ) Refused
2b. As you know, today is Election day. Have you voted?

Yes
No
(DO NOT READ) Already voted absentee
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know
(DO NOT READ) Refused

2c. How likely are you to vote today? Would you say you are…?

(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Very likely
Somewhat likely
Not very likely
Not at all likely
(DO NOT READ) Already voted absentee
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know
(DO NOT READ) Refused

MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE

(ASK Q.3 IF Q.2 = 1 or 5 OR Q.2a = 1 or 5 OR Q.2b = 1 or 3 OR Q.2c=1 or 5;
OTHERWISE THANK AND TERMINATE)
(SCRAMBLE ITEMS A-G)
(IF SUNDAY, MONDAY OR IF Q.2b = 1, INSERT “ARE/IS”; IF TUESDAY AND
Q.2a = 1, INSERT “WERE/WAS”)
(IF RESPONDENT IS IN ANY STATE BUT FLORIDA, INSERT “AND SENATE”)
3. I am going to read you a list of domestic issues that affect voters 45 or older and for each I would like you to tell me how important that issue is in your decision about which U.S. Congressional (and Senate) candidates to vote for. Let’s start with (INSERT FIRST ITEM)…would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important in your decision about which U.S. Congressional (and Senate) candidates to vote for? The next issue is (INSERT NEXT ITEM).

(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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d. The environment

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0 (DO NOT READ) Don’t know
0 (DO NOT READ) Refused

e. Taxes

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0 (DO NOT READ) Don’t know
0 (DO NOT READ) Refused

f. The economy

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0 (DO NOT READ) Don’t know
0 (DO NOT READ) Refused

g. Making sure large corporations act responsibly

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very important</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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</table>

0 (DO NOT READ) Don’t know
0 (DO NOT READ) Refused
4. When Congress returns to Washington in January 2003, how much of a priority do you want it to give to passing a law that adds prescription drug coverage to Medicare? Should it be a…?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Top priority</th>
<th>High priority</th>
<th>Medium priority</th>
<th>Low priority</th>
<th>No priority at all</th>
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<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt;.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5. When Congress returns in January 2003, how much of a priority do you want it to give to passing legislation that protects Social Security? Should it be a…?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Top priority</th>
<th>High priority</th>
<th>Medium priority</th>
<th>Low priority</th>
<th>No priority at all</th>
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<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(ASK Q.6 IF Q.1 = 50 OR OLDER OR Q.1a = 3 OR 4)

6. Are you or is your spouse a member of A-A-R-P?

(base = 330 age 50+)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(DO NOT READ) Don’t know</th>
<th>(DO NOT READ) Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
7. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...?
   (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

   \%
   25  A Republican
   44  A Democrat
   25  An Independent
   3   (DO NOT READ) Other
   1   (DO NOT READ) Don’t Know
   2   (DO NOT READ) Refused

8. And also generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?
   (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

   \%
   40  Conservative
   45  Moderate
   10  Liberal
   2   (DO NOT READ) None of the above
   4   (DO NOT READ) Don’t Know
   <.5 (DO NOT READ) Refused

9. Currently, are you yourself employed full-time, part-time, or not at all?

   \%
   39  Full-time
   9   Part-time
   52  Not employed
   0   Refused
(ASK Q.9a IF Q.9 = 3)
9a. Are you…?
   (READ LIST)

   (base = 207 not employed)
   %
   79  Retired
   8   A homemaker
   <.5 A student, or
   2   Temporarily unemployed
   8   (DO NOT READ) Disabled/handicapped
   1   (DO NOT READ) Other
   <.5 (DO NOT READ) Don't Know
   0   (DO NOT READ) Refused

10. What is the last grade of school you completed?
    (DO NOT READ LIST)

    %
    11  Less than high school
    33  High school graduate
    22  Some college
    21  Graduated college
    11  Graduate school or more
    1   Technical school/other
    1   Refused

11. Is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes…?
    (READ LIST)

    %
    8   Less than $10,000
    9   $10,000 but less than $15,000
    7   $15,000 but less than $20,000
    6   $20,000 but less than $25,000
    8   $25,000 but less than $30,000
    11  $30,000 but less than $40,000
    9   $40,000 but less than $50,000
    13  $50,000 but less than $75,000, or
    12  $75,000 and over
    5   (DO NOT READ) Don't Know
    16  (DO NOT READ) Refused
12. RECORD RESPONDENT GENDER

\[
\begin{array}{cc}
\% & \\
45 & \text{Male} \\
55 & \text{Female} \\
\end{array}
\]