



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

State

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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 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 strong opinions about state policy issues (see Table 4, page 4).

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%).

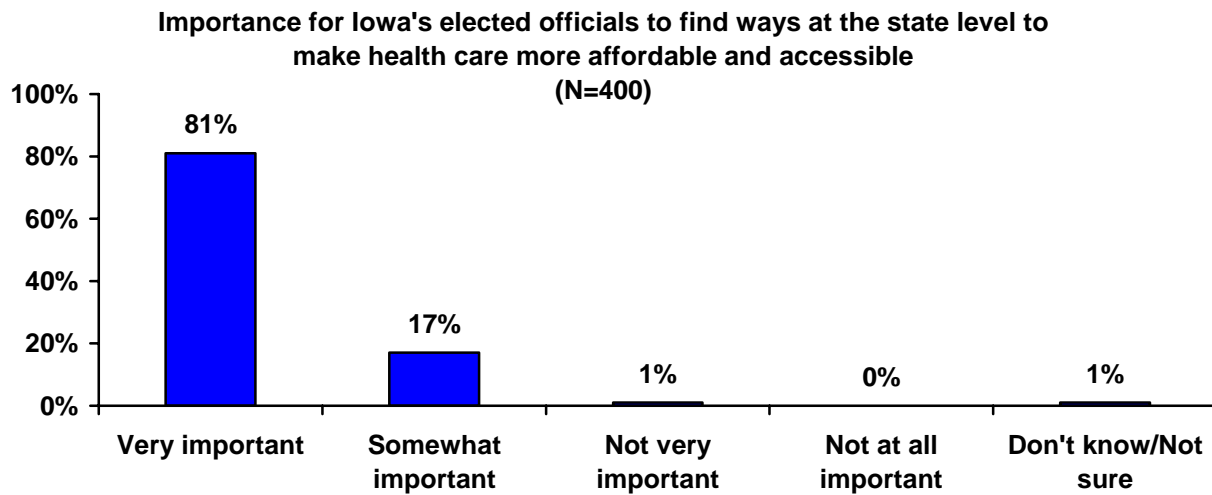
Table 2: AARP Members in Iowa: Importance* of State-Specific Policy Positions (N=400)

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 4 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.

Appendix II
Common Ground on the Future: AARP Iowa Member
Opinion About 2006 Election Issues State-wide

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."}

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 %
1. Male	41
2. Female	59

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

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

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