



AARP 2002 Election Survey: National Results

**Data Collected by ReedHaldyMcIntosh
Report Prepared by Gretchen Straw, Ph.D.**

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Acknowledgements

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Key Findings

AARP's first ever national election poll of voters and likely voters age 45+ found that protecting Social Security, corporate responsibility, and the economy are dominant issues in determining which candidate to support, with over three in four saying they are very important. Other domestic issues, including adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare, taxes, and homeland security are very important to at least two in three voters and likely voters in deciding which candidate to support.

- Over eight in ten (83%) say protecting Social Security was very important to their voting decisions.
- Over three in four voters and likely voters age 45+ rate making sure large corporations act responsibly (76%) and the economy (75%) as very important to their decision about which candidates to support.
- Two in three (65%) say adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare was very important to their decisions about which Congressional and Senate candidates to vote for – a rating similar to other crucial issues including homeland security and taxes.

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 (57%) or high (26%) priority for the next Congress.
- Similarly, seven in ten consider passing a law to add prescription drug coverage to Medicare to be a top (38%) or high (31%) priority.

Methodology

AARP commissioned ReedHaldyMcIntosh, a national survey research firm, to conduct a national random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of voters and likely voters age 45 or older. Respondents were screened for age and for their likelihood of voting. A total of 1000 interviews were completed from November 2 through November 4, 2002. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.1 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 3.1 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every voter and likely voter age 45 or older had been surveyed. Data were weighted on party affiliation among voters age 45+ based on national results of ICR's EXCEL omnibus polling. Weighted responses to all survey questions are in the attached annotated questionnaire.

For more information, contact Jeff Love at 202-434-6297.

Figure 1
Very Important Issues to Voting Decisions
Among Voters and Likely Voters Nationwide

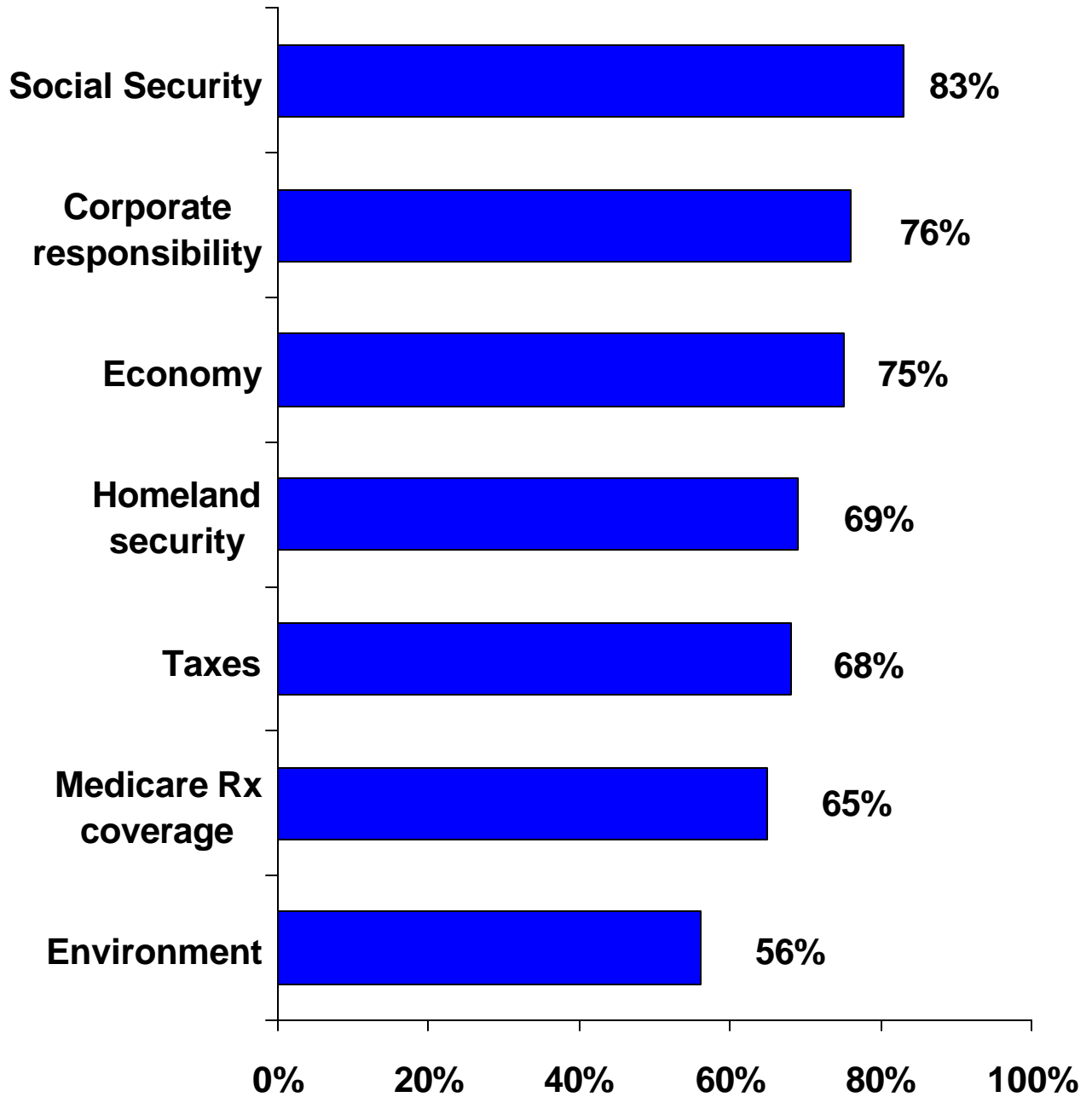
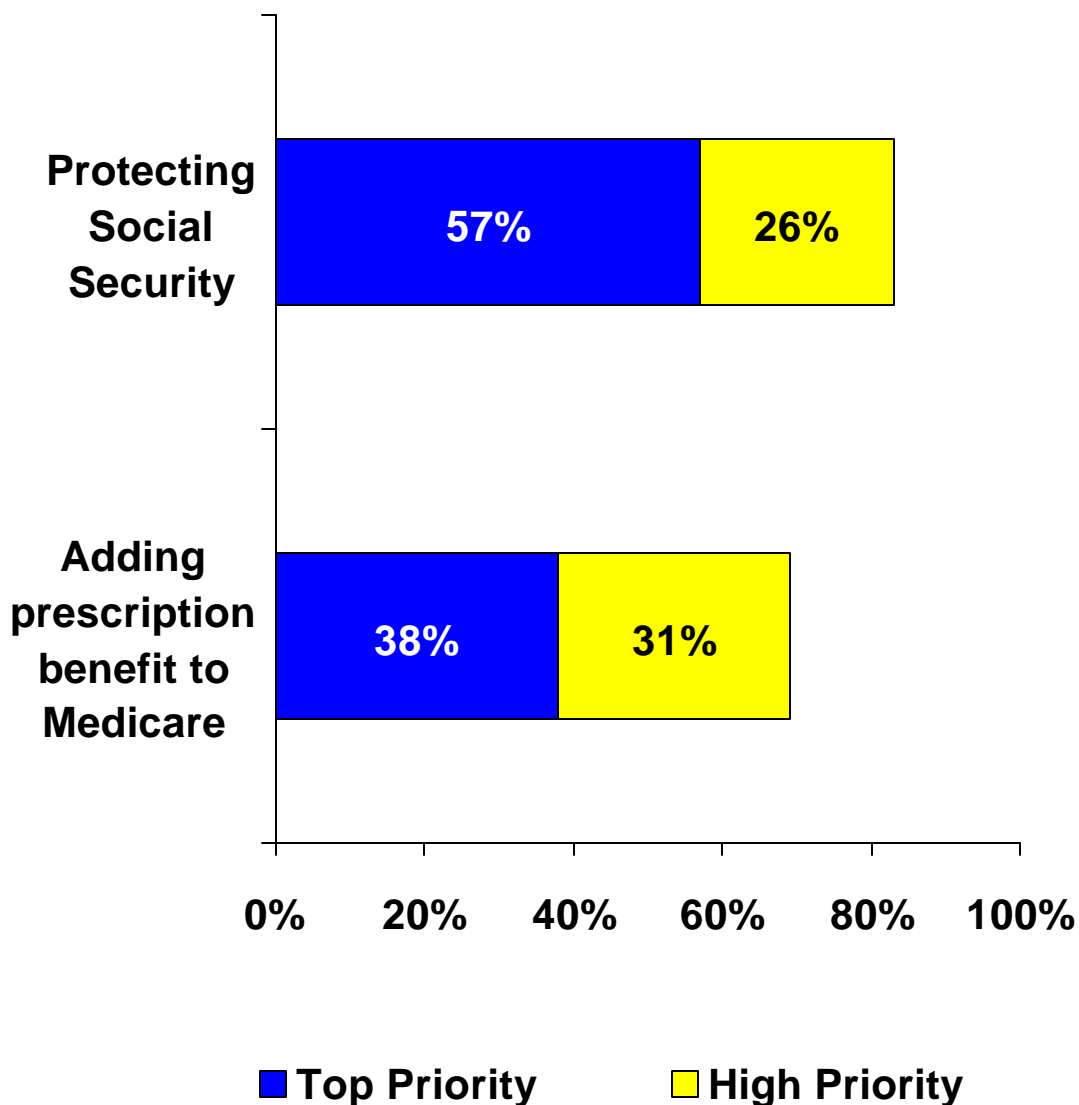


Figure 2
Priority for Action by Next Congress
On Social Security Protection
And Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit
Among Voters and Likely Voters Nationwide



**ELECTION DAY POLL
MEDICARE RX & SOCIAL SECURITY**

**1000 Voters and Likely Voters Age 45+
Weighted by party affiliation based on voters nationwide in ICR Excel Omnibus
figures**

Hello, my name is _____ calling from ReedHaldyMcIntosh, a national research firm in suburban Philadelphia, and we are conducting a brief study on some current events and would like to include the opinions of someone in your household. In order for us to include adults of all ages, we need to select just one person from your household.

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

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: SAVE TERMINATE DATA, QUESTIONS WILL BE TABBED INCLUDING AND EXCLUDING TERMINATES – DATA FILE MUST CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATE COMPLETES FROM TERMINATES. CODING IN DATA FILE MUST MATCH CODES USED IN HARD COPY QUESTIONNAIRE]

S-1. May I please speak to the (male/female) 45 years of age or older, living in this household who had the most recent birthday?

- (1) Yes, respondent on phone **(CONTINUE WITH Q.1)**
- (2) Qualified respondent is available **(ASK TO SPEAK WITH, REPEAT INTRO, GO TO Q.1)**
- (3) Qualified respondent not available **(ASK Q.S-2)**
- (4) No respondent 45+ living in household **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (R) Refused **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

S-2. Since that person is not available, may I please speak with any (male/female) 45 years of age or older, living in this household?

- (1) Yes, respondent on phone **(CONTINUE WITH Q.1)**
- (2) Qualified respondent is available **(ASK TO SPEAK WITH, REPEAT INTRO, GO TO Q.1)**
- (3) Qualified respondent not available **(SET UP CALLBACK NO LATER THAN MONDAY EVENING, IF NOT AVAILABLE BEFORE MONDAY EVENING, TERMINATE)**
- (4) No respondent 45+ living in household **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (R) Refused **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

1. May I please have your age? (**DO NOT ACCEPT A RANGE, IF REFUSED ASK Q.1A, IF VALID AGE GIVEN, SKIP TO INSTRUCTION ABOVE Q.2**)

(RR) Refused

- 1a. Would you say you are between...? (**READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**)

(1) 18 to 44

(2) 45 to 49

(3) 50 to 64, or

(4) 65 or older

(R) (**DO NOT READ**) Refused

(CONTINUE IF Q.1/Q.1a = 45 OR MORE, OTHERWISE THANK AND TERMINATE)

Combined responses: Q1 and Q1a

%

0 18 to 44

17 45 to 49

43 50 to 64, or

40 65 or older

0 Refused

(ASK Q.2 SUNDAY ONLY, IF MONDAY, SKIP TO Q.2a)

2. This Tuesday is election day. How likely are you to vote? Are you...(**READ**)...? (**ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**)

(1) Very likely (**SKIP TO Q.3**)

(2) Somewhat likely (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)

(3) Not too likely (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)

(4) Not at all likely (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)

(5) (**DO NOT READ**) Already voted by absentee ballot (**SKIP TO Q.3**)

(D) (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)

(R) (**DO NOT READ**) Refused (**THANK AND TERMINATE**)

(ASK Q.2a MONDAY ONLY)

2a. Tomorrow is election day. How likely are you to vote? Are you...**(READ)**...?
(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)

- (1) Very likely **(SKIP TO Q.3)**
- (2) Somewhat likely **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (3) Not too likely **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (4) Not at all likely **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (5) **(DO NOT READ)** Already voted by absentee ballot **(SKIP TO Q.3)**
- (D) **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (R) **(DO NOT READ)** Refused **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

NOTE: QUESTIONS 2B AND 2C WERE OMITTED BECAUSE POLLING WAS COMPLETED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2002.

(ASK Q.2b and 2c ON TUESDAY ONLY OR IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY ALREADY VOTED IN RESPONSE TO Q.2 OR Q.2a, THEN RECORD YES TO Q2B AND PROCEED TO Q.3)

2b. As you know, today is Election Day. Have you voted? **(INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF VOTED BY ABSENTEE BALLOT, RECORD AS YES)**

%

- (1) Yes **(SKIP TO Q.3)**
- (2) No **(GO TO Q.2c)**
- (D) **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (R) **(DO NOT READ)** Refused **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

(ASK Q.2c IF Q.2b = 2)

2c. How likely are you to vote today? Are you...**(READ)**...? **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)**

- (1) Very likely
- (2) Somewhat likely **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (3) Not too likely **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (4) Not at all likely **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (D) **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- (R) **(DO NOT READ)** Refused **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

Combined responses: Q2, Q2a, and Q2c

How likely are you to vote Tuesday/tomorrow/today? Would you say you are...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

- %
- 97 Very likely
 - Somewhat likely
 - Not very likely
 - Not at all likely
 - 3 (DO NOTE READ) Already voted by absentee ballot
 - (DO NOT READ) Don't know
 - (DO NOT READ) Refused

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 (**ALL STATES BUT FLORIDA**: Senate) candidates to vote for.

(Let's start with/the next issue is)... (**READ**)...would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important in your decision about which US Congressional and senate candidates to vote for? (**ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE FOR EACH ITEM**)

(ROTATE)	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not At All Important	Don't Know	Refused
Protecting Social Security	83%	12%	3%	1%	*	*
Adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare	65	22	7	3	2	*
Homeland security	69	21	4	3	3	1
The environment	56	34	7	2	*	*
Taxes	68	23	5	1	2	*
The economy	75	20	2	1	1	*
Making sure large corporations act responsibly	76	16	4	2	2	*

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)**...? **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)**

%

- 38 Top priority
- 31 High priority
- 19 Medium priority
- 6 Low priority
- 3 No priority at all
- 2 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- * **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know

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)**...? **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)**

%

- 57 Top priority
- 26 High priority
- 10 Medium priority
- 3 Low priority
- 2 No priority at all
- 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused
- * **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know

DEMOGRAPHICS

(IF 50 OR OLDER IN Q.1, ASK QD-1, OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q.D-2)

D-1. Are you or is your spouse a member of A-A-R-P? **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)**

%

- 59 Yes
- 40 No
- 1 Don't know
- * Refused

D-2. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...**(READ AND ROTATE)...**? **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)**

%

- 30 A Republican
- 35 A Democrat
- 32 An Independent
- 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Other **(SPECIFY)** _____
- 2 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't Know
- 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

D-3. And also generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being
... **(READ AND ROTATE)...**? **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE)**

%

- 38 Conservative
- 42 Moderate
- 15 Liberal
- 1 **(DO NOT READ)** None of the above
- 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't Know
- 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

D-4. Currently, are you yourself employed full-time, part-time, or not at all? (**ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**)

- %
- 34 Full-time
- 13 Part-time
- 52 Not employed
- * Refused

(ASK Q.D4-A IF Q.4 = NOT EMPLOYED)

D-4a. Are you... (**READ**)...?

- %
- 41 Retired
- 7 A homemaker
- * A student, or
- 2 Temporarily unemployed
- 2 (**DO NOT READ**) Disabled/handicapped
- * (**DO NOT READ**) Other (**SPECIFY**) _____
- * (**DO NOT READ**) Don't Know
- * (**DO NOT READ**) Refused

D-4. What is the last grade of school you completed? (**DO NOT READ LIST, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**)

- %
- 8 Less than high school
- 28 High school graduate
- 25 Some college
- 24 Graduated college
- 11 Graduate school or more
- 3 Technical school/other
- * Refused

D-6. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent? (**ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**)

%

5 Yes

93 No

1 Don't Know

1 Refused

D-7. What race do you consider yourself? (**DO NOT READ LIST – ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**)

%

87 White or Caucasian

6 Black or African American

1 Asian or Pacific Islander

1 Native American or Alaskan Native

3 Other (**SPECIFY**) _____

* (**DO NOT READ**) Don't Know

2 (**DO NOT READ**) Refused

D-8. Is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes...(**READ**)...? (**ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**)

%

6 Less than \$10,000

7 \$10,000 but less than \$15,000

5 \$15,000 but less than \$20,000

7 \$20,000 but less than \$25,000

6 \$25,000 but less than \$30,000

8 \$30,000 but less than \$40,000

10 \$40,000 but less than \$50,000

15 \$50,000 but less than \$75,000, or

20 \$75,000 and over

3 (**DO NOT READ**) Don't Know

12 (**DO NOT READ**) Refused

D-9. Record Respondent's Gender (**BY OBSERVATION**)

%

45 Male

55 Female

CLOSING

And, for validation purposes only, may I please have your name?

NAME: _____

Thank you very much for your time and have a very pleasant day/evening