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 New Hampshire found that protecting Social Security and making sure large corporations act responsibly are dominant issues in determining which candidate to support, with three in four voters saying they are very important. Other domestic issues, including the economy, taxes, homeland security, and adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare are very important to more than six in ten voters and likely voters in deciding which candidate to support.

- Three in four (75%) voters say protecting Social Security was very important to their voting decisions.
- Making sure large corporations act responsibly is cited as very important by the same proportion (75%) of voters and likely voters.
- Two thirds (66%) say the economy, taxes, and homeland security are very important in determining their voting choices.
- Six in ten (60%) say adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare was very important to their decisions about which Congressional and Senate candidates to vote for in the election.

New Hampshire 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 three-quarters consider passing legislation to protect Social Security to be a top (45%) or high (34%) priority for the next Congress.
- Similarly, seven in ten consider passing a law to add prescription drug coverage to Medicare to be a top (33%) or high (37%) 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 New Hampshire. Respondents were screened for age and for their likelihood of voting. A total of 401 interviews were completed from November 2 through noon, November 5, 2002. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 4.89 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 4.89 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every voter and likely voter in New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire

- Social Security: 75%
- Corporate responsibility: 75%
- Economy: 66%
- Homeland security: 66%
- Taxes: 66%
- Medicare Rx coverage: 60%
- Environment: 53%
Figure 2
Priority for Action by Next Congress
On Social Security Protection
And Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit
Among Voters and Likely Voters
In New Hampshire

- Protecting Social Security
  - Top Priority: 45%
  - High Priority: 34%

- Adding prescription benefit to Medicare
  - Top Priority: 33%
  - High Priority: 37%
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?
(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

(ASK Q.2b AND Q.2c TUESDAY ONLY)
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

(ASK Q.2b AND Q.2c TUESDAY ONLY)
(ASK Q.2c IF Q.2b = 2)
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

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)

a. Protecting Social Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very important</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
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* (DO NOT READ) Don’t know
- (DO NOT READ) Refused
b. Adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare

\[
\begin{array}{l}
\% \\
60 \text{ Very important} \\
27 \text{ Somewhat important} \\
8 \text{ Not very important} \\
4 \text{ Not at all important} \\
1 \text{ (DO NOT READ) Don’t know} \\
- \text{ (DO NOT READ) Refused}
\end{array}
\]

c. Homeland security

\[
\begin{array}{l}
\% \\
66 \text{ Very important} \\
25 \text{ Somewhat important} \\
6 \text{ Not very important} \\
2 \text{ Not at all important} \\
1 \text{ (DO NOT READ) Don’t know} \\
* \text{ (DO NOT READ) Refused}
\end{array}
\]

d. The environment

\[
\begin{array}{l}
\% \\
53 \text{ Very important} \\
38 \text{ Somewhat important} \\
6 \text{ Not very important} \\
1 \text{ Not at all important} \\
* \text{ (DO NOT READ) Don’t know} \\
- \text{ (DO NOT READ) Refused}
\end{array}
\]

e. Taxes

\[
\begin{array}{l}
\% \\
66 \text{ Very important} \\
28 \text{ Somewhat important} \\
4 \text{ Not very important} \\
1 \text{ Not at all important} \\
* \text{ (DO NOT READ) Don’t know} \\
* \text{ (DO NOT READ) Refused}
\end{array}
\]
f. The economy

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\% & \\
66 & \text{Very important} \\
29 & \text{Somewhat important} \\
3 & \text{Not very important} \\
1 & \text{Not at all important} \\
\star & \text{(DO NOT READ) Don’t know} \\
- & \text{(DO NOT READ) Refused}
\end{array}
\]

g. Making sure large corporations act responsibly

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\% & \\
75 & \text{Very important} \\
19 & \text{Somewhat important} \\
4 & \text{Not very important} \\
1 & \text{Not at all important} \\
\star & \text{(DO NOT READ) Don’t know} \\
\star & \text{(DO NOT READ) Refused}
\end{array}
\]

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)

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\% & \\
33 & \text{Top priority} \\
37 & \text{High priority} \\
22 & \text{Medium priority} \\
5 & \text{Low priority} \\
1 & \text{No priority at all} \\
1 & \text{(DO NOT READ) Don’t know} \\
- & \text{(DO NOT READ) Refused}
\end{array}
\]
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)

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<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>
<th>(DO NOT READ) Don’t know</th>
<th>(DO NOT READ) Refused</th>
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(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?

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<th>Yes</th>
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<th>(DO NOT READ) Refused</th>
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(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)

7. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as…?

(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>A Republican</th>
<th>A Democrat</th>
<th>An Independent</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>(DO NOT READ) Don’t Know</th>
<th>(DO NOT READ) Refused</th>
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<td>(DO NOT READ) Refused</td>
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</table>
8. And also generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?
   (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

   %
   37 Conservative
   42 Moderate
   16 Liberal
   2 (DO NOT READ) None of the above
   2 (DO NOT READ) Don’t Know
   * (DO NOT READ) Refused

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

   %
   46 Full-time
   13 Part-time
   41 Not employed
   - Refused

   (ASK Q.9a IF Q.9 = 3)
9a. Are you...?
   (READ LIST)

   %
   79 Retired
   9 A homemaker
   1 A student, or
   5 Temporarily unemployed
   5 (DO NOT READ) Disabled/handicapped
   1 (DO NOT READ) Other
   - (DO NOT READ) Don't Know
   1 (DO NOT READ) Refused
10. What is the last grade of school you completed?
   (DO NOT READ LIST)

   %
   4 Less than high school
   24 High school graduate
   17 Some college
   27 Graduated college
   23 Graduate school or more
   4 Technical school/other
   * Refused

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

   %
   2 Less than $10,000
   4 $10,000 but less than $15,000
   6 $15,000 but less than $20,000
   2 $20,000 but less than $25,000
   5 $25,000 but less than $30,000
   11 $30,000 but less than $40,000
   9 $40,000 but less than $50,000
   15 $50,000 but less than $75,000, or
   28 $75,000 and over
   3 (DO NOT READ) Don't Know
   13 (DO NOT READ) Refused

12. RECORD RESPONDENT GENDER

   %
   47 Male
   53 Female