A large green rectangle is positioned in the top left corner. A small gold square is located at the bottom right corner of this green rectangle. A thin grey line extends from the bottom right corner of the green rectangle towards the center of the page.

**Common Ground on the  
Future: The Opinions of  
AARP Members in  
Colorado's Congressional  
District 7 About Election  
Issues In 2006**

A horizontal grey line and a vertical grey line intersect at a gold square. The gold square is positioned to the right of the main title and above the publication date.

Published August 2006



# **Common Ground on the Future: The Opinions of AARP Members in Colorado's Congressional District 7 About Election Issues in 2006**

**Data Collected by Woelfel Research, Inc.  
Report Prepared by Terri Guengerich**

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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. We produce *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our website, [www.aarp.org](http://www.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.

## **Acknowledgements**

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## Background

The 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional campaign in Colorado is considered as a bellwether race in gauging voters' inclinations this election cycle. As important issues like Social Security, Medicare reform, retirement security, and the overall affordability and access to health care are debated, the next Congressman from the 7<sup>th</sup> will be in a key position to make a difference to the 50+ population.

Every candidate for elected office in the United States knows that the 50+ population is a powerful voting force. Older Americans are the group most likely to read newspapers, stay apprised of issues, register to vote, and actually turn out on Election Day.

About one of every four of the 4.3 million people in Colorado counted in the 2000 Census are people 50 years of age and older,<sup>1</sup> and one in four of the estimated 636,000 people in Congressional District 7 in 2005 are people 50 years and older.<sup>2</sup>

AARP members represent a sizable voting segment of more than 36 million members. In Colorado, there are more than 640,000 AARP members, and more than 83,000 members in Congressional District 7. People 50 years and older have higher voter registration percentages and voter turnout than younger persons, and they are also the segment of the population most likely to turnout for a mid-term election.

In June 2006, AARP commissioned a national telephone survey of a representative sample of 1,000 AARP members. In addition, about 400 AARP members were sampled in Colorado's Congressional District 7. This report is based on the responses of these members and describes their opinions about these election issues:

- Social Security
- Medicare
- Health care reform
- Long-term care
- Retirement security

The survey methodology is described at the end of this report, along with annotated questionnaires of AARP members in Congressional District 7 and AARP members nationally.

AARP is a non-partisan organization. It does not contribute to political campaigns nor does it endorse or oppose any candidates for public office.

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<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Matrices P13 and PCT12.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey, Table B01001.

## Highlights

- About seven in ten AARP members in Colorado's Congressional District 7 feel that things in this country have gotten off on the wrong track.
- Over three in four AARP members in Congressional District 7 oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. This opposition is shared across all political parties.
- Nearly seven in ten AARP members in Congressional District 7 would support a Social Security plan that provides guaranteed benefits to future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents would likewise support such a plan.
- Nine in ten AARP members in Congressional District 7 support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. This issue resonates with AARP members regardless of their political party affiliation.
- Two in three AARP members in Congressional District 7 support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also support this approach.
- Two in three AARP members in Congressional District 7 support a shared approach whereby both government and individuals pay for long-term care. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also support this approach.
- Over six in ten AARP members in Congressional District 7 support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal IRAs. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also support this requirement.

## Findings

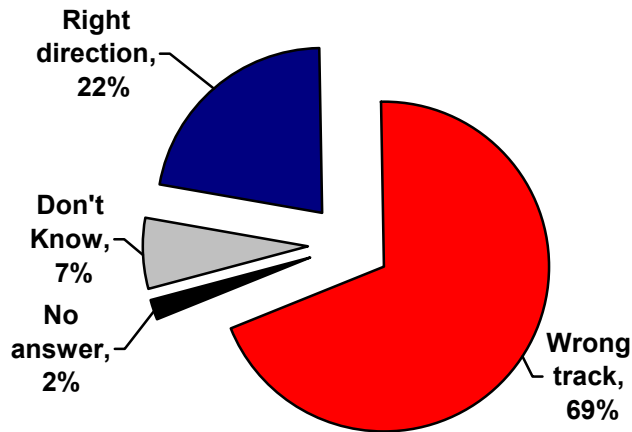
### About seven in ten AARP members in Colorado's Congressional District 7 feel that things in this country have gotten off on the wrong track.

AARP members were asked whether they feel things in this country are going in the right direction or have gotten off on the wrong track. Two in ten members feel that things are going in the right direction, and a few are not sure.

AARP members who identify themselves as Democrats and Independents are more likely to feel things have gotten off on the wrong track

(Democrats—92%, Independents—73%, and Republicans—43%). AARP members who identify themselves as Republicans are more likely to feel things are going in the right direction (Republicans—48%, Democrats—4%, and Independents—15%).

Right Direction vs. Wrong Track  
(n=403)



### SOCIAL SECURITY

### Over three in four AARP members in Congressional District 7 oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts.

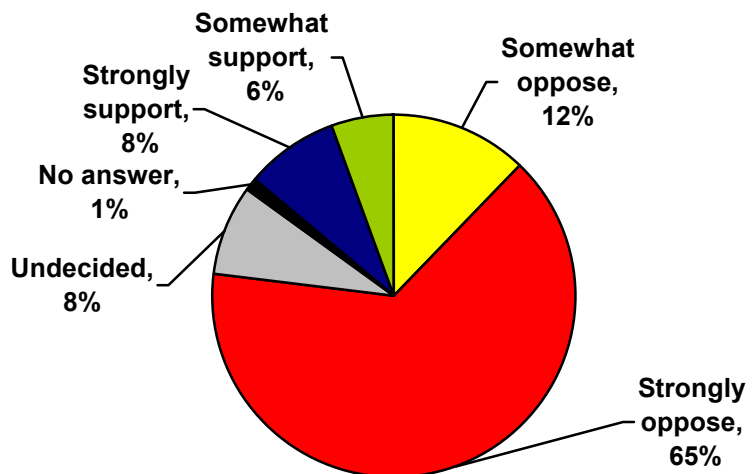
Across all political parties, the majority oppose using Social Security taxes this way (Republicans—58%, Democrats—86%, and Independents—84%).

Preventing Social Security funds from being used to fund private accounts is very important in AARP members' decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this

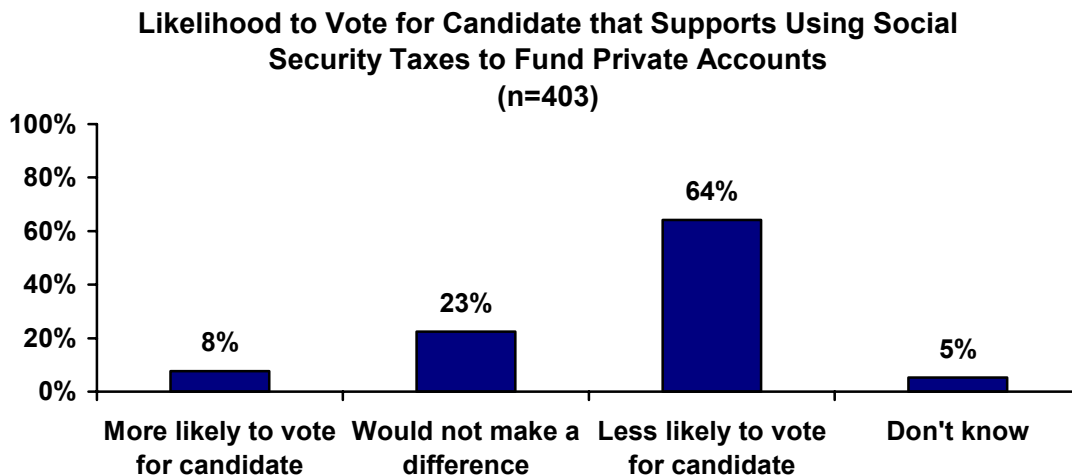
November (seven in ten say that it is). In addition, over six in ten

AARP members say they are less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S.

Support for Using Social Security Taxes  
to Fund Private Accounts  
(n=403)



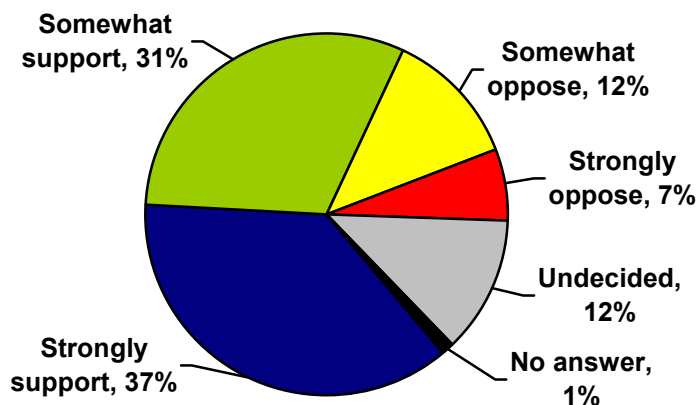
Senate who supports using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. As before, this likelihood crosses political party boundaries as Republicans, Democrats, and Independents say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate that supports using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts (Republicans—50%, Democrats—74%, and Independents—68%).



**Almost seven in ten AARP members in Congressional District 7 would support a Social Security plan that provides guaranteed benefits to future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits.**

The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike would strongly or somewhat support such a Social Security plan (Republicans—60%, Democrats—80%, and Independents—69%).

**Support for Guaranteed Social Security Benefits for Future Generations by Balancing Contributions**  
(n=403)



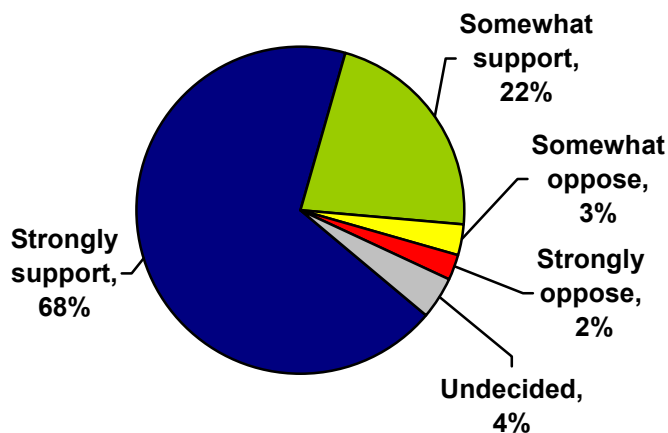
Three in four AARP members in Congressional District 7 also say that ensuring a balanced Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to for vote for this November. Well over the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents agree that this issue is very important in their vote for a candidate this November (Republicans—75%, Democrats—81%, and Independents—71%).

## MEDICARE

### Nine in ten AARP members in Congressional District 7 support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs.

This issue resonates with all AARP members regardless of their political party affiliation. Over eight in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices (Republicans—88%, Democrats—94%, and Independents—90%).

Support for Medicare Using Its Bargaining Power to Negotiate for Lower Prices on Prescription Drugs (n=403)

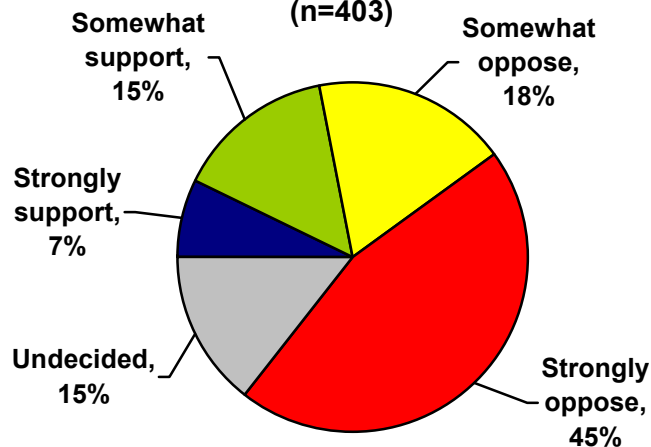


In fact, two in three AARP members (66%) say that making prescription drugs more affordable is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November.

### Over six in ten AARP members in Congressional District 7 oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending.

The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also oppose this change to the Medicare program (Republicans—56%, Democrats—70%, and Independents—65%).

Support for Imposing an Annual Limit on Federal Medicare Spending (n=403)



In fact, nearly eight in ten AARP members (78%) say that ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November.



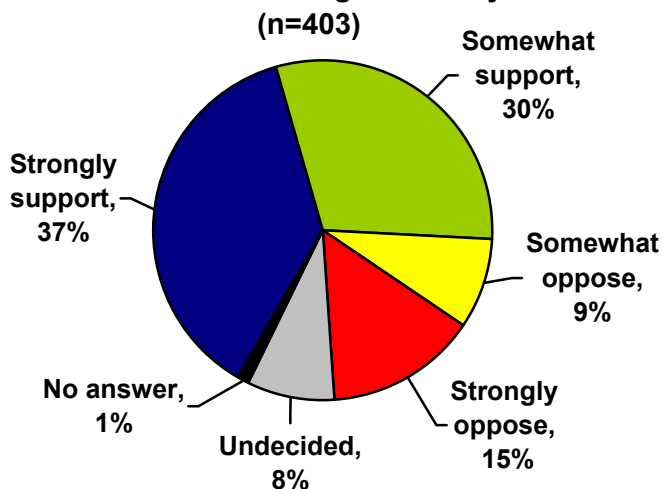
## HEALTH CARE

**Two in three AARP members in Congressional District 7 support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone.**

This issue resonates with all AARP members regardless of their political party affiliation. At least half of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support this shared approach to health care coverage (Republicans—59%, Democrats—79%, and Independents—68%).

Over six in ten AARP members (64%) say that guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November.

**Support for a Shared Approach for Providing Health Care Coverage for Everyone**



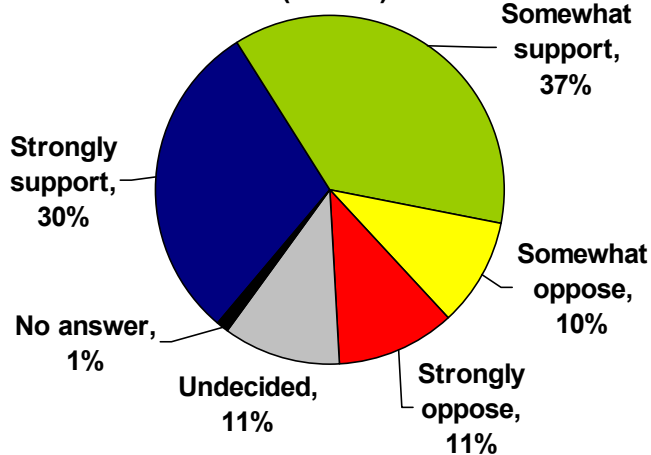
## LONG-TERM CARE

**Two in three AARP members in Congressional District 7 support a shared approach whereby both government and individuals pay for long-term care.**

At least six in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also support this approach (Republicans—70%, Democrats—72%, and Independents—64%).

Over half of AARP members (56%) say that providing quality long-term care services to all who need them is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November. A plurality of Republicans, Democrats,

**Support for a Shared Approach Involving Both Government & Individuals Paying for Long-Term Care**



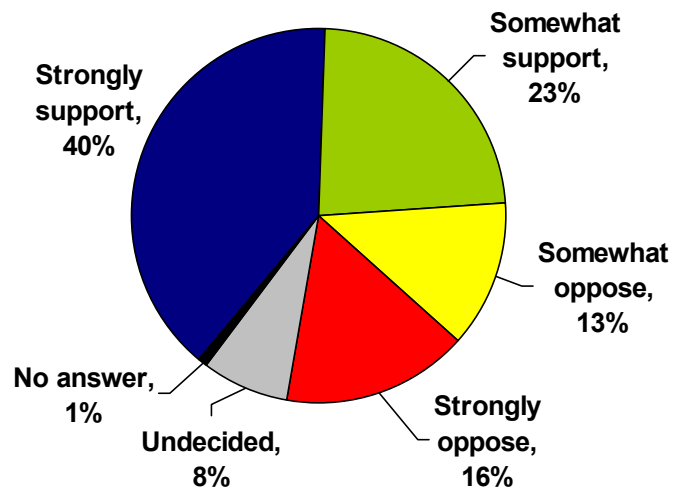
and Independents likewise believe this issue is very important in their voting decisions (Republicans—47%, Democrats—68%, and Independents—54%).

## RETIREMENT SECURITY

**Over six in ten AARP members in Congressional District 7 support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal IRAs.**

The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also support this requirement (Republicans—66%, Democrats—64%, and Independents—63%).

**Support for Requiring Employers to Provide Employees with Automatic Payroll Deductions (n=403)**



## Conclusion

AARP members in Colorado's Congressional District 7 have strong opinions about issues facing the upcoming elections in November. In this survey, AARP members have shared their opinions on these critical issues: Social Security, Medicare, Health Care, Long-Term Care, and Retirement Security.

AARP members in Congressional District 7 are pessimistic about where things are headed in this country. About seven in ten of them feel that things in this country have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track. This sentiment is shared by Democrats and Independents.

AARP members in Congressional District 7 are opposed to using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. About two in three say they are less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate who supports using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. This sentiment is shared by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

AARP members in Congressional District 7 would support a Social Security plan that provides guaranteed benefits to future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits. About seven in ten AARP members and the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents would support such a Social Security plan.

AARP members in Congressional District 7 support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents would also support this. The majority of AARP members also oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending.

Most AARP members in Congressional District 7 feel that the federal government, employers, and individuals should all pay for providing health care coverage for everyone. And most members also feel that both the government and individuals should pay for long-term care.

AARP members in Congressional District 7 support strengthening retirement security by requiring employers to provide their employees with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal IRAs.

In summary, AARP members in Colorado's Congressional District 7 across the political parties support the policy positions AARP considers important in the upcoming November election.

## Methodology

In June 2006, AARP commissioned Woelfel Research, Inc., a national survey research firm, to conduct a list-assisted, telephone survey of 1,000 randomly selected AARP members nationally and 403 randomly selected AARP members in Colorado's Congressional District 7. The response rate for the national survey is 15 percent, and has a sampling error of  $\pm 3$  percent.<sup>3</sup> The response rate for the Congressional District 7 survey is 12 percent and has a sampling error of  $\pm 4.9$  percent.<sup>4</sup> In the data, survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of age for the population of AARP members in Congressional District 7. The national data was not weighted.

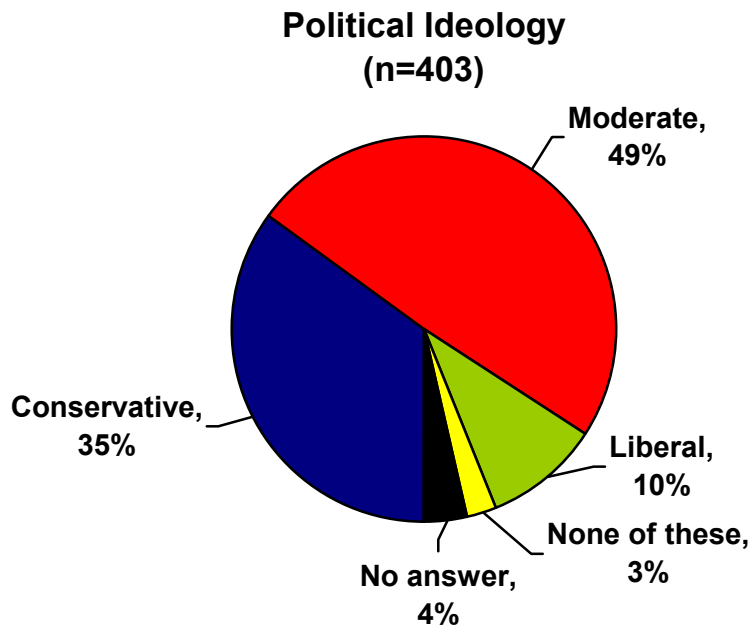
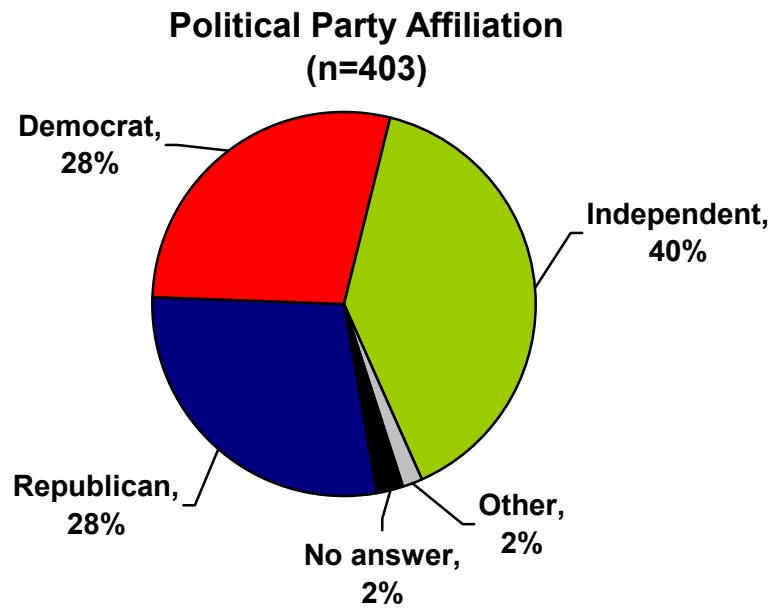
For presentation purposes, percentage points have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages may total slightly higher or lower than 100 percent. For questions that permit multiple responses, percentages may total to more than 100 percent, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

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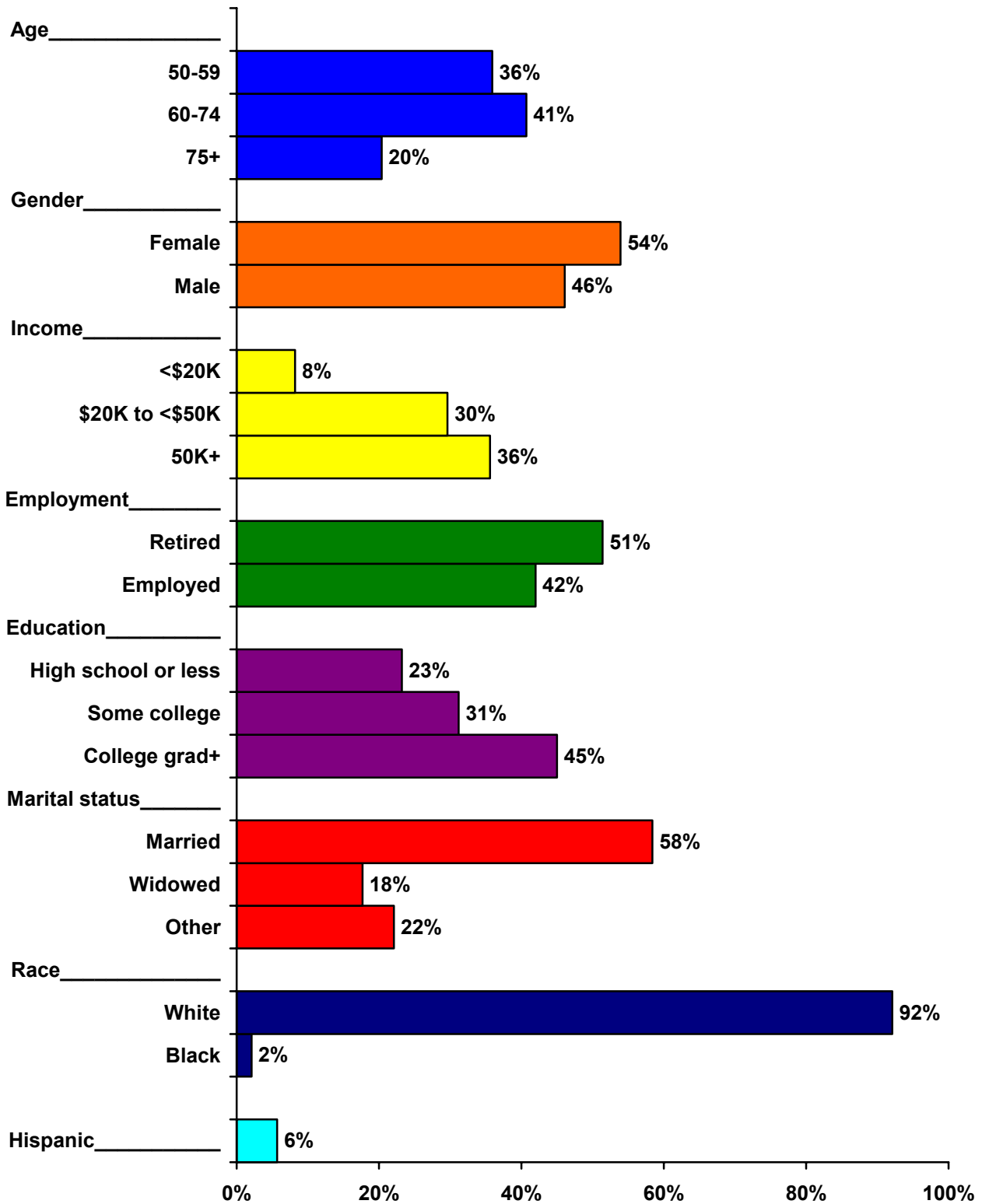
<sup>3</sup>National sample: The response rate is 15 percent, and the cooperation rate is 88 percent. The response rate is Response Rate 3, the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 (AAPOR, 2004).

<sup>4</sup>Colorado's Congressional District 7 sample: The response rate is 12 percent, and the cooperation rate is 86 percent. The response rate is Response Rate 3, and the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 (AAPOR, 2004).

## Demographic Profile of AARP Members in Congressional District 7



## Demographic Profile of AARP Members in Congressional District 7 (n=403)



## **ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRES**

## 2006 COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7 ELECTION SURVEY

**Weighted n=403; Response Rate= 12%; Sampling Error = ±4.9%**  
*Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses*

[ASK TO SPEAK TO NAME ON SAMPLE]

[MAY SPEAK TO SPOUSE IF THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES A MEMBER OF AARP]

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_ calling from Woelfel Research, Inc., a national opinion research firm. I am calling on behalf of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We would like to find out your opinions on various topics of interest. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. This survey should take 5-10 minutes of your time.

{IF ASKED, "Where did you get my name?" SAY "AARP provided a list of members for us to call."}

1. Do you feel things in this country are going in the right direction today, or do you feel that things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Right direction	22
2.	Wrong track	69
3.	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	7
4.	(DO NOT READ) Refused	2

2. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?

### Code List

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq)	27
2.	Terrorism/Terrorist attacks/Homeland Security	5
3.	National Security/Other foreign affairs issues	1
4.	Health Care	7
5.	Social Security	1
6.	Immigration	18
7.	Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)	<.05
8.	Gas prices	1
9.	The Federal Deficit	3
10.	Taxes/Tax Cuts	1
11.	Economy (unspecified)	8
12.	Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing	2
13.	Education	1
14.	Environment	<.05
15.	Crime/Drugs	1



	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
16.	Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality	3
17.	Other domestic issues	1
18.	Bush/George Bush/President Bush	2
19.	Going away from God	1
20.	Government	1
21.	Greed	<.05
22.	Lack of morals/Morality	1
23.	Leadership	1
24.	Taking care of our own	<.05
25.	Unity	<.05
26.	Youth	<.05
27.	Value of Family	1
28.	Poverty/Hunger	1
29.	Inflation	1
30.	Global warming	<.05
31.	Energy	<.05
32.	Foreign policy	1
33.	Health insurance	<.05
34.	Oil	<.05
35.	Peace	<.05
36.	Politics	1
37.	National debt	<.05
38.	Illegal immigration/border control	<.05
39.	Other	6
40.	Nothing	0
41.	Not sure	2

3. I am going to read you a list of domestic issues that affect people ages 50 and older and for each I would like you to tell me how important that issue in your decision about which U.S. Congressional/Senate candidates to vote for this November. 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 candidates to vote for? (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

(READ LIST, ENTER ONE ONLY, **ROTATE ITEMS**)

Preventing Social Security funds being used to fund private accounts

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	73
2 Somewhat important	13
3 Not very important	6
4 Not at all important	5
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Ensuring a balanced Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	75
2 Somewhat important	21
3 Not very important	2
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Making prescription drugs more affordable

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	66
2 Somewhat important	28
3 Not very important	4
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	64
2 Somewhat important	24
3 Not very important	7
4 Not at all important	4
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Providing quality long-term care services to all who need them

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	56
2 Somewhat important	33
3 Not very important	6
4 Not at all important	2
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

### Ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	78
2 Somewhat important	18
3 Not very important	3
4 Not at all important	0
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

### Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	58
2 Somewhat important	34
3 Not very important	6
4 Not at all important	2
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

### Gas prices

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	55
2 Somewhat important	33
3 Not very important	7
4 Not at all important	3
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

### The Federal Deficit

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	60
2 Somewhat important	30
3 Not very important	6
4 Not at all important	3
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

### Taxes/Tax Cuts

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	41
2 Somewhat important	43
3 Not very important	11
4 Not at all important	3
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

### Economy/Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	63
2 Somewhat important	28
3 Not very important	5
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

### Education

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	72
2 Somewhat important	24
3 Not very important	3
4 Not at all important	0
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

### Environment

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1 Very important	55
2 Somewhat important	38
3 Not very important	5
4 Not at all important	2
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

### Crime/Drugs

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1	Very important	61
2	Somewhat important	32
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<.05
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

### Immigration

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1	Very important	63
2	Somewhat important	26
3	Not very important	7
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

### Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1	Very important	81
2	Somewhat important	14
3	Not very important	2
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## NATIONAL ISSUES

4. Do you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	8
2.	Somewhat support	6
3.	Somewhat oppose	12
4.	Strongly oppose	65
5.	Undecided/don't know	8
6.	No answer/refused	1

5. Do you support or oppose a Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	37
2.	Somewhat support	31
3.	Somewhat oppose	12
4.	Strongly oppose	7
5.	Undecided/don't know	12
6.	No answer/refused	1

6. Do you support or oppose a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	37
2.	Somewhat support	30
3.	Somewhat oppose	9
4.	Strongly oppose	15
5.	Undecided/don't know	8
6.	No answer/refused	1

7. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase health insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	25
2.	Somewhat support	28
3.	Somewhat oppose	19
4.	Strongly oppose	21
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	1

8. Do you support or oppose allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	68
2.	Somewhat support	22
3.	Somewhat oppose	3
4.	Strongly oppose	2
5.	Undecided/don't know	4
6.	No answer/refused	<.05

9. There have never been limits placed on federal Medicare spending. Proposals have now been made in Congress to limit the amount of money the federal government spends on the Medicare program. Do you support or oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	7
2.	Somewhat support	15
3.	Somewhat oppose	18
4.	Strongly oppose	45
5.	Undecided/don't know	15
6.	No answer/refused	<.05

10. Do you support or oppose a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	30
2.	Somewhat support	37
3.	Somewhat oppose	10
4.	Strongly oppose	11
5.	Undecided/don't know	11
6.	No answer/refused	1

11. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase long-term care insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	13
2.	Somewhat support	15
3.	Somewhat oppose	25
4.	Strongly oppose	40
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	<.05

12. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	40
2.	Somewhat support	23
3.	Somewhat oppose	13
4.	Strongly oppose	16
5.	Undecided/don't know	8
6.	No answer/refused	1

13. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	More Likely	8
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	23
3.	Less Likely	64
4.	Don't know	5
5.	Refused	<.05

14. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	More Likely	22
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	25
3.	Less Likely	49
4.	Don't know	4
5.	Refused	1

15. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed a shared approach by the federal government, employers, and individuals, to provide health care coverage for everyone, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	More Likely	28
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	26
3.	Less Likely	40
4.	Don't know	5
5.	Refused	1

## STATE ISSUES

- 15a. One proposal to lower the costs of prescription drugs purchased by Medicaid, the government program that provides health and long-term care for people in Colorado with low incomes, is for Colorado to join a drug purchasing pool with other states. Through bulk buying, this pool would negotiate with drug companies for lower prices. Do you support or oppose Colorado's Medicaid program joining a multi-state purchasing pool to lower the cost of prescription drugs for Medicaid recipients?



15a. (continued) Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	57
2.	Somewhat support	28
3.	Somewhat oppose	3
4.	Strongly oppose	5
5.	Undecided/don't know	6
6.	No answer/refused	1

15b. The Colorado Constitution contains an amendment that currently limits state spending, commonly referred to as TABOR. Do you support or oppose changing the TABOR amendment to increase state funds for long-term care services that would keep seniors at home and independent? (Interview prompt: we are talking about a permanent change to the TABOR amendment, not the temporary 5 year repeal of TABOR that was recently voted for in the November 2005 election. This change would last beyond 5 years.) Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Strongly support	41
2.	Somewhat support	23
3.	Somewhat oppose	7
4.	Strongly oppose	17
5.	Undecided/don't know	12
6.	No answer/refused	2

15c. Do you consider AARP to be a trusted source of information about issues in the upcoming election for Governor?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Yes	74
2.	No	12
3.	Don't know	12
4.	Refused	2

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

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	A Republican	28
2.	A Democrat	28
3.	An Independent	40
4. (DO NOT READ)	Other	2
5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	1
6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	1

(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3) (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

17. Generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?

Base: Total Respondents		403 %
1.	Conservative	35
2.	Moderate	49
3.	Liberal	10
4. (DO NOT READ)	None of the Above	3
5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	3
6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	1

**Demographic questions:**

D1. What is your age as of your last birthday? [RECORD IN YEARS] \_\_\_\_\_

Base: Total Respondents		403 %
1.	50-59	36
2.	60-74	41
3.	75+	20
4.	Refused	3

D2. What is your marital status? Are you currently....

Base: Total Respondents		403 %
1	Married,	58
2	Divorced,	15
3	Separated,	1
4	Widowed,	18
5	Or have you never been married?	6
6	Living with partner	<.05
7	Don't know	<.05
8	Refused	2

D3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [READ LIST]

Base: Total Respondents		403 %
1	Less than high school	3
2	High school graduate or equivalent	21
3	Some college or technical training beyond high school	31
4	College graduate	26
5	Or, Post-graduate or professional degree	19
6	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	<.05
7	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you currently....[READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1	Employed full-time	31
2	Employed part-time	10
3	Self-employed	1
4	Retired and not working	51
5	Unemployed and looking for work	2
6	Homemaker	1
7	Disabled	3
8	Student	0
9	Or something else [Specify: _____ ]	<.05
10	Don't Know [DO NOT READ]	0
11	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D5. Would you say that you always vote in presidential elections, usually vote, sometimes vote, rarely vote, or never vote)

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Always	86
2.	Usually	7
3.	Sometimes	4
4.	Rarely	1
5.	Never	3
6.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D6. For statistical purposes only, please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2004. Was it... [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Less than \$10,000	3
2.	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	6
3.	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	11
4.	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	9
5.	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	10
6.	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	14
7.	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	10
8.	\$100,000 or more	12
9.	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	4
10.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	23

D7. Are you Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic?

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	Yes	6
2.	No	93
3.	Don't know	<.05
4.	Refused	1

D8. Which of the following groups best describes your race? [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1.	White	92
2.	Black or African-American	2
3.	Asian	<.05
4.	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
5.	American Indian or Alaska Native	1
6.	Other	3
7.	Don't know	<.05
8.	Refused	2

D9. [RECORD STATE]

D10. What is your gender?

Base: Total Respondents	403 %
1. Male	46
2. Female	54

D11. Finally, what is your 5-digit zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!**

# AARP NATIONAL MEMBER SURVEY ABOUT 2006 ELECTION ISSUES

**n=1,000; Response Rate=15%; Sampling Error=±3%**  
*(Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses)*

[ASK TO SPEAK TO NAME ON SAMPLE]

[MAY SPEAK TO SPOUSE IF THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES A MEMBER OF AARP]

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_ calling from Woelfel Research, Inc., a national opinion research firm. I am calling on behalf of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We would like to find out your opinions on various topics of interest. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. This survey should take 5-10 minutes of your time.

{IF ASKED, "Where did you get my name?" SAY "AARP provided a list of members for us to call."}

- 1. Do you feel things in this country are going in the right direction today, or do you feel that things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Right direction	17
2.	Wrong track	73
3.	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	10
4.	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

- 2. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?**

**Code List**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq)	28
2.	Terrorism/Terrorist attacks/Homeland Security	6
3.	National Security/Other foreign affairs issues	1
4.	Health Care	10
5.	Medicare	1
6.	Social Security	1
7.	Immigration	7
8.	Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)	1
9.	Gas prices	3
10.	The Federal Deficit	2
11.	Taxes/Tax Cuts	1
12.	Economy (unspecified)	7
13.	Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing	2
14.	Education	1
15.	Environment	0
16.	Crime/Drugs	2
17.	Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality	3

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
18.	Other domestic issues	1
19.	Other	20
20.	Nothing	0
21.	Not sure	5

3. I am going to read you a list of domestic issues that affect people ages 50 and older and for each I would like you to tell me how important that issue in your decision about which U.S. Congressional/Senate candidates to vote for this November. 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 candidates to vote for? (INSERT NEXT ITEM)? (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY) (ROTATE ITEMS)

Preventing Social Security funds being used to fund private accounts

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	76
2	Somewhat important	11
3	Not very important	6
4	Not at all important	3
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	4
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Ensuring a balanced Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	80
2	Somewhat important	17
3	Not very important	1
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Making prescription drugs more affordable

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	79
2	Somewhat important	17
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	76
2	Somewhat important	18
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Providing quality long-term care services to all who need them

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	68
2	Somewhat important	24
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	84
2	Somewhat important	13
3	Not very important	1
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	68
2	Somewhat important	26
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## Gas prices

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	65
2	Somewhat important	27
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## The Federal Deficit

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	67
2	Somewhat important	25
3	Not very important	4
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## Taxes/Tax Cuts

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	56
2	Somewhat important	33
3	Not very important	8
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## Economy/Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	72
2	Somewhat important	23
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0



## Education

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	79
2	Somewhat important	17
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## Environment

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	59
2	Somewhat important	34
3	Not very important	6
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## Crime/Drugs

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	75
2	Somewhat important	20
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

## Immigration

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	57
2	Somewhat important	31
3	Not very important	7
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	89
2	Somewhat important	8
3	Not very important	2
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

**NATIONAL ISSUES**

**4. Do you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	6
2.	Somewhat support	5
3.	Somewhat oppose	15
4.	Strongly oppose	66
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	0

**5. Do you support or oppose a Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	43
2.	Somewhat support	28
3.	Somewhat oppose	9
4.	Strongly oppose	8
5.	Undecided/don't know	11
6.	No answer/refused	1

**6. Do you support or oppose a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	43
2.	Somewhat support	29
3.	Somewhat oppose	11
4.	Strongly oppose	9
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	1

**7. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase health insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	26
2.	Somewhat support	28
3.	Somewhat oppose	20
4.	Strongly oppose	18
5.	Undecided/don't know	8
6.	No answer/refused	1

**8. Do you support or oppose allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	73
2.	Somewhat support	17
3.	Somewhat oppose	5
4.	Strongly oppose	3
5.	Undecided/don't know	3
6.	No answer/refused	0

**9. There have never been limits placed on federal Medicare spending. Proposals have now been made in Congress to limit the amount of money the federal government spends on the Medicare program. Do you support or oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	9
2.	Somewhat support	14
3.	Somewhat oppose	18
4.	Strongly oppose	47
5.	Undecided/don't know	11
6.	No answer/refused	1

**10. Do you support or oppose a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	30
2.	Somewhat support	39
3.	Somewhat oppose	10
4.	Strongly oppose	12
5.	Undecided/don't know	9
6.	No answer/refused	0

- 11. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase long-term care insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	15
2.	Somewhat support	20
3.	Somewhat oppose	28
4.	Strongly oppose	30
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	0

- 12. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)? Is that strongly or somewhat?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	41
2.	Somewhat support	26
3.	Somewhat oppose	10
4.	Strongly oppose	15
5.	Undecided/don't know	8
6.	No answer/refused	1

- 13. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	More Likely	7
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	17
3.	Less Likely	71
4.	Don't know	4
5.	Refused	1

14. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	More Likely	33
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	18
3.	Less Likely	45
4.	Don't know	4
5.	Refused	0

15. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed a shared approach by the federal government, employers, and individuals, to provide health care coverage for everyone, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	More Likely	34
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	25
3.	Less Likely	33
4.	Don't know	7
5.	Refused	1

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

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	A Republican	27
2.	A Democrat	35
3.	An Independent	32
4. (DO NOT READ)	Other	2
5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	2
6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	2

**(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)**

17. Generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?  
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Conservative	37
2.	Moderate	43
3.	Liberal	14
4. (DO NOT READ)	None of the Above	2
5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	3
6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	1

**Demographic Questions:**

**D1. What is your age as of your last birthday? [RECORD IN YEARS]\_\_\_\_\_**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	50-59	25
2.	60-64	16
3.	65+	56
4.	Refused	2

**D2. What is your marital status? Are you currently....**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Married,	63
2	Divorced,	11
3	Separated,	1
4	Widowed,	20
5	Or have you never been married?	5
6	Living with partner [DO NOT READ]	0
7	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	0
8	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

**D3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [READ LIST]**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Less than high school	6
2	High school graduate or equivalent	31
3	Some college or technical training beyond high school	26
4	College graduate	20
5	Or, Post-graduate or professional degree	17
6	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	0
7	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

**D4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you currently....[READ LIST]**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Employed full-time	23
2	Employed part-time	9
3	Retired and not working	55
4	Unemployed and looking for work	2
5	Homemaker	4
6	Disabled	4
7	Student	0
8	Or something else [Specify: _____]	3
9	Don't Know [DO NOT READ]	0
10	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

**D5. Would you say that you always vote in presidential elections, usually vote, sometimes vote, rarely vote, or never vote)**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Always	81
2.	Usually	10
3.	Sometimes	5
4.	Rarely	2
5.	Never	2
6.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

**D6. For statistical purposes only, please stop me when I get to the category That includes your household's income before taxes in 2004. Was it...**

	Base: Total Respondents [READ LIST]	1000 %
1.	Less than \$10,000	5
2.	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	10
3.	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	10
4.	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	13
5.	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	9
6.	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	15
7.	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	9
8.	\$100,000 or more	9
9.	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	3
10.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	17

**D7. Are you Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic?**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Yes	1
2.	No	97
3.	Don't know	0
4.	Refused	2

**D8. Which of the following groups best describes your race? [READ LIST]**

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	White	86
2.	Black or African-American	7
3.	Asian	0
4.	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
5.	American Indian or Alaska Native	1
6.	Other	3
7.	Don't know	0
8.	Refused	2

**D9. [RECORD STATE]**

**D10. What is your gender?**

Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1. Male	45
2. Female	55

**D11. Finally, what is your 5-digit zip code? \_\_\_\_\_**

***THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!***



**AARP**

**Knowledge Management**

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