

AARP Bulletin Survey on Expectations for the President and Congress in 2010

Executive Summary

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce **AARP The Magazine**, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 34.5 million readers; **AARP Bulletin**, the go-to news source for the nearly 40 million members of AARP and Americans 50+; **AARP Segunda Juventud**, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

AARP collected the data for this project through a telephone survey administered by International Communications Research (ICR). This report was written by Gerard Rainville, Senior Research Advisor, AARP Strategic Issues Research. For additional information contact Gerard Rainville at GRainville@aarp.org.

The AARP Bulletin recently commissioned a nationwide survey on Expectations for the President and Congress in 2010. The survey asked respondents to identify the issue they felt to be the Top priority for the upcoming year. It also asked respondents how likely they felt that legislation addressing these issues would be enacted in 2010.

Survey findings include:

- **More frequently than any other issue, respondents reported that the top priority for the President and Congress in 2010 was to help more Americans find jobs (27%).**
- **Similar percentages of people reported that enacting comprehensive health care reform (17%) and resolving the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (16%) as the top priority for the President and Congress in 2010 than any other issue.**
- **Those age 18-49 and 50+ reveal similar patterns in regard to top priorities for 2010. Slightly more of those age 18-49 report cutting taxes as the top priority (10%) than do those over age 50 (6%).**

Survey methodology

This study was conducted via telephone by ICR, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from November 24 – November 29, 2009 among a nationally representative sample of 1004 respondents age 18 and older. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.09% at the 95% confidence level.

Custom Tables for the AARP Bulletin Survey on Expectations for the President and Congress in 2010

We're interested in hearing what issue you think should be a top priority for the president and Congress and whether you believe they'll address this issue in the next year.

Please tell me what issue you think should be THE TOP priority for the new president and Congress to work on next year? Is it...?

	Total	18-49	50+
Enact comprehensive health care reform	17%	17%	18%
Help more Americans find jobs	27%	28%	25%
Prevent home foreclosures	2%	2%	3%
Develop alternative energy sources	2%	2%	1%
Reduce budget deficit	9%	8%	9%
Cut taxes	8%	10%	6%
Assist troubled banks	1%	1%	0%
Resolve the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	16%	17%	16%
Increase regulation of Wall Street and financial industry	1%	2%	1%
Strengthen Social Security	7%	5%	10%
Other/Volunteered Responses	7%	6%	8%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%
Refused	1%	0%	1%

How likely do you think it is that in the next year Congress will pass laws to address the issue you consider a top priority? Would you say...?

	LIKELY			NOT LIKELY			Don't know
	Total Likely	Very	Somewhat	Total Not Likely	Not very	Not at all	
Total	43%	10	33	54%	29	25	5%
18-49	43%	8	35	55%	29	26	3%
50+	42%	13	29	53%	29	24	5%

Regarding health care reform, what should be the top priority?

	Total	18-49	50+
Protect guaranteed Medicare benefits	8%	6%	11%
Provide a public health insurance option	6%	6%	5%
Lower prescription drug prices	6%	6%	7%
Provide affordable health insurance options	14%	17%	10%
Lower cost for medical care	13%	14%	11%
Guarantee insurance despite age or preexisting conditions	7%	8%	6%
Reduce fraud and waste	14%	13%	16%
Provide stronger, affordable long-term care options	3%	3%	4%
Provide coverage for all Americans	19%	20%	19%
Improve access to doctors	1%	2%	1%
Other	--		
Don't know/Refused	7%	7%	8%

Annotated Questionnaire for the AARP Bulletin Survey on Expectations for the President and Congress in 2010

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We're interested in hearing what issue you think should be a top priority for the president and Congress and whether you believe they'll address this issue in the next year.

AE-1 Please tell me what issue you think should be THE TOP priority for the new president and Congress to work on next year? Is it...?

	11/29/09
Enact comprehensive health care reform	17
Help more Americans find jobs	27
Prevent home foreclosures	2
Develop alternative energy sources	2
Reduce budget deficit	9
Cut taxes	8
Assist troubled banks	1
Resolve the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	16
Increase regulation of Wall Street and financial industry	1
Strengthen Social Security	7
All of these	*
Abortion	1
Help the economy	1
Reduce spending	1
Immigration	1
Education	1
Other	3
Don't know	2
Refused	1

AE-2 How likely do you think it is that in the next year Congress will pass laws to address the issue you consider a top priority? Would you say...?

	LIKELY			NOT LIKELY			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/29/09	42	10	32	54	29	25	4	*

AE-3 Regarding health care reform, what should be the top priority?

	11/29/09
Protect guaranteed Medicare benefits	8
Provide a public health insurance option	6
Lower prescription drug prices	6
Provide affordable health insurance options	14
Lower cost for medical care	13
Guarantee insurance despite age or preexisting conditions	7
Reduce fraud and waste	14
Provide stronger, affordable long-term care options	3
Provide coverage for all Americans	19
Improve access to doctors	1
Other	--
Don't know	5
Refused	2