

A decorative graphic is present on the page. It features a large, thin, light-brown arc that starts near the top right and curves down towards the bottom right. A horizontal line and a vertical line intersect at the bottom right end of this arc, with a small yellow square at the intersection. Another small yellow square is located at the bottom left corner of the page, near the green header area.

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

July 2006



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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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Introduction

Every candidate for elected office in the United States knows that the older 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.

Nationally, AARP members represent a sizable voting segment of more than 37 million members. In Iowa, there are 375,000 AARP members; representing approximately 40 percent of Iowa's 50 plus population. Across the nation, people ages 50 and older have the highest voter registration percentages and voter turnout of any population age category, and are the segment of the population most likely to turnout for a mid-term election. During the 2004 general election, 85 percent of Iowans age 50 and over cast a ballot.¹

In early June 2006, AARP commissioned a list-assisted telephone survey of a representative sample of AARP members. One thousand member interviews were conducted across the nation as well as four hundred member interviews across the State of Iowa, and another four hundred member interviews in Iowa Congressional District #1. Interviews were conducted between June 8th and June 11th, 2006. The response rate for the National survey is 15 percent; response rate for the Iowa State survey and the Iowa Congressional District #1 survey is 14 percent.

The results of this survey demonstrate AARP members' level of concern about many of the upcoming election issues.

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

Report Organization

This report discusses the survey results for three separate populations: four hundred AARP members who reside in Iowa's Congressional District #1, four hundred members from across the State of Iowa, and one thousand National AARP members. Section One examines Congressional District #1 findings on national public policy issues. Section Two explores AARP Iowa member opinion on state-specific issues, and Section Three reports on national public policy issues. The Summary and Implication section is followed by a brief description of the research methodology. The appendices include three separate annotations, one for each of the surveyed populations.

¹ <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/pdfs/elections/2004/general/2004StatewideStats.pdf>

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 AARP 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 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.

Iowa State

Executive Summary

AARP Iowa members are engaged in a variety of issues as the November elections approach. State issues such as affordable health care and access to long-term care services are prominent in the minds of Iowa members. Specifically:

- Increasing the state tobacco tax by \$1.00 is supported by two-thirds of Iowa members. Slightly more Republicans and Independents compared to Democrats support this position.
- Iowa members support reforming the State's long-term care system (87%). At least eight in ten members, from all three political parties, support long-term care reform.
- AARP Iowa members support increasing staffing for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (78%). Three-quarters or more of members, across the political parties, support staffing increases.
- Almost all Iowa members say it is important for the State's elected officials, including the Governor and State Legislators, to find ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Iowans.

Iowa State Findings

AARP Iowa members have equally strong opinions about state issues as they do about national policy issues (see Table 4, page 7).

Two-thirds of AARP Iowa members support increasing the State's tobacco tax by \$1.00. The current tax, at \$.36, is among the lowest in the nation; Iowa has not raised its tobacco tax since 1991.

Nine in ten AARP Iowa members support reforming the State's long-term care system to ensure that consumers in need of long-term care have access to a full and balanced range of services, including nursing homes, assisted living, and home and community-based services based on personal preference. More than eight in ten members say it is important for Iowa to ensure appropriate funding to allow more people to exercise choices for long-term care services, even if that means re-directing nursing home

money to home and community-based care services. Across the three political parties, majorities of Iowans consider it important for people to be able to exercise choices for long term-care services: Independents (91%), Democrats (84%), and Republicans (81%).

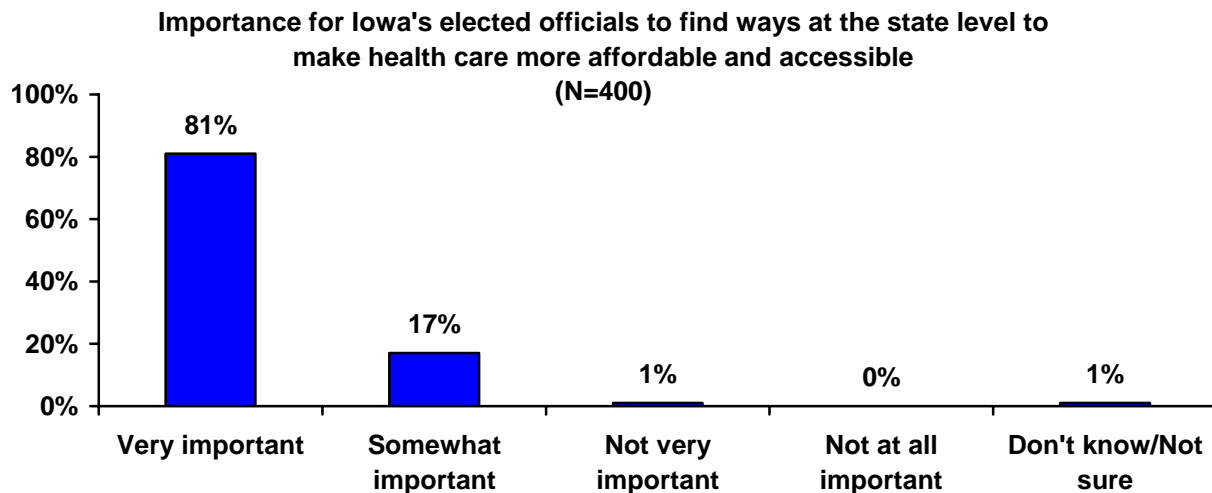
Table 2: AARP Members in Iowa: Importance* of State-Specific Policy Positions (N=400)

State Policy Issues	% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Total
Importance to ensure appropriate funding to allow more people to exercise choices for long-term care services, even if it means re-directing nursing home money to home and community-based care services	81	84	91	86

* Importance is a combination of the very and somewhat important measures.

Three-quarters of Iowa members support increasing the State’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program staffing. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program works on behalf of long-term care facility residents in nursing homes and assisted living situations. The Program helps improve patient care and quality control by resolving issues and complaints between residents and facility employees.

Almost all AARP Iowa members, regardless of their political affiliation, say it is important for Iowa’s elected officials, including the Governor and State Legislators, to find ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Iowans.



This state issue, more than any other, draws the highest level of support among Democrats (99%), Independents (97%), and Republicans (97%).

Table 3: AARP Members in Iowa: Importance* of State-Specific Policy Positions (N=400)

State Policy Issues	% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Total
Importance of State Elected Officials to find ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible	97	99	97	98

* Importance is a combination of the very and somewhat important measures.

Furthermore, 85 percent of Iowa members are more likely to support a candidate for state office who supports finding ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible. At least eight in ten respondents across the political parties are more likely to support state office candidates who are willing to find ways to make health care more affordable and accessible: Independent (86%), Democrat (85%), and Republican (84%).

Table 2 presents member opinion on three Iowa State-Specific policy positions. While majorities of each party agree with AARP's positions, there are variations by issue and across political affiliation.

Table 4: AARP Members in Iowa: Support* for State-Specific Policy Positions (N=400)

State Policy Issues	% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Total
Support reforming Iowa's long-term care system to ensure a full and balanced range of services	80	90	89	87
Support increasing Iowa's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program staffing	73	84	77	78
Support \$1.00 increase in Iowa's tobacco tax	67	65	63	64

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

National Issues

Executive Summary

Nationally, AARP members are concerned about a wide range of issues as they approach the 2006 midterm elections. As expected, the war in Iraq will be a major consideration as members go to the polls, but domestic issues are also very much on their minds. AARP members will consider issues that address their financial and health security as they vote in November. Specifically:

- Nine in ten AARP members across all political parties support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.
- Eight in ten members oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, including nine in ten Democratic members, eight in ten Independent members, and seven in ten Republican members.
- More than seven in ten members support a shared approach in which the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone, including eight in ten Democratic members, seven in ten Independent members, and more than six in ten (65%) Republican members.
- Seven in ten 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. Three-quarters each of Democratic and Independent members, and three-fifths of Republican members, support this Social Security reform proposal.
- Almost seven in ten AARP members across all political parties support a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care.
- Two-thirds of all members (67%) support a proposal to establish automatic payroll deductions to fund individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Sixty-eight percent of Republican members, 67 percent of Democrat members and 66 percent of Independent members support automatic payroll deductions for IRA's.

National Findings

A Range of Issues Facing the U.S.

It is possible to say that the mood for the upcoming November election is one of pessimism. AARP members share with the general population a negative assessment of the direction of the country, and agree that there are many issues the November election should address.

AARP members were asked a standard survey tracking question: “Do you feel things in the country are going in the right direction today, or do you feel that things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?” Nearly three-quarters (73%) of members feel that things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track (17% said “right direction” and 10% did not know).

When asked to name the top-of-mind problem facing the U.S. today, a wide variety of problems were identified by AARP members. Not surprisingly, the War in Iraq (28%) was the most frequently mentioned single problem, but many domestic problems figure prominently in the list of member concerns.

Health care (10%) was the most frequently mentioned top-of-mind domestic problem. Nine percent name the economy, and seven percent cite immigration as the most important problem facing the U.S. today.

As is common with questions that solicit a top-of-mind response, many issues were mentioned. Issues ranging from honesty in government, to gas prices, to Social Security all were mentioned.

AARP Members, Domestic Issues, and Their Vote

When asked to specifically focus on the domestic issues that concern them as reasons to vote, AARP members voice many concerns and are likely to vote for candidates based on those concerns.

When asked about a wide range of domestic issues that could influence their vote, majorities of AARP members responded that candidates’ positions on issues as varied as energy prices and immigration are important to choosing who to represent them.

Corruption in government is a leading issue with nine in ten Democrats, Independents, and Republicans stressing the importance of this election issue.

Nine in ten Democrats and eight in ten each of Republicans and Independents think that ensuring the long-term strength of Medicare is *very important* in their upcoming voting choice in November.

Eight in ten AARP members think that ensuring a balanced Social Security solvency, making prescription drugs more affordable, and education are *very important* election issues.

Three-quarters of members consider guaranteeing health care coverage for all, preventing Social Security funds being used to fund private accounts, and crime/drugs to be *very important* issues in the upcoming election.

For 13 of the 16 domestic issues included in this question, there are statistically significant differences in responses among members of the three political parties.

Table 5 contains the entire list and percentages of AARP members who consider each issue *very important* to their choice of candidates in November.

**Table 5: Domestic Issues Considered Very Important to Their Vote by AARP National Members in the November 2006 Election
(N = 1,000)**

Domestic Issues	Republican % Very Important	Democrat % Very Important	Independent % Very Important	Total % Very Important
Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality	88	90	90	89
Ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare	80	89	81	84
Ensuring a balanced Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations	78	84	77	80
Education	75	82	77	79
Making prescription drugs more affordable	74	85	77	79
Guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all	68	84	73	76
Preventing Social Security funds being used to fund private accounts	66	83	78	76
Crime/Drugs	77	74	73	75
Economy (unspecified) Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing	62	80	71	72
Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)	62	74	66	68
Providing quality long-term care services to all who need them	57	75	69	68
The Federal Deficit	56	75	69	67
Gas prices	59	70	62	65
Environment	48	64	60	59
Immigration	61	53	55	57
Taxes/Tax Cuts	55	60	49	56

AARP Members' Support for AARP Policy Positions

Majorities of AARP members across all political parties support the policy positions AARP considers important in the upcoming election.

Nine in ten AARP members of different political party affiliations support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices (see Table 6). Eight in ten oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, including nine in ten Democratic members, eight in ten Independent members, and seven in ten Republican members. More than seven in ten members support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone, including eight in ten Democratic members, seven in ten Independent members, and more than six in ten (65%) Republican members.

Seven in ten 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. Three-quarters of Democratic and Independent members and three-fifths of Republican members support this Social Security reform proposal.

Approximately seven in ten AARP members across the political parties support a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care. The same proportion supports requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions to fund personal IRAs.

Two-thirds of AARP members oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending. Slightly more than two-thirds of Democratic (68%) and Independent (68%) members and three fifths (61%) of Republican members oppose this change.

Table 6 has the list of domestic issues and the percentages of AARP members who support AARP's position on these issues. While majorities of AARP members agree with each of the positions in Table 4, there are some differences among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents concerning privatization of Social Security, health care coverage for everyone, a balanced approach to Social Security solvency, and imposing spending limits on Medicare.

**Table 6: AARP National Members' Support* for AARP Policy Positions
(N = 1,000)**

Issues	% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Total
Support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs	90	90	90	90
Oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts	72	90	80	81
Support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone	65	80	71	72
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	61	76	74	71
Support a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care	68	69	73	69
Support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)	68	67	66	67
Oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending	61	68	68	66

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

Summary and Implications

AARP members educate themselves on the issues, speak with their peers and family members about national events, and vote on the basis of the issues that concern them. Moreover, they are in substantial agreement with AARP's issue positions in the upcoming election.

AARP members can be expected to evaluate candidates in the November 2006 elections on the basis of the candidates' stands on issues of vital importance to older Americans. The strong feelings AARP members have about protecting and strengthening Social Security is a good example of how their concerns guide their votes. Seven in ten AARP National members say they would be less likely to support a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate who supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts while only one in fourteen (7%) say they would be more likely to support such a candidate, and one in six (17%) say it would not make a difference in their vote. In Iowa's Congressional District #1, the numbers are strikingly similar. Seven in ten CD#1 members say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate who supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, while only one in twelve (8%) say they would be more likely to support such a candidate, and one in six (18%) say it would not make a difference in how they vote.

The likelihood to vote based on public policy positions extends across political affiliation. Among AARP National members, eight in ten Democratic members, seven in ten Independent members, and six and ten Republican members share the majority assessment of being less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate who supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. Again, Iowans in Congressional District #1 parallel the national pattern. More than eight in ten Democratic members, seven in ten Independent members, and half of Republican members are less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate who supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts.

At the state level, almost all AARP Iowa members (98%) say it is important for the state's elected officials, including the Governor and State Legislators, to find ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Iowans. AARP Iowa members also prioritize reforming the State's long-term care system (87%), increasing staffing for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (78%), and increasing the state tobacco tax by \$1.00 (64%).

AARP members will be a powerful force in the November 2006 elections and their voices deserve very serious consideration by all candidates in the upcoming election campaigns.

Methodology

In June 2006, AARP commissioned Woelfel Research, Inc., a national survey research firm, to conduct a list-assisted telephone survey of 1,000 AARP national members, 400 Iowa State AARP members, and 400 Iowa Congressional District #1 AARP members. Interviews were conducted between June 8th and June 11th, 2006. The response rate for the National survey is 15 percent; response rate for the Iowa State survey and the Iowa Congressional District #1 survey is 14 percent.¹ The national survey has a sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of three percentage points of what would have been obtained if every AARP member had been surveyed. The State of Iowa survey and the Iowa Congressional District #1 each have a sampling error of five percent. Iowa State wide and Congressional District #1 survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of age for the population of AARP Iowa members. National data is not weighted. The responses to all survey questions are in the attached annotated questionnaires.

For presentation purposes, percentage points have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100 percent. For questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total to significantly more than 100 percent, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent. Similarly, when only selected responses are shown, percentages may total less than 100 percent.

² For the National sample, the response rate is 15 percent and the cooperation rate is 88 percent. For the Iowa Statewide sample and the Iowa Congressional District #1 sample, the response rate is 14 percent and the cooperation rate is 87 percent. The response rate is Response Rate 3 and the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 (AAPOR, 2004).

Appendix I
2006 AARP Iowa Congressional District #1
Member Survey About Election Issues

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

STATE ISSUES

15a. Currently, Iowa's tobacco tax is among the lowest in the country at 36 cents per pack. Iowa has not raised its tobacco tax since 1991. Do you support or oppose a \$1.00 increase in Iowa's tobacco tax? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	58
	2.	Somewhat support	11
	3.	Somewhat oppose	7
	4.	Strongly oppose	19
	5.	Undecided/don't know	5
	6.	No answer/refused	1

15b. Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state office in Iowa, including Governor or State Legislator, who supports raising the tobacco tax by \$1.00, or would it not make any difference in your voting behavior?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	More Likely	43
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	40
	3.	Less Likely	46
	4.	Don't know	1
	5.	Refused	0

15c. Currently, in Iowa, services such as assisted living and home and community-based care that allow persons to remain in their home and community are provided, only if funds are available. Money for care is allocated primarily to nursing homes. There are waiting lists and limits on services such as home and community-based care and assisted living because the need is greater than the funding provided for the services. Do you support or oppose reforming Iowa's long-term care system to ensure that consumers in need of long-term care have access to a full and balanced range of services, including nursing homes, assisted living, and home and community-based services based on personal preference? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	65
	2.	Somewhat support	24
	3.	Somewhat oppose	3
	4.	Strongly oppose	4
	5.	Undecided/don't know	5
	6.	No answer/refused	0

15d. How important is it to you for Iowa to ensure appropriate funding to allow more people to exercise choices for long-term care services, even if that means re-directing nursing home money to home and community-based care services?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1	Very important	38
	2	Somewhat important	47
	3	Not very important	6
	4	Not at all important	3
	D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	6
	R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

15e. Iowa's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program works on behalf of long-term care facility residents in nursing homes and assisted living situations. The Program helps improve patient care and quality control by resolving issues and complaints between residents and facility employees. The Iowa Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is ranked lowest in the country based on its staff to bed ratio. Do you support or oppose increasing Iowa's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program staffing? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	38
	2.	Somewhat support	34
	3.	Somewhat oppose	9
	4.	Strongly oppose	4
	5.	Undecided/don't know	13
	6.	No answer/refused	1

15f. How important is it to you for Iowa's elected officials, including the Governor and State Legislators, to find ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Iowans?

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	76
2	Somewhat important	20
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

15g. Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state office in Iowa, including Governor or State Legislator, who supports finding ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Iowans?

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1.	More Likely	86
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	9
3.	Less Likely	3
4.	Don't know	2
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!

Appendix II
2006 AARP Iowa Statewide Member Survey
About Election Issues

IOWA STATEWIDE ANNOTATED RESULTS
AARP Iowa Members 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	17
	2.	Wrong track	69
	3.	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	13
	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)		38
2.	Terrorism/Terrorist attacks/Homeland Security		4
3.	National Security/Other foreign affairs issues		3
4.	Health Care		8
5.	Medicare		0
6.	Social Security		1
7.	Immigration		4
8.	Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)		2
9.	Gas prices		2
10.	The Federal Deficit		2
11.	Taxes/Tax Cuts		0
12.	Economy (unspecified)		7
13.	Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing		2
14.	Education		1
15.	Environment		1
16.	Crime/Drugs		2
17.	Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality		4
18.	Other domestic issues		1
19.	Abortion		0
20.	President Bush		2
21.	Elderly/Seniors		0
22.	Going away from God		1
23.	Government		1
24.	Greed		0
25.	Jobs		0
26.	Lack of morals/Morality		3
27.	Leadership		0
28.	Taking care of our own		1
29.	Unity		1
30.	Youth		0
31.	Same sex marriage/Gay marriage		0
32.	Poverty/Hunger		1
33.	Global warming		0
34.	Our attitude/Attitude of our country		1
35.	Energy		0
36.	Foreign policy		1
37.	Health insurance		1
38.	Oil		0
39.	Politics		0
40.	National debt		1
41.	Other		3
42.	All/Everything		0
43.	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	400 %
1 Very important	77
2 Somewhat important	14
3 Not very important	5
4 Not at all important	2
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	76
2 Somewhat important	19
3 Not very important	3
4 Not at all important	0
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Making prescription drugs more affordable

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
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

Guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	69
2	Somewhat important	25
3	Not very important	4
4	Not at all important	1
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	64
2	Somewhat important	29
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

Ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	81
2	Somewhat important	15
3	Not very important	1
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

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

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	63
2	Somewhat important	32
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

Gas prices

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	62
2	Somewhat important	32
3	Not very important	4
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

The Federal Deficit

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	73
2	Somewhat important	21
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Taxes/Tax Cuts

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Very important	50
2	Somewhat important	37
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	400 %
1	Very important	68
2	Somewhat important	26
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Education

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	78
2	Somewhat important	19
3	Not very important	2
4	Not at all important	0
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Environment

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	55
2	Somewhat important	39
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

Crime/Drugs

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	69
2	Somewhat important	27
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

Immigration

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	49
2	Somewhat important	39
3	Not very important	8
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality

Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Very important	88
2	Somewhat important	10
3	Not very important	0
4	Not at all important	0
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	4
2.	Somewhat support	5
3.	Somewhat oppose	17
4.	Strongly oppose	66
5.	Undecided/don't know	9
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		400 %
1.	Strongly support	45
2.	Somewhat support	30
3.	Somewhat oppose	9
4.	Strongly oppose	5
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	38
2.	Somewhat support	32
3.	Somewhat oppose	14
4.	Strongly oppose	8
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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	27
	2.	Somewhat support	27
	3.	Somewhat oppose	19
	4.	Strongly oppose	16
	5.	Undecided/don't know	10
	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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	66
	2.	Somewhat support	23
	3.	Somewhat oppose	4
	4.	Strongly oppose	3
	5.	Undecided/don't know	4
	6.	No answer/refused	1

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	10
	2.	Somewhat support	10
	3.	Somewhat oppose	25
	4.	Strongly oppose	41
	5.	Undecided/don't know	14
	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	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	29
	2.	Somewhat support	41
	3.	Somewhat oppose	10
	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	19
	3.	Somewhat oppose	28
	4.	Strongly oppose	33
	5.	Undecided/don't know	6
	6.	No answer/refused	1

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	38
	2.	Somewhat support	26
	3.	Somewhat oppose	12
	4.	Strongly oppose	17
	5.	Undecided/don't know	6
	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	5
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	21
	3.	Less Likely	69
	4.	Don't know	5
	5.	Refused	0

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	33
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	25
	3.	Less Likely	39
	4.	Don't know	2
	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	400 %
	1.	More Likely	35
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	32
	3.	Less Likely	28
	4.	Don't know	3
	5.	Refused	1

STATE ISSUES

15a. Currently, Iowa's tobacco tax is among the lowest in the country at 36 cents per pack. Iowa has not raised its tobacco tax since 1991. Do you support or oppose a \$1.00 increase in Iowa's tobacco tax? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	55
	2.	Somewhat support	9
	3.	Somewhat oppose	9
	4.	Strongly oppose	22
	5.	Undecided/don't know	4
	6.	No answer/refused	1

15b. Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state office in Iowa, including Governor or State Legislator, who supports raising the tobacco tax by \$1.00, or would it not make any difference in your voting behavior?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	More Likely	38
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	39
	3.	Less Likely	21
	4.	Don't know	2
	5.	Refused	1

15c. Currently, in Iowa, services such as assisted living and home and community-based care that allow persons to remain in their home and community are provided, only if funds are available. Money for care is allocated primarily to nursing homes. There are waiting lists and limits on services such as home and community-based care and assisted living because the need is greater than the funding provided for the services. Do you support or oppose reforming Iowa's long-term care system to ensure that consumers in need of long-term care have access to a full and balanced range of services, including nursing homes, assisted living, and home and community-based services based on personal preference? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	66
	2.	Somewhat support	21
	3.	Somewhat oppose	4
	4.	Strongly oppose	4
	5.	Undecided/don't know	5
	6.	No answer/refused	1

15d. How important is it to you for Iowa to ensure appropriate funding to allow more people to exercise choices for long-term care services, even if that means re-directing nursing home money to home and community-based care services?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1	Very important	41
	2	Somewhat important	46
	3	Not very important	6
	4	Not at all important	2
	D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	5
	R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

15e. Iowa's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program works on behalf of long-term care facility residents in nursing homes and assisted living situations. The Program helps improve patient care and quality control by resolving issues and complaints between residents and facility employees. The Iowa Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is ranked lowest in the country based on its staff to bed ratio. Do you support or oppose increasing Iowa's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program staffing? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	Strongly support	46
	2.	Somewhat support	32
	3.	Somewhat oppose	8
	4.	Strongly oppose	4
	5.	Undecided/don't know	9
	6.	No answer/refused	1

15f. How important is it to you for Iowa's elected officials, including the Governor and State Legislators, to find ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Iowans?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1	Very important	81
	2	Somewhat important	17
	3	Not very important	1
	4	Not at all important	0
	D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
	R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

15g. Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate for state office in Iowa, including Governor or State Legislator, who supports finding ways at the state level to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Iowans?

		Base: Total Respondents	400 %
	1.	More Likely	85
	2.	Would Not Make a Difference	9
	3.	Less Likely	2
	4.	Don't know	3
	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	32
	3.	An Independent	40
	4. (DO NOT READ)	Other	2
	5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	1
	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		400 %
	1.	Conservative	32
	2.	Moderate	46
	3.	Liberal	14
	4. (DO NOT READ)	None of the Above	1
	5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	5
	6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	1

Demographic questions:

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

	Base: Total Respondents		400 %
	1.	50-59	30
	2.	60-74	43
	3.	75+	27
	4.	Refused	1

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

	Base: Total Respondents		400 %
1	Married,		70
2	Divorced,		7
3	Separated,		1
4	Widowed,		20
5	Or have you never been married?		3

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

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Less than high school	6
2	High school graduate or equivalent	34
3	Some college or technical training beyond high school	31
4	College graduate	14
5	Or, Post-graduate or professional degree	15
6	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	1
7	Refused [DO NOT READ]	0

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

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Employed full-time	26
2	Employed part-time	11
3	Retired and not working	56
4	Unemployed and looking for work	2
5	Homemaker	3
6	Disabled	2
7	Self employed	1
8	Or something else [Specify: _____]	0
9	Don't Know [DO NOT READ]	0
10	Refused [DO NOT READ]	0

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	78
2.	Usually	16
3.	Sometimes	3
4.	Rarely	2
5.	Never	2
6.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	0

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	3
2.	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	14
3.	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	11
4.	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	12
5.	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	12
6.	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	14
7.	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	9
8.	\$100,000 or more	5
9.	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	4
10.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	17

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	98
2.	Black or African-American	0
3.	Asian	0
4.	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
5.	American Indian or Alaska Native	0
6.	Other	0
7.	Mixed	0
8.	Don't know	0
9.	Refused	2

D9. [RECORD STATE]

D10. What is your gender?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
3.	Male	41
4.	Female	59

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

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Appendix III
AARP National Member Survey
About 2006 Election Issues

**Annotated Questionnaire
AARP National Member Survey
About 2006 Election Issues
June 8-11, 2006**

**AARP Members 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
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... [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	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 %
5.	Male	45
6.	Female	55

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

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

AARP
Knowledge Management
For more information contact Susan Silberman (202) 434-6339