



AARP 2002 Election Survey: South Carolina

**Data Collected by ICR
Report Prepared by Erica Dinger**

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Key Findings

AARP's first ever election day poll of voters and likely voters age 45+ in South Carolina found that protecting Social Security and the economy are dominant issues in determining which candidate to support, with over eight in ten saying they are very important. Corporate responsibility and homeland security are very important to over seven in ten voters and likely voters in making a decision about which candidate to support, and adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare and taxes are very important to over six in ten.

- More than eight in ten (84%) say protecting Social Security was very important to their voting decisions.
- The economy is cited as very important by about the same proportion (81%) of voters and likely voters.
- About three in four say making sure large corporations act responsibly (75%) and homeland security (74%) were very important to their decisions.
- Two in three (66%) say adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare was very important to their decisions about which Congressional and Senate candidates to vote for – putting it in a statistical dead heat with tax issues.

South Carolina 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 (27%) priority for the next Congress.
- Seven in ten consider passing a law to add prescription drug coverage to Medicare to be a top (39%) or high (32%) 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 South Carolina. Respondents were screened for age and for their likelihood of voting. A total of 413 interviews were completed from November 2 through noon, November 5, 2002. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 4.8 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 plus or minus 4.8 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every voter and likely voter in South Carolina 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 South Carolina

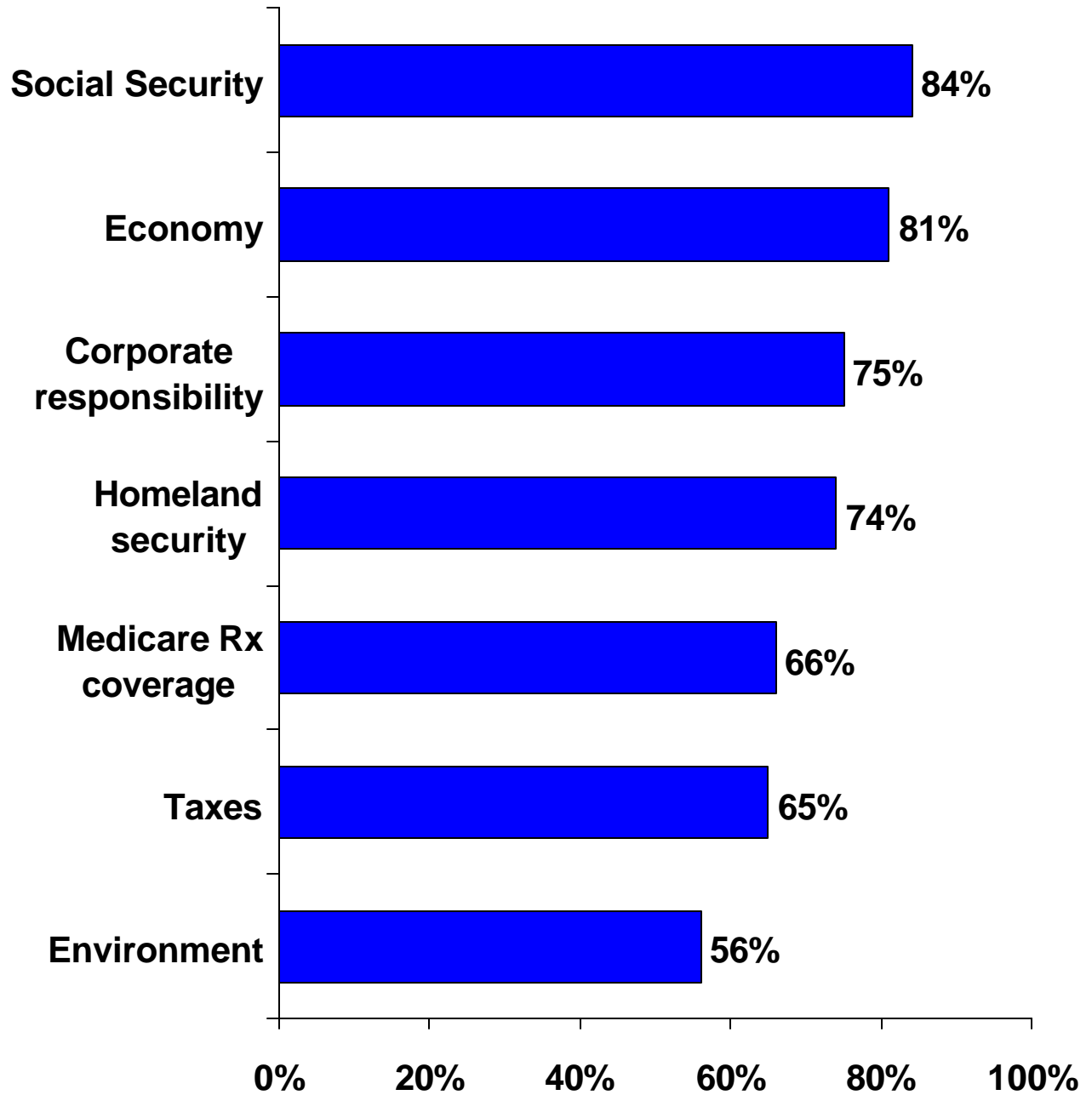
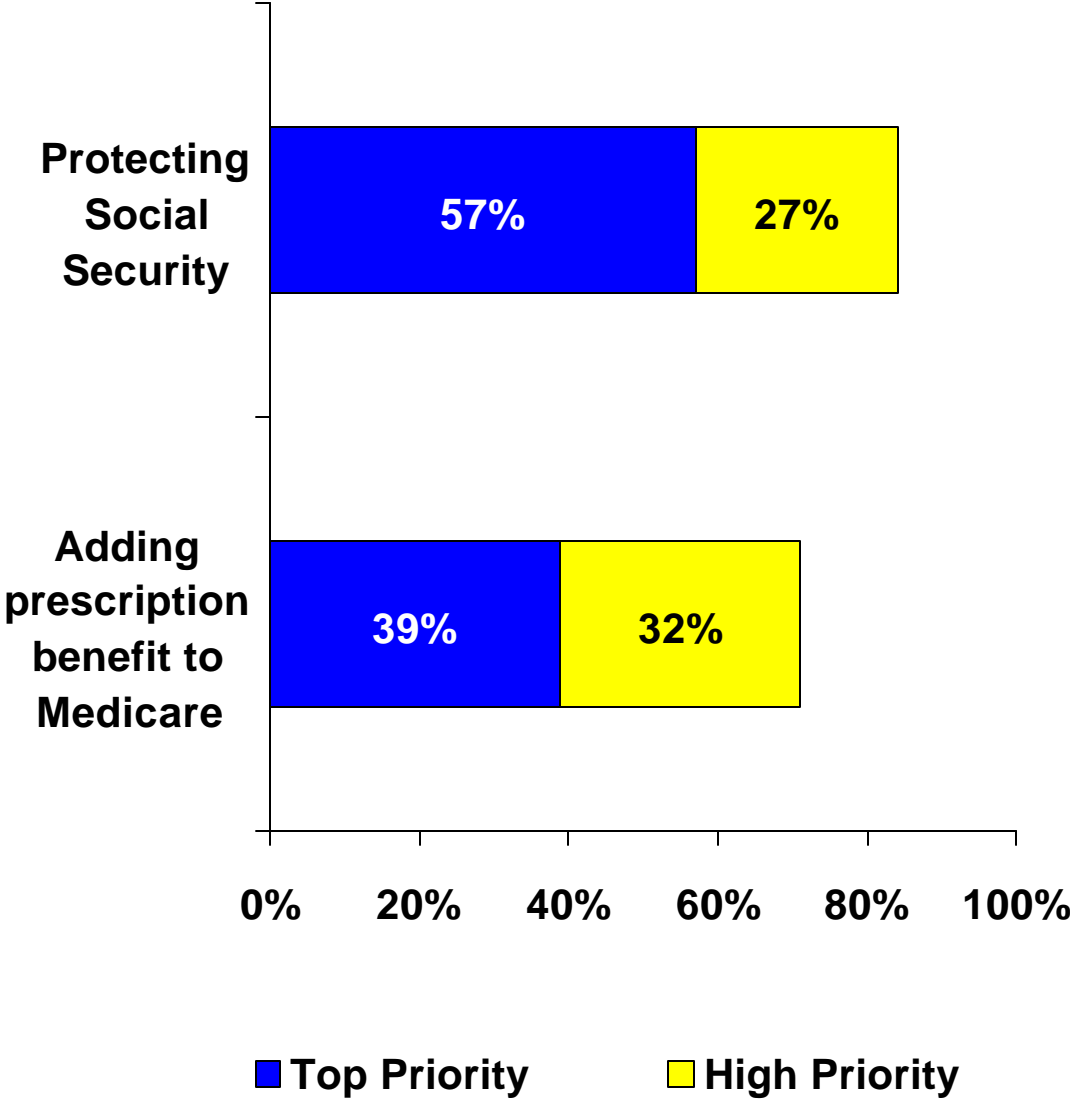


Figure 2
Priority for Action by Next Congress
On Social Security Protection
And Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit
Among Voters and Likely Voters
In South Carolina





I N T E R N A T I O N A L C O M M U N I C A T I O N S R E S E A R C H

AARP Election Day Poll Medicare Rx & Social Security

Sample: 413 South Carolina Voters and Likely Voters Age 45+
Sampling error: \pm 4.8 %

SCREENER

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.

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

(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

(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)

- a. Protecting Social Security

<u>%</u>	
84	Very important
11	Somewhat important
2	Not very important
3	Not at all important
0	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
*	(DO NOT READ) Refused

b. Adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare

<u>%</u>	
66	Very important
22	Somewhat important
7	Not very important
4	Not at all important
1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
0	(DO NOT READ) Refused

c. Homeland security

<u>%</u>	
74	Very important
19	Somewhat important
3	Not very important
2	Not at all important
1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
*	(DO NOT READ) Refused

d. The environment

<u>%</u>	
56	Very important
33	Somewhat important
7	Not very important
3	Not at all important
*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
*	(DO NOT READ) Refused

e. Taxes

<u>%</u>	
65	Very important
26	Somewhat important
5	Not very important
2	Not at all important
1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
*	(DO NOT READ) Refused

f. The economy

<u>%</u>	
81	Very important
16	Somewhat important
2	Not very important
1	Not at all important
*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
*	(DO NOT READ) Refused

g. Making sure large corporations act responsibly

<u>%</u>	
75	Very important
19	Somewhat important
4	Not very important
2	Not at all important
1	(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)

<u>%</u>	
39	Top priority
32	High priority
21	Medium priority
5	Low priority
3	No priority at all
1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
0	(DO NOT READ) Refused

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)

%
57 Top priority
27 High priority
10 Medium priority
2 Low priority
3 No priority at all
* (DO NOT READ) Don't know
0 (DO NOT READ) Refused

(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?

%
53 Yes
46 No
1 (DO NOT READ) Don't know
0 (DO NOT READ) Refused

(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)

7. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...? (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

%
41 A Republican
31 A Democrat
24 An Independent
2 (DO NOT READ) Other
* (DO NOT READ) Don't Know
2 (DO NOT READ) Refused

(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)

8. And also generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?

(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

<u>%</u>	
46	Conservative
37	Moderate
12	Liberal
1	(DO NOT READ) None of the above
3	(DO NOT READ) Don't Know
*	(DO NOT READ) Refused

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

<u>%</u>	
38	Full-time
10	Part-time
51	Not employed
0	Refused

(ASK Q.9a IF Q.9 = 3)

9a. Are you...?

(READ LIST) (n=212)

<u>%</u>	
79	Retired
8	A homemaker
0	A student, or
4	Temporarily unemployed
8	(DO NOT READ) Disabled/handicapped
*	(DO NOT READ) Other
0	(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)

<u>%</u>	
13	Less than high school
27	High school graduate
19	Some college
23	Graduated college
16	Graduate school or more
3	Technical school/other
*	Refused

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

<u>%</u>	
10	Less than \$10,000
6	\$10,000 but less than \$15,000
4	\$15,000 but less than \$20,000
4	\$20,000 but less than \$25,000
6	\$25,000 but less than \$30,000
13	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000
8	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000
15	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000, or
20	\$75,000 and over
5	(DO NOT READ) Don't Know
9	(DO NOT READ) Refused

12. RECORD RESPONDENT GENDER

<u>%</u>	
46	Male
54	Female