
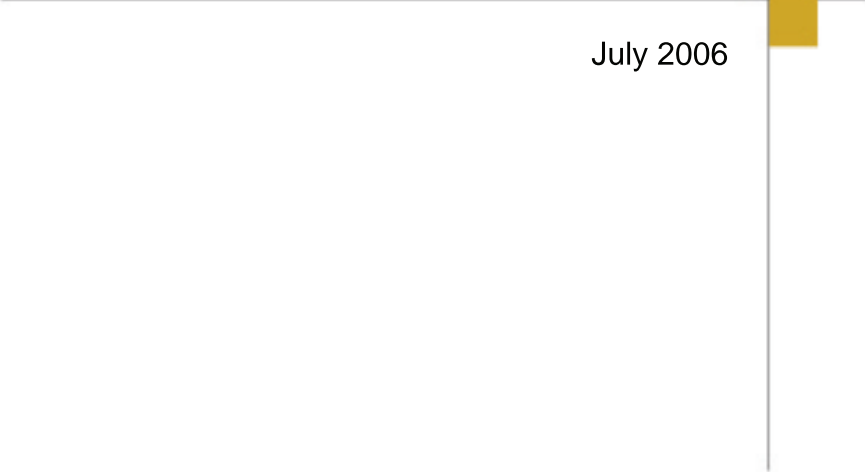


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Common Ground on the Future: AARP Iowa Member Opinion About 2006 Election Issues

Congressional District

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July 2006



**Common Ground on the Future:
AARP Iowa Member Opinion About 2006
Election Issues**

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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. AARP Foundation is our 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.

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Iowa Congressional District #1

Executive Summary

Survey results demonstrate that AARP members are concerned about a wide range of issues as they approach the 2006 midterm elections. Both the war in Iraq and domestic issues will be on their minds as they go to the polls in the fall. AARP members will also consider issues that address their financial and health security as they vote in November. Specifically, in Iowa's Congressional District #1:

- Almost nine in ten AARP members support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prescription drugs prices.
- Three-quarters of Iowa members support 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. This includes more than eight in ten Democratic members, more than seven in ten Independent members, and more than six in ten Republican members.
- Almost eight in ten Iowa members oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, including nine in ten Democratic members, eight in ten Independent members, and almost six in ten Republican members.
- Seven in ten AARP Iowa members support a shared approach in which the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone, including more than eight in ten Democratic members, more than six in ten Independent members, and more than five in ten Republican members.
- Seven in ten Iowa members support a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care.
- Two-thirds of AARP Iowa members support a proposal to establish automatic payroll deductions to fund individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Over seven in ten Republicans and more than six in ten Independents and Democrats support automatic IRA deductions.

Congressional District #1 Findings

Majorities of AARP members across the political parties support the policy positions AARP considers important in the upcoming November election (see Table 1, next page).

Almost nine in ten AARP Iowa members (88%), in CD #1, of different political party affiliations, support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. More than nine in ten Democrats (94%) and almost nine in ten Independents (87%) and Republicans (86%) support Medicare using its bargaining power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.

Three-quarters of all Iowa members (74%) support 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. Majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support this Social Security plan. Another three-quarters of AARP Iowa members (78%) in this district oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts.

There is support for a shared approach to provide health care coverage for everyone among the majority of Iowa members (70%). More than eight in ten Democrats, more than six in ten Independents, and more than half of Republicans support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone. Similar numbers of members (69%) support a shared approach between the government and individuals with regard to paying for long-term care.

Two-thirds of members in Iowa's Congressional District #1 support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Seven in ten Republicans and more than six in ten Independents and Democrats support requiring employers to provide IRAs for their workers.

Table 1 illustrates member opinion on seven of AARP's policy positions. While majorities of each party agree with AARP's positions, there are variations by issue and across political affiliation.

Table 1: AARP Members in Iowa CD#1: Support* for AARP Policy Positions (N=400)

National Policy Issues	% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Total
Support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs	86	94	87	88
Oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts	57	90	78	78
Support 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	64	85	72	74
Support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone	55	85	66	70
Support a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care	69	74	67	69
Support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)	71	64	65	66
Oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending	52	71	63	63

* Support is a combination of the strongly and somewhat support measures.

Appendix I
Common Ground on the Future: AARP Iowa Member
Opinion About 2006 Election Issues
Congressional District #1

IOWA CD 1 RESULTS
AARP Iowa Members CD #1 Weighted N =400; Response Rate =14%;
Sampling Error =+/- 5%
(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	400 %
	1.	Right direction	16
	2.	Wrong track	71
	3.	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	11
	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	400 %
1.	War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq)		35
2.	Terrorism/Terrorist attacks/Homeland Security		5
3.	National Security/Other foreign affairs issues		2
4.	Health Care		7
5.	Medicare		1
6.	Social Security		1
7.	Immigration		5
8.	Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)		2
9.	Gas prices		3
10.	The Federal Deficit		4
11.	Taxes/Tax Cuts		1
12.	Economy (unspecified)		7
13.	Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing		1
14.	Education		1
15.	Environment		0
16.	Crime/Drugs		1
17.	Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality		3
18.	Other domestic issues		1
19.	All/Everything		1
20.	President Bush		2
21.	Elderly/Seniors		1
22.	Going away from God		1
23.	Government		1
24.	Jobs		0
25.	Lack of morals/Morality		1
26.	Leadership		0
27.	Taking care of our own		1
28.	Unity		1
29.	Youth		0
30.	Poverty/Hunger		1
31.	Illegal immigration/Border control		0
32.	Our attitude/Attitude of our country		0
33.	Foreign policy		1
34.	Health insurance		1
35.	Liberalism		1
36.	Oil		1
37.	Politics		1
38.	National debt		1
39.	Other		3
40.	Nothing		0
41.	Not sure		4

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	400 %
1 Very important	72
2 Somewhat important	16
3 Not very important	5
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	400 %
1 Very important	74
2 Somewhat important	22
3 Not very important	2
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Making prescription drugs more affordable

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	68
2 Somewhat important	25
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

Guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	68
2	Somewhat important	24
3	Not very important	4
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

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

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	62
2	Somewhat important	31
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

Ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	80
2	Somewhat important	18
3	Not very important	2
4	Not at all important	0
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	0
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

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

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	57
2	Somewhat important	37
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	0
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Gas prices

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	59
2	Somewhat important	32
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

The Federal Deficit

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	70
2	Somewhat important	23
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

Taxes/Tax Cuts

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	49
2	Somewhat important	37
3	Not very important	10
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Economy/Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	65
2	Somewhat important	28
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Education

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	77
2	Somewhat important	20
3	Not very important	2
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	0
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Environment

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	56
2	Somewhat important	36
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

Crime/Drugs

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	61
2	Somewhat important	33
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

Immigration

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	44
2	Somewhat important	44
3	Not very important	8
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	86
2	Somewhat important	10
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

NATIONAL ISSUES

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

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	8
	2.	Somewhat support	8
	3.	Somewhat oppose	15
	4.	Strongly oppose	63
	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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	42
	2.	Somewhat support	32
	3.	Somewhat oppose	7
	4.	Strongly oppose	7
	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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	37
	2.	Somewhat support	33
	3.	Somewhat oppose	11
	4.	Strongly oppose	10
	5.	Undecided/don't know	9
	6.	No answer/refused	0

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

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	27
	2.	Somewhat support	29
	3.	Somewhat oppose	16
	4.	Strongly oppose	21
	5.	Undecided/don't know	7
	6.	No answer/refused	0

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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	70
	2.	Somewhat support	18
	3.	Somewhat oppose	4
	4.	Strongly oppose	5
	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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	11
	2.	Somewhat support	15
	3.	Somewhat oppose	20
	4.	Strongly oppose	43
	5.	Undecided/don't know	11
	6.	No answer/refused	0

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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	32
	2.	Somewhat support	38
	3.	Somewhat oppose	11
	4.	Strongly oppose	10
	5.	Undecided/don't know	9
	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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	14
	2.	Somewhat support	18
	3.	Somewhat oppose	27
	4.	Strongly oppose	36
	5.	Undecided/don't know	5
	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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	39
	2.	Somewhat support	27
	3.	Somewhat oppose	12
	4.	Strongly oppose	13
	5.	Undecided/don't know	9
	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	400 %
	1.	More Likely	8
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	18
	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	400 %
	1.	More Likely	29
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	22
	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	400 %
	1.	More Likely	30
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	31
	3.	Less Likely	32
	4.	Don't know	6
	5.	Refused	1

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

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	A Republican	24
	2.	A Democrat	31
	3.	An Independent	40
	4. (DO NOT READ)	Other	1
	5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	1
	6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	3

(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)

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

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Conservative	35
	2.	Moderate	46
	3.	Liberal	13
	4. (DO NOT READ)	None of the Above	1
	5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	4
	6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	2

Demographic questions:

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

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	50-59	29
	2.	60-74	42
	3.	75+	26
	4.	Refused	2

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

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Married,		68
2	Divorced,		8
3	Separated,		20
4	Widowed,		4
5	Or have you never been married?		1

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

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Less than high school		5
2	High school graduate or equivalent		32
3	Some college or technical training beyond high school		29
4	College graduate		16
5	Or, Post-graduate or professional degree		18
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	400 %
1	Employed full-time	23
2	Employed part-time	15
3	Retired and not working	55
4	Unemployed and looking for work	1
5	Homemaker	4
6	Disabled	2
7	Self employed	0
8	Or something else [Specify: _____]	0
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	400 %
1.	Always	83
2.	Usually	12
3.	Sometimes	1
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... [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Less than \$10,000	2
2.	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	9
3.	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	16
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	13
7.	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	10
8.	\$100,000 or more	6
9.	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	3
10.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	19

D7. Are you Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Yes	1
2.	No	98
3.	Don't know	0
4.	Refused	1

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

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	White	97
2.	Black or African-American	1
3.	Asian	0
4.	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
5.	American Indian or Alaska Native	1
6.	Other	0
7.	Don't know	0
8.	Refused	1

D9. [RECORD STATE]

D10. What is your gender?

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1. Male	47
2. Female	53

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

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

AARP
Knowledge Management
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