

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

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AARP

2010 Election Survey Results

Colorado Statewide

Prepared for
AARP Strategic Issues Research

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Table of Contents

Introduction and Methodology	Page 3
Executive Summary	4-6
Political Environment	7-9
The Economy	10-14
Social Security	15-18
The Deficit	19-22
Reducing Medicare Fraud	23-27
Doc Fix	28-31
Summary and Conclusions	32-33

Introduction and Methodology

AARP commissioned American Viewpoint, Inc. to conduct a series of election surveys in consultation with Hart Research Associates, Inc. Blinded telephone interviewing was conducted with AARP members who are likely voters in the 2010 federal elections. Respondents were selected from random samples of the membership provided by AARP and then screened for likelihood of voting and to confirm AARP membership. Eight surveys were conducted between September 9 and 21 including a national survey with an Hispanic oversample and seven statewide surveys as follows:

Survey Population	Field Dates
U.S. National, n=1,000 with an oversample of n=250 Hispanic voters	9/9-13/2010
Ohio Statewide, n=500	9/12-13/2010
Pennsylvania Statewide, n=500	9/12-14/2010
Nevada Statewide, n=500	9/13-15/2010
New Hampshire Statewide, n=500	9/14-15/2010
Colorado Statewide, n=500	9/14-15/2010
Florida Statewide, n=500	9/19-20/2010
Missouri Statewide, n=500	9/20-21/2010

Data were weighted to sex and age within region, and race. Weights were based on population characteristics. All surveys are subject to errors caused by interviewing a sample of persons rather than the entire population. At 95 percent confidence, the margin of error for a simple random sample of n=1,000 is ± 3.1 percentage points; for n=500, ± 4.4 ; and for n=250, ± 6.2 . Some scores may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Executive Summary

- The Colorado AARP members interviewed are highly likely to vote. In all, 95% say they are definitely planning to vote and another 5% are likely to vote.
- Like many Americans, most Colorado AARP members say that things in the country have gotten off on the wrong track, are dissatisfied with current economic conditions and are concerned about the deficit. In all, 59% say the country is on the wrong track, 84% are dissatisfied with the current state of the economy, and 91% are concerned about the deficit. Fewer than four in ten (39%) think the national economy will get better over the course of the next year while 22% think it will get worse and 31% think it will stay about the same.
- As a result, they are concerned about the future. In addition to near-term misgivings about the economy, there is a widespread belief that conditions for their children's generation will be more difficult than they have experienced. Indeed, just 22% are confident that life for their children's generation will be better than it has been for them while 65% say they are not confident.
- At the same time, most are at least somewhat satisfied with their own economic situation. In fact, 69% are satisfied overall (23% very satisfied) while 30% of all members are dissatisfied with their own economic situation. In addition, they are reasonably optimistic about their economic outlook in the near-term. Most (64%) indicate that their personal financial situation will remain about the same in the next year while 18% think it will get better and 16% worse.
- Part of this optimism may stem from their confidence in Social Security. More than six in ten (62%) Colorado members are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement while 31% are not confident. The inherent value of Social Security is underscored by the fact virtually all respondents (95%) – regardless of political affiliation, ideology, or demographic characteristics – say that it is important to them that Social Security is there for future generations.
- To that end, 91% of the AARP members interviewed in Colorado say it is important that a candidate in the 2010 election pledge their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit.

Executive Summary

- With regard to the deficit, Colorado AARP members do not support reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees in order to control the deficit. The vast majority (67%) agree more with a hypothetical candidate who says that Social Security is essential for retirement security and that cutting the benefits of future retirees will place an unfair burden on them. Another 22% agree more with a candidate who says that Social Security is one of the biggest federal programs and we can't control the deficit without reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees.
- Furthermore, 64% say that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors reducing the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees. Opposition is strong across the state's subgroups and cuts across age, income and party affiliation. Indeed, a majority of Republicans (56%), Democrats (80%) and Independents (56%) would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors this approach.
- Medicare fraud is perceived to be a major problem that adds substantially to the cost of the program (69%). Colorado members' reasoning for cracking down on Medicare fraud is focused more on maintaining the overall strength of the program than on the impact on their own health or finances. The top reason to crack down on Medicare fraud is to keep Medicare financially strong (48%), although a substantial number say the most important reason to fight fraud is that it will save consumers money (14%), protect seniors' health (11%) or help reduce the deficit (12%).
- Colorado members are very responsive to a number of bipartisan legislative proposals that have been offered in Congress to fight Medicare fraud. Most (88%) say that "significantly increasing penalties for criminals who commit fraud" would be at least somewhat helpful in helping minimize Medicare fraud and identity theft of Medicare patients, including 54% who say it would help to a great extent. Similarly, 84% say that "changing the way Medicare pays claims so that suspicious claims would have to be verified before they are paid" would help; 50% a great deal. Further, 58% say it would be helpful to "prevent Medicare from using a person's Social Security number as their Medicare number" (28% a great deal). Here again, a majority of AARP members (68%) are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports these proposals while just 4% are less likely.

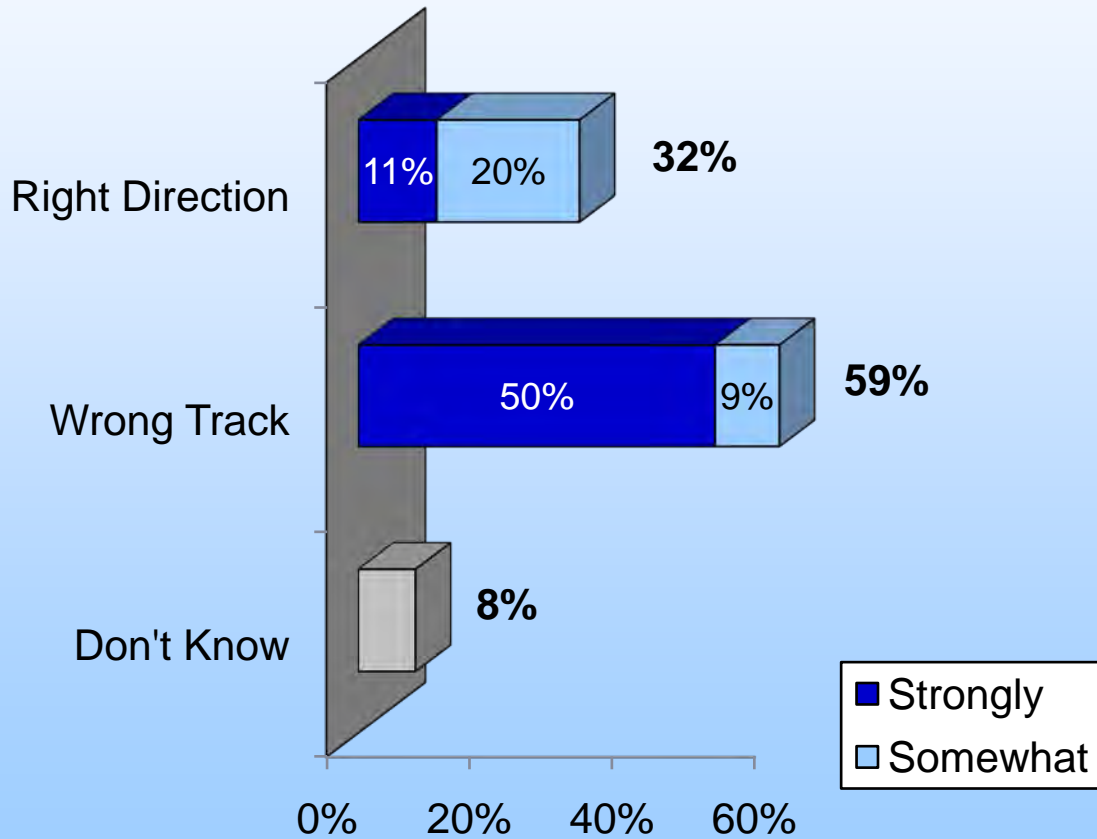
Executive Summary

- Colorado members see the threat of annual reduction in reimbursement rates to Medicare doctors as a problem and support a permanent solution. In all, 84% of AARP Medicare beneficiaries say that they are concerned – and 59% are very concerned – that if the 23% cut in payments takes place in December as scheduled, their current doctors will stop accepting Medicare. Future retirees are also concerned; 79% of those not currently enrolled in Medicare say that they are concerned – 58% very – that if Congress fails to fix the doctor reimbursement problem, it will limit their access to doctors when they become Medicare eligible.
- As a result, a majority (61%) would be more likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent future cuts in reimbursement rates to doctors. Just 6% are less likely.

Political Environment

Mood of the Country: Like other Americans, many Colorado AARP members are dissatisfied with the direction of the country – 59% say things are off on the wrong track. Majorities of most major subgroups hold this view while just 32% overall say things are going in the right direction. A more positive perspective is found among Democrats (65% right direction) and liberals (67%).

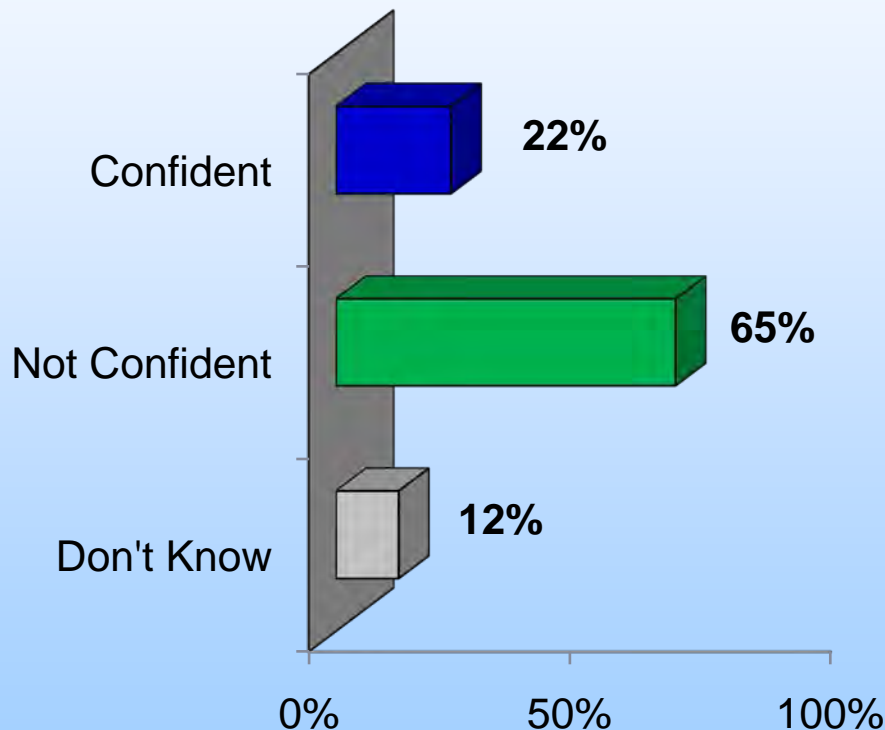
Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?



	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Col. Springs	25%	65%
Denver	35%	56%
Balance	23%	69%
Male 64 & under	30%	66%
Male 65+	29%	63%
Female 64 & under	31%	57%
Female 65+	36%	51%
Republican	5%	91%
Ticket Splitter	24%	66%
Democrat	65%	22%
Liberal	67%	22%
Moderate	37%	50%
Conservative	7%	88%

Life for our Children's Generation: Most Colorado members lack confidence that life will be better for their children's generation than it has been for them. Again, this sentiment is found across most of the population with few exceptions. Indeed, there is little difference between those with higher and lower income levels. However, somewhat more optimism is exhibited by Democrats (36% confident – 47% not confident).

Do you feel confident or not confident that life for our children's generation will be better than it has been for us?

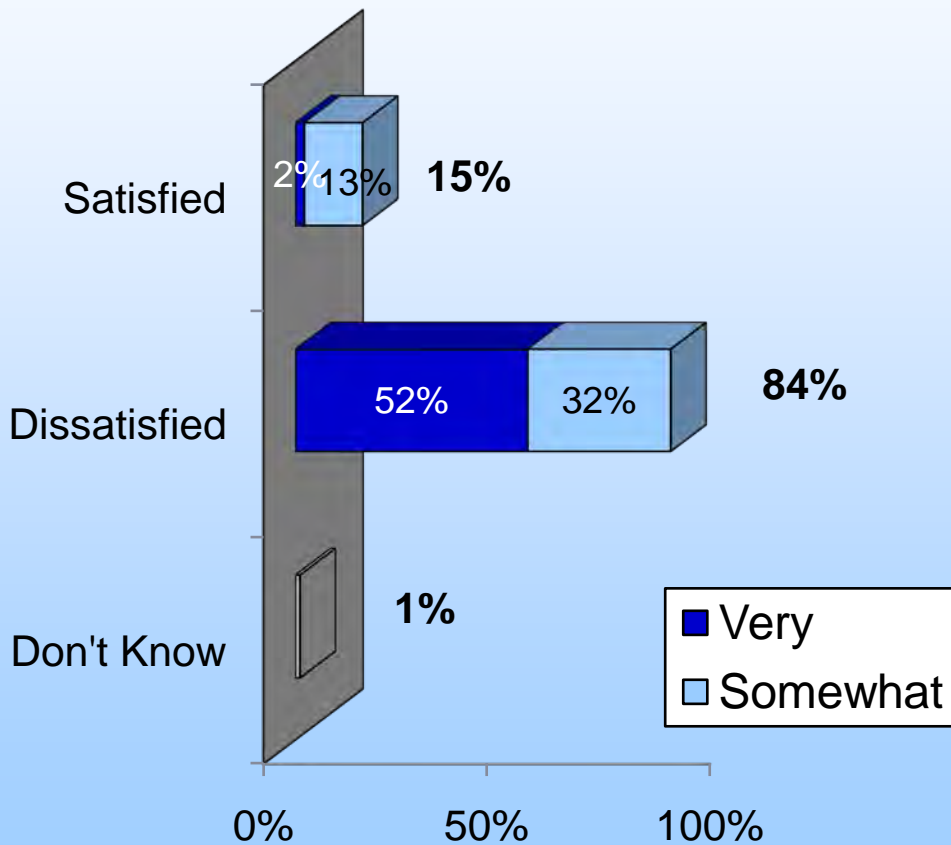


	Confident	Not Confident
Col. Springs	20%	68%
Denver	24%	64%
Balance	11%	73%
Male 64 & under	16%	75%
Male 65+	26%	59%
Female 64 & under	22%	66%
Female 65+	26%	60%
Republican	9%	82%
Ticket Splitter	22%	68%
Democrat	36%	47%
Liberal	33%	50%
Moderate	28%	58%
Conservative	10%	82%
Under \$30K	24%	62%
\$30K-\$49K	23%	68%
\$50K-\$74K	27%	63%
\$75K and Over	22%	66%

The Economy

Dissatisfaction with the economy: Most Colorado members are dissatisfied with the current state of the U.S. economy.

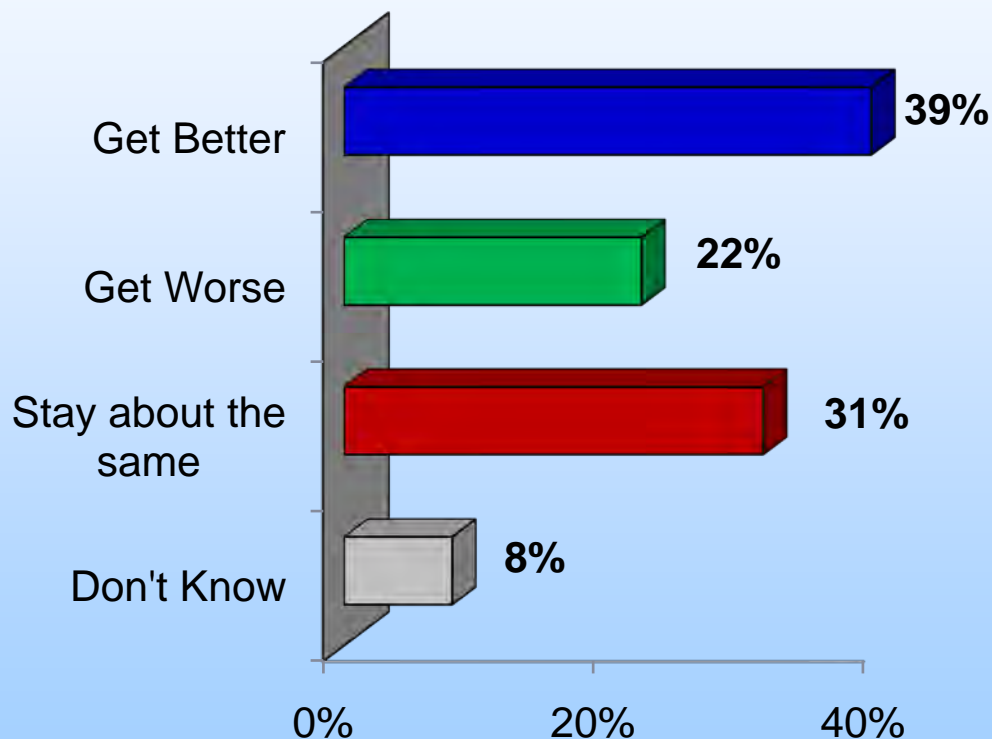
How satisfied are you with the state of the U.S. economy today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the state of the economy?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Col. Springs	15%	84%
Denver	15%	84%
Balance	8%	92%
Male 64 & under	12%	88%
Male 65+	13%	85%
Female 64 & under	14%	84%
Female 65+	19%	81%
Republican	7%	93%
Ticket Splitter	13%	85%
Democrat	22%	77%
Liberal	23%	76%
Moderate	17%	82%
Conservative	7%	93%
S.S. Through Retire.		
Confident	18%	81%
Not Confident	7%	93%

Economic outlook: 39% think the economy will get better in the next year, 22% that it will get worse, and 31% that it will stay about the same. Democrats, liberals and those who are confident about Social Security are among the most optimistic about the economic outlook.

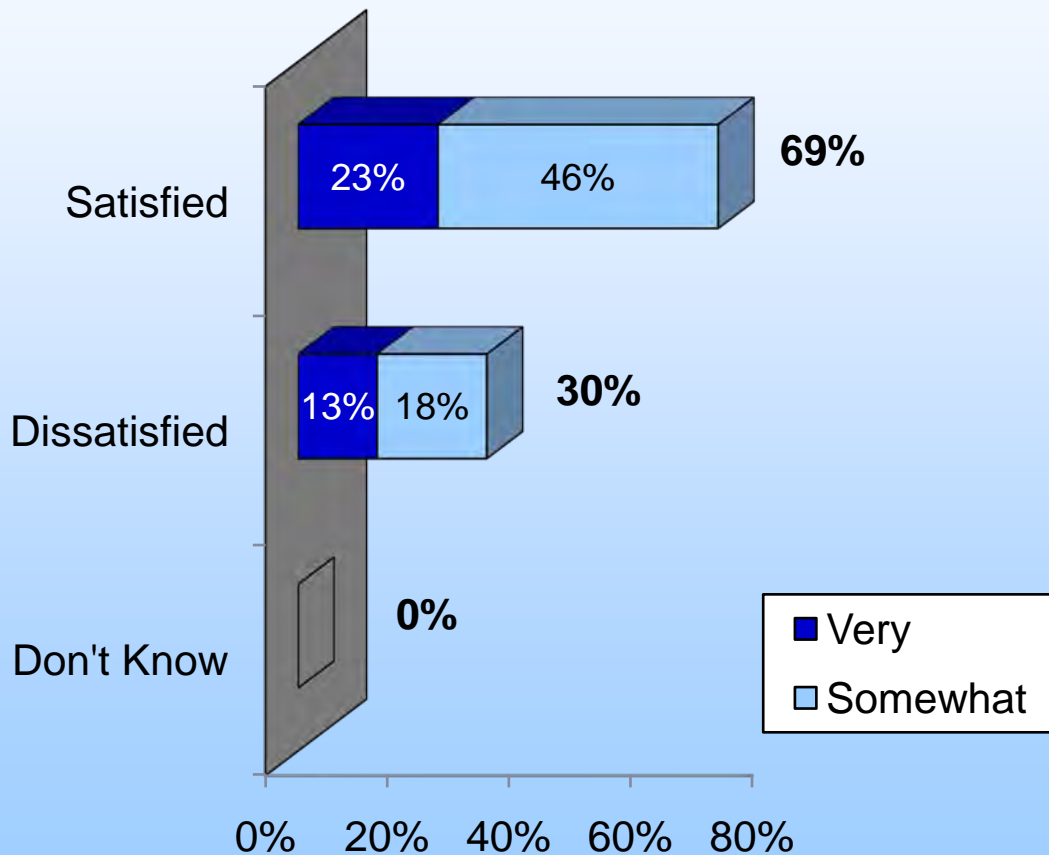
Thinking about a year from now, do you think the national economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same as it is now?



	Better	Worse	Same
Col. Springs	43%	27%	24%
Denver	38%	20%	33%
Balance	26%	22%	29%
Male 64 & under	37%	24%	33%
Male 65+	39%	21%	34%
Female 64 & under	40%	24%	31%
Female 65+	39%	19%	26%
Republican	20%	32%	36%
Ticket Splitter	35%	24%	35%
Democrat	62%	9%	23%
Liberal	70%	8%	19%
Moderate	43%	16%	32%
Conservative	17%	35%	38%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	47%	14%	31%
Not Confident	21%	39%	32%

Satisfaction with personal financial situation: Most Colorado members are at least somewhat satisfied with their own financial situation. Satisfaction scores increase with income. Liberals are more satisfied than conservatives or moderates. Those who lack confidence in Social Security are less satisfied than those who are confident that they will continue to receive benefits throughout retirement.

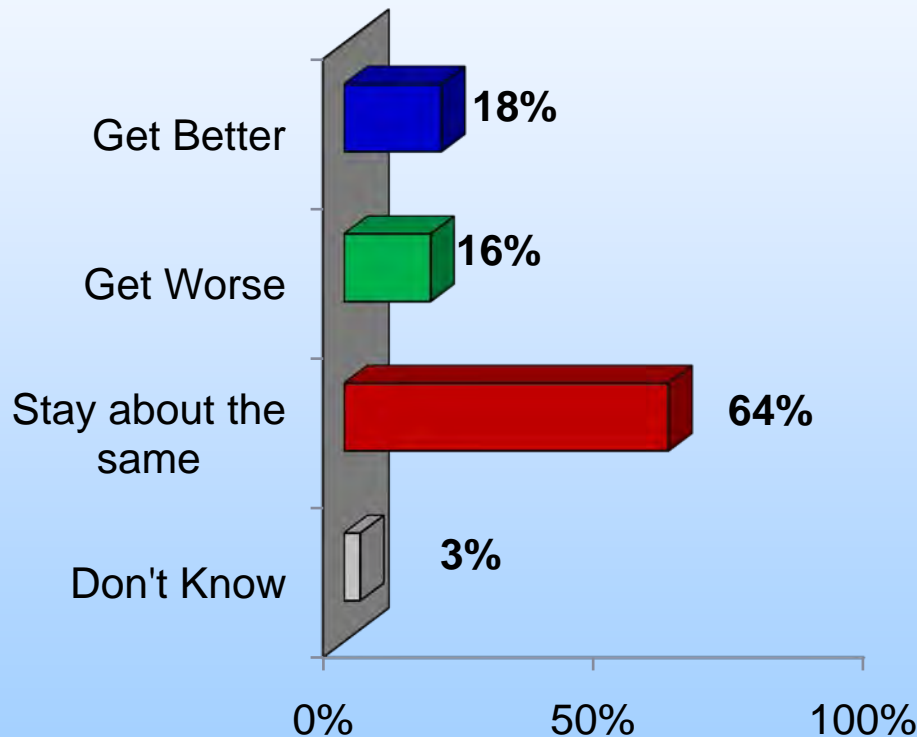
How satisfied are you with the state of your own financial situation today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with your own financial situation?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Col. Springs	70%	30%
Denver	70%	30%
Balance	60%	40%
Male 64 & under	67%	33%
Male 65+	71%	27%
Female 64 & under	65%	35%
Female 65+	75%	25%
Republican	69%	30%
Ticket Splitter	68%	32%
Democrat	71%	29%
Liberal	80%	20%
Moderate	67%	33%
Conservative	65%	35%
Under \$30K	52%	48%
\$30K-\$49K	71%	29%
\$50K-\$74K	72%	28%
\$75K and Over	80%	19%
S.S. Through Retire.		
Confident	77%	22%
Not Confident	51%	49%

Most Colorado members indicate that their personal financial situation will be stable in the next year. Conservatives, and those who lack confidence in Social Security are more likely to say their situation will worsen over the next year.

Thinking about a year from now, do you think your personal financial situation will get better, get worse, or stay about the same as it is now?

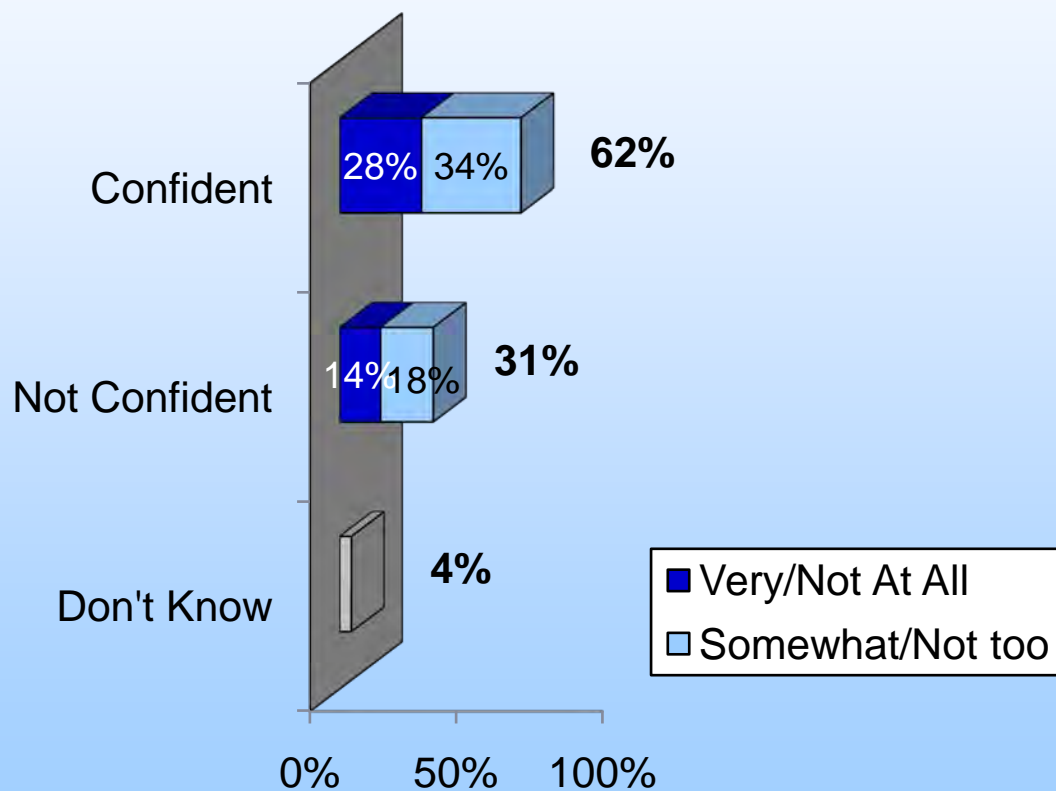


	Better	Worse	Same
Col. Springs	17%	18%	61%
Denver	18%	15%	65%
Balance	19%	14%	61%
Male 64 & under	20%	16%	62%
Male 65+	13%	16%	68%
Female 64 & under	24%	15%	59%
Female 65+	13%	15%	68%
Republican	11%	18%	67%
Ticket Splitter	15%	19%	64%
Democrat	27%	9%	62%
Liberal	27%	5%	67%
Moderate	22%	15%	60%
Conservative	10%	22%	65%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	20%	11%	68%
Not Confident	16%	26%	54%

Social Security

Confidence in Social Security: More than six in ten Colorado AARP members say they are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement. However, fewer than three in ten respondents (28%) express high confidence. Not surprisingly, younger members are less confident than their older counterparts. Republicans and Ticket-Splitters are less confident than Democrats.

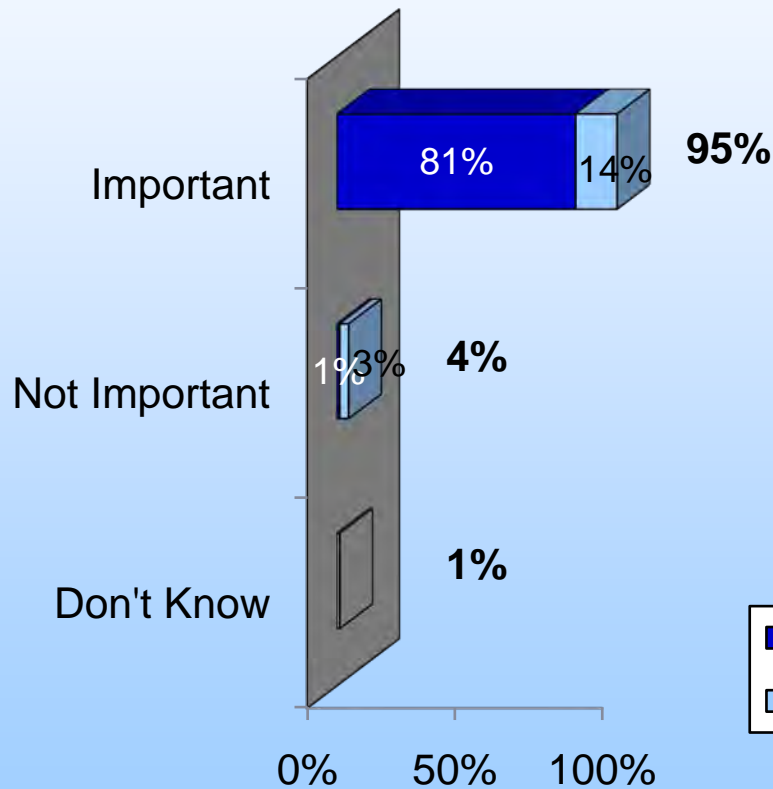
How confident are you that you will receive full Social Security benefits throughout your retirement?



	Confident	Not Confident
Col. Springs	61%	36%
Denver	62%	31%
Balance	69%	25%
Male 64 & under	54%	41%
Male 65+	80%	17%
Female 64 & under	54%	42%
Female 65+	64%	23%
Republican	57%	40%
Ticket Splitter	58%	34%
Democrat	77%	17%
Liberal	79%	14%
Moderate	65%	28%
Conservative	52%	44%

The future of Social Security is important to Colorado members: Virtually all members say it is important to them that Social Security is there for future generations.

How important is it to you that Social Security is there for future generations?



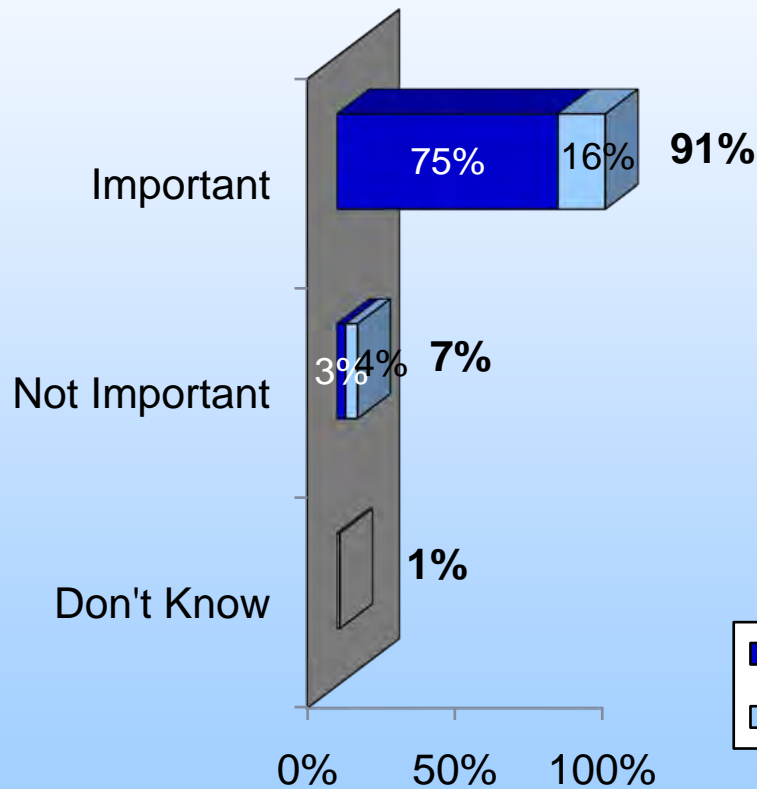
	Total Important	Very Important	Not Important
Col. Springs	97%	87%	3%
Denver	94%	80%	5%
Balance	94%	74%	3%
Male 64 & under	94%	80%	3%
Male 65+	95%	82%	4%
Female 64 & under	94%	80%	5%
Female 65+	96%	84%	3%
Republican	94%	78%	6%
Ticket Splitter	94%	78%	5%
Democrat	97%	90%	1%
Liberal	96%	91%	1%
Moderate	95%	76%	4%
Conservative	95%	81%	5%

■ Very/Not At All
■ Somewhat/Not too

Colorado AARP members want candidates to pledge their commitment to Social Security:

Across the population, there is a nearly universal sentiment that it is important for candidates in the 2010 election to voice their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit.

In the 2010 election campaign, how important is it to you that a candidate pledge their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit.



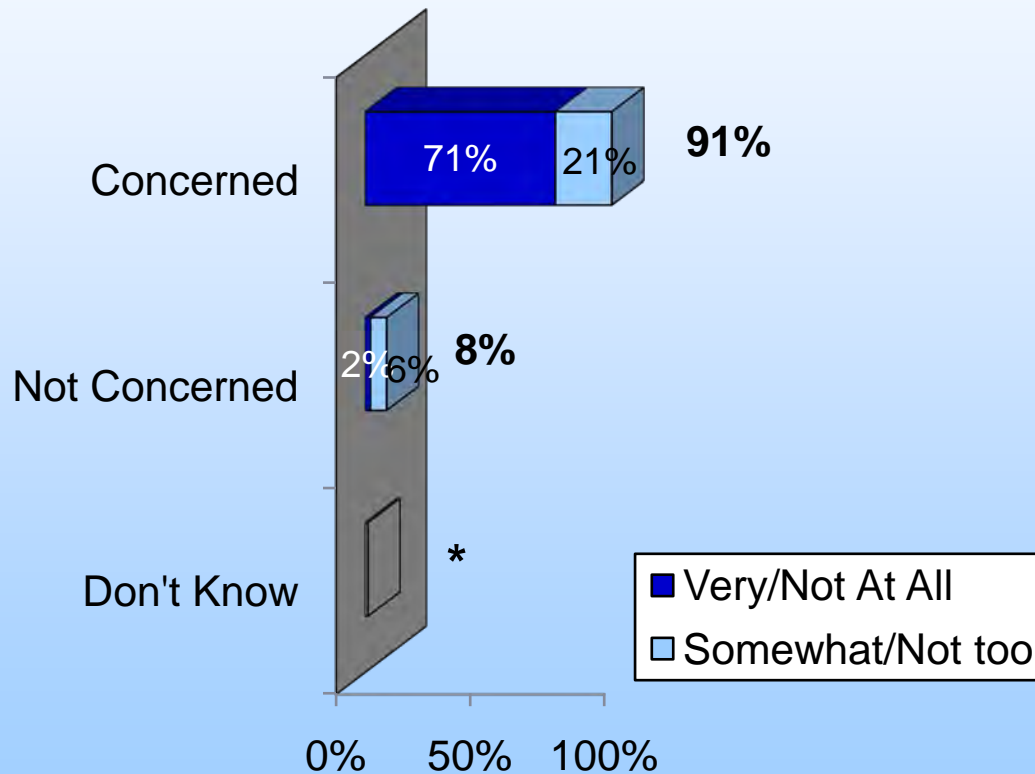
	Total Important	Very Important	Not Important
Col. Springs	95%	81%	5%
Denver	89%	73%	8%
Balance	94%	73%	3%
Male 64 & under	84%	68%	14%
Male 65+	93%	75%	5%
Female 64 & under	91%	75%	7%
Female 65+	94%	82%	2%
Republican	89%	66%	10%
Ticket Splitter	89%	73%	8%
Democrat	96%	87%	2%
Liberal	96%	91%	4%
Moderate	91%	68%	7%
Conservative	87%	73%	9%

■ Very/Not At All
 ■ Somewhat/Not too

The Deficit

Concern about the national deficit runs high across the Colorado member population: 91% are concerned about the deficit and 71% are very concerned.

How concerned are you about the national deficit?



	Total Concerned	Very Concerned	Not Concerned
Col. Springs	92%	76%	8%
Denver	91%	69%	8%
Balance	93%	76%	5%
Male 64 & under	88%	67%	12%
Male 65+	92%	78%	7%
Female 64 & under	94%	71%	6%
Female 65+	92%	68%	8%
Republican	99%	93%	1%
Ticket Splitter	93%	74%	7%
Democrat	83%	48%	17%
Liberal	80%	41%	19%
Moderate	93%	68%	7%
Conservative	96%	90%	4%

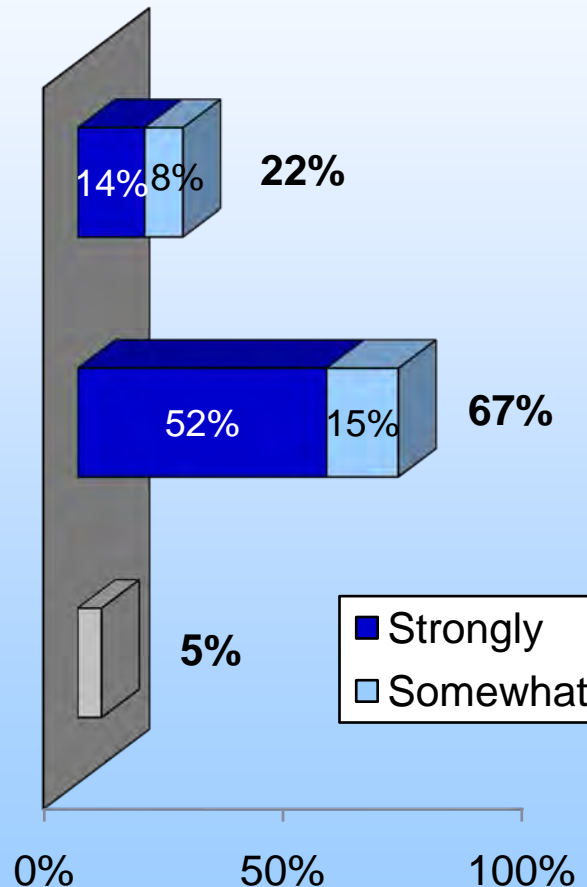
Two-thirds of Colorado AARP members reject the idea of reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees in order to control the deficit: Only 22% would agree more with a candidate who says we can't control the deficit without reducing the Social Security benefits of future retirees.

Which of these two candidates do you agree with more?

Says Social Security is one of the biggest federal programs and we can't control the deficit without reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees.

Says Social Security is essential for the retirement security of senior citizens and cutting the benefits of future retirees will place an unfair burden on them.

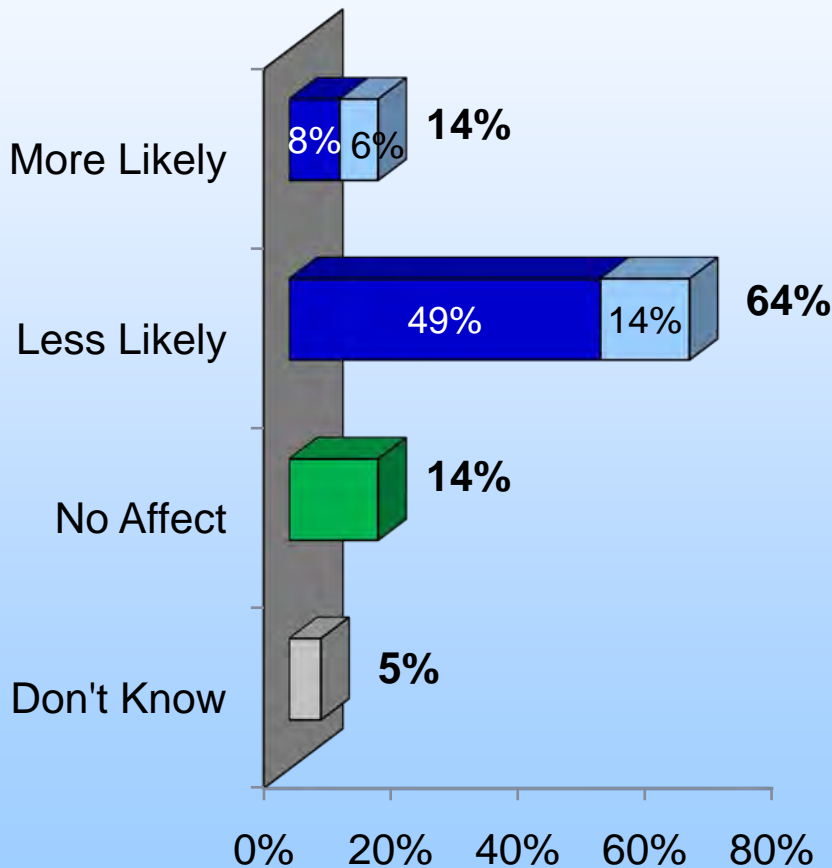
Don't Know



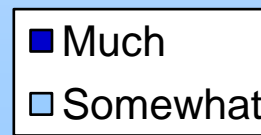
	Cuts Needed	Unfair Burden
Col. Springs	21%	70%
Denver	23%	67%
Balance	15%	66%
Male 64 & under	27%	64%
Male 65+	15%	74%
Female 64 & under	23%	69%
Female 65+	20%	66%
Republican	29%	54%
Ticket Splitter	18%	74%
Democrat	21%	72%
Liberal	27%	69%
Moderate	20%	69%
Conservative	21%	65%

Colorado AARP members would be less likely to vote for a candidate who would reduce the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees. 64%, including a majority of Republicans, Ticket-Splitters and Democrats, would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors this approach.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who favors reducing the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees, or would it not affect your vote either way?



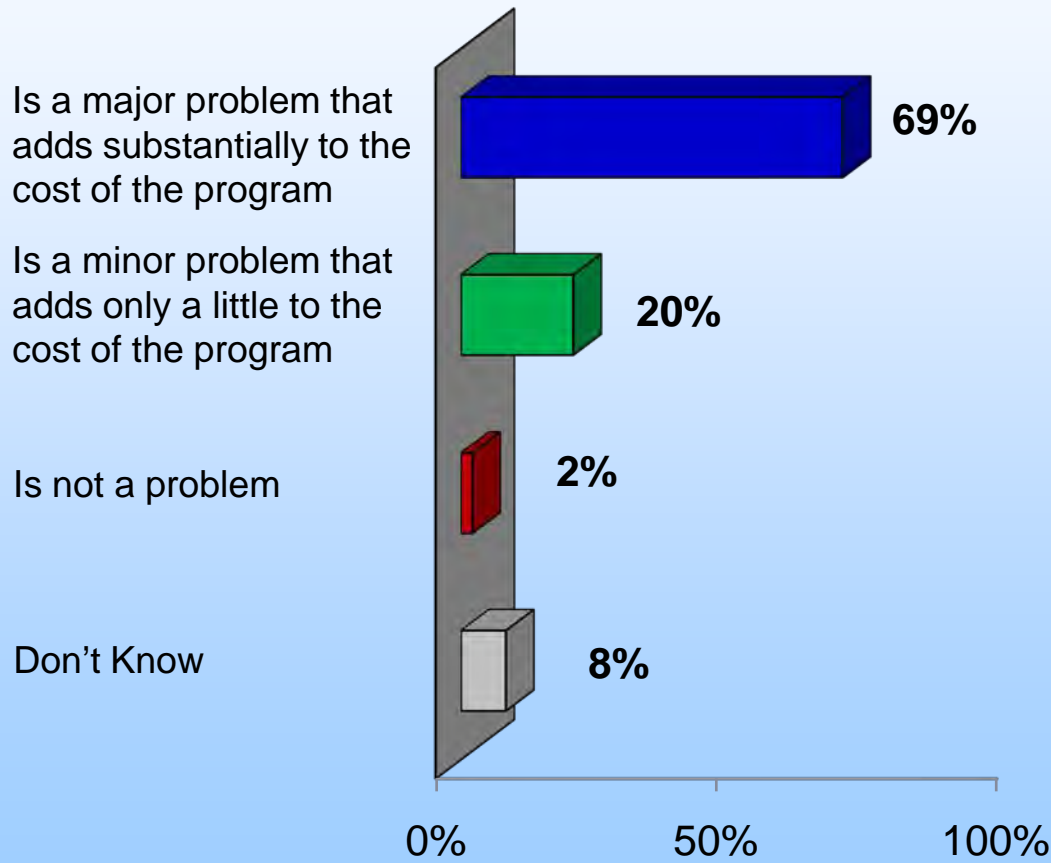
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Col. Springs	14%	62%	14%
Denver	14%	64%	14%
Balance	14%	65%	10%
Male 64 & under	19%	59%	18%
Male 65+	12%	62%	16%
Female 64 & under	13%	68%	10%
Female 65+	12%	65%	10%
Republican	17%	55%	15%
Ticket Splitter	15%	60%	19%
Democrat	10%	76%	7%
Liberal	6%	84%	6%
Moderate	16%	58%	15%
Conservative	16%	58%	17%



Reducing Medicare Fraud

Medicare fraud is seen as a major problem that adds substantially to the cost of the program. In all, 69% say fraud is a major problem, 20% a minor problem, and 2% that it is not a problem. Majorities of all major subgroups call fraud a major problem.

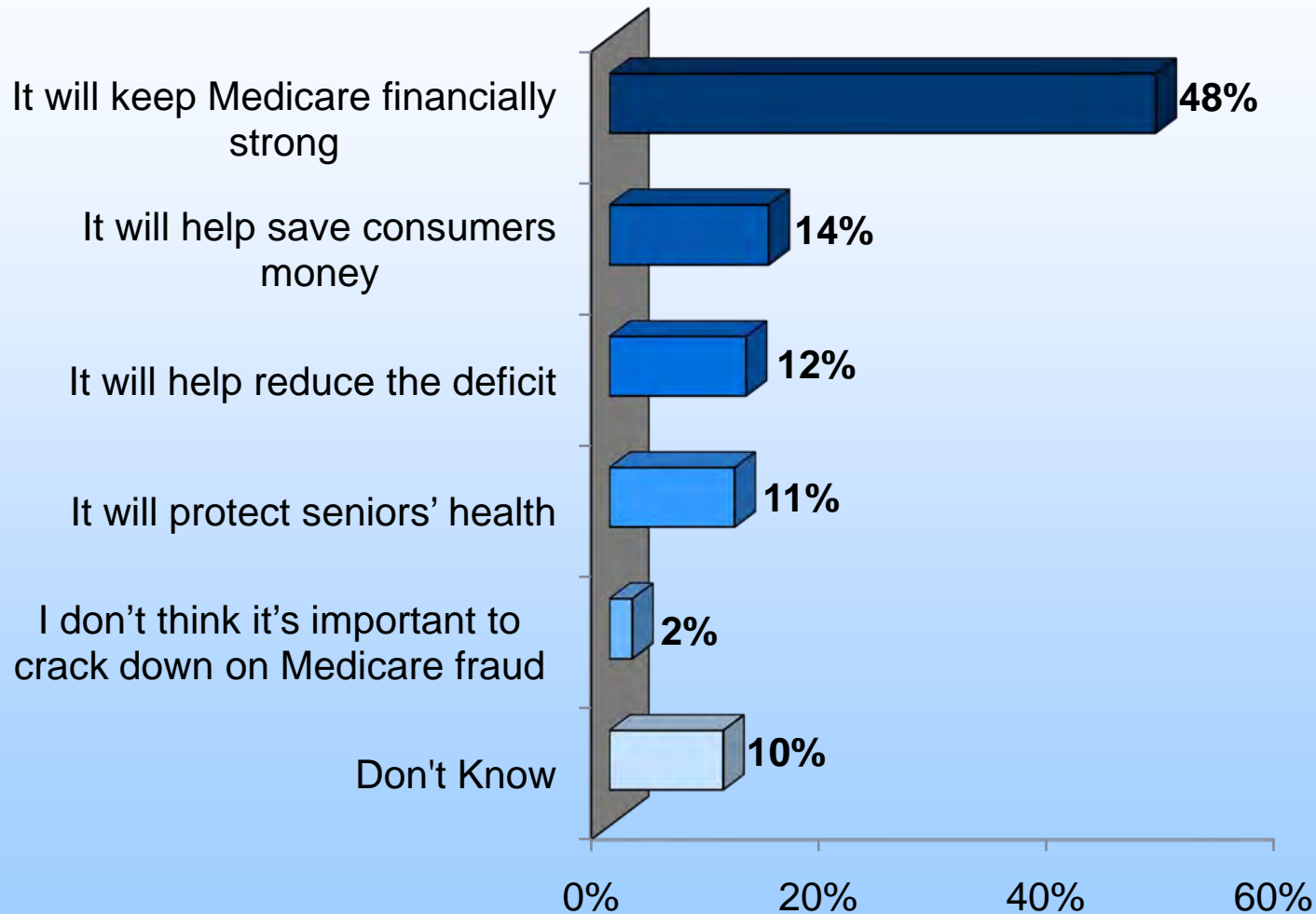
Would you say that Medicare fraud:



	Major Problem	Minor Problem
Col. Springs	69%	20%
Denver	70%	21%
Balance	64%	16%
Male 64 & under	68%	23%
Male 65+	73%	20%
Female 64 & under	60%	27%
Female 65+	77%	12%
Republican	75%	16%
Ticket Splitter	72%	18%
Democrat	61%	29%
Liberal	60%	32%
Moderate	64%	22%
Conservative	78%	14%

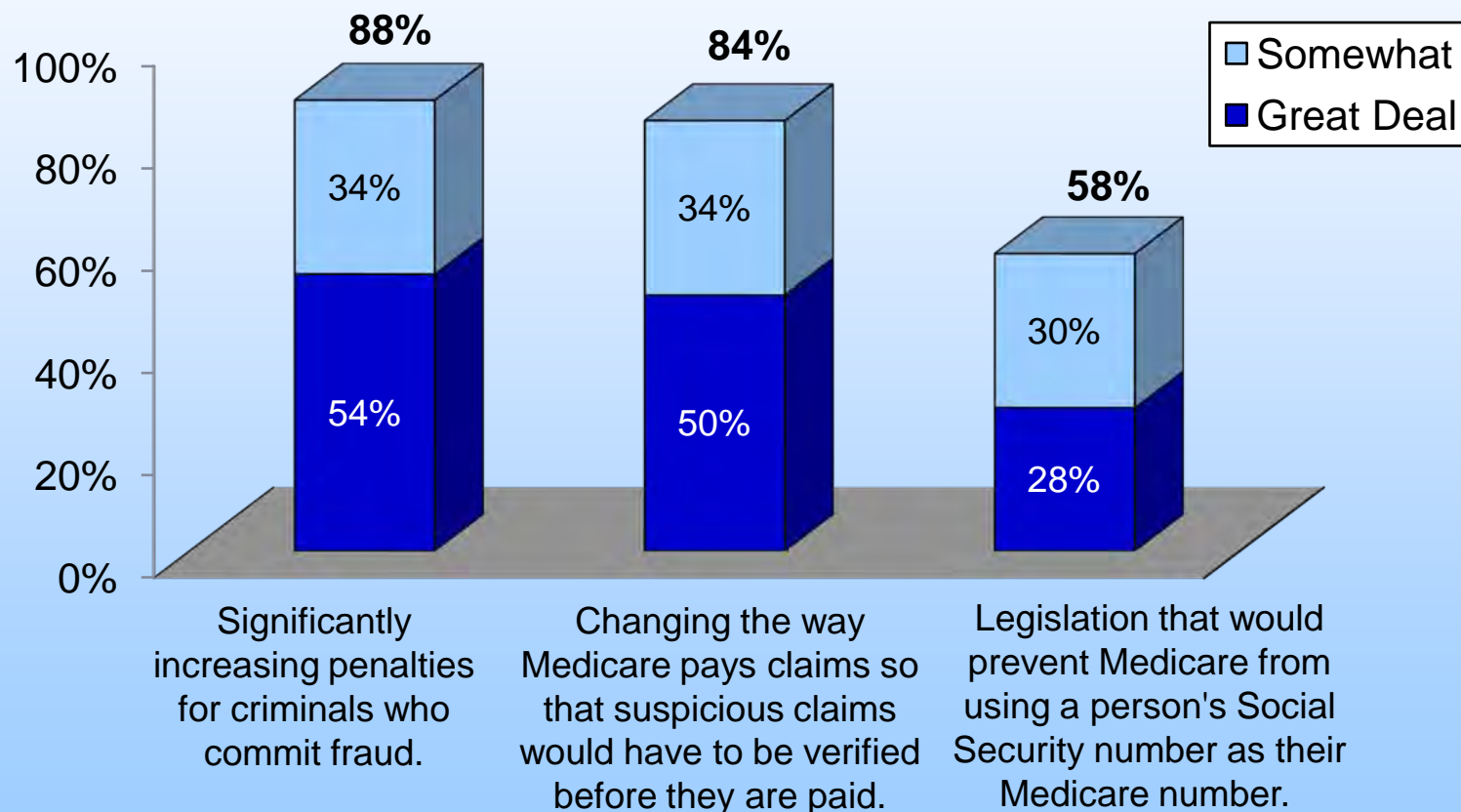
Cracking down on Medicare Fraud: A plurality of Colorado AARP members say the most important reason to crack down on fraud is to keep Medicare financially strong.

Which do you think is the most important reason to crack down on Medicare fraud?



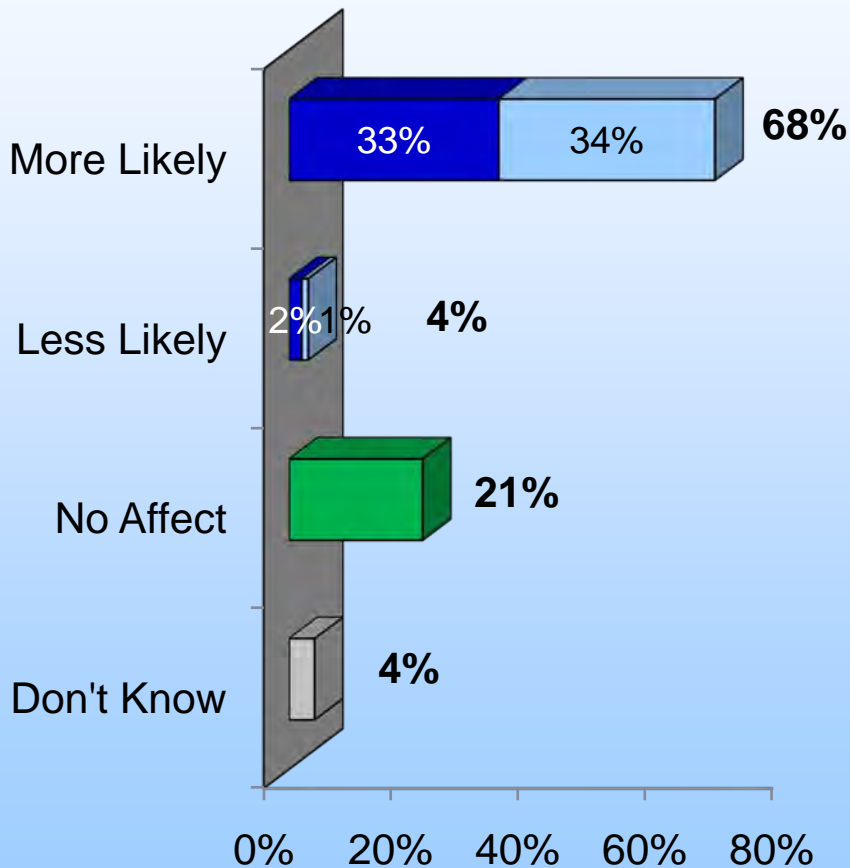
Colorado members are very responsive to a number of bipartisan legislative proposals that have been offered in Congress to fight Medicare fraud.

Now I'm going to read several legislative proposals that have been made by members of Congress and ask to what extent you think each proposal would help minimize Medicare fraud and identity theft of Medicare patients?

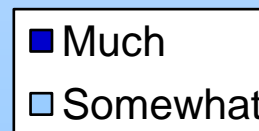


Colorado AARP members are more likely to vote for candidates who support these legislative proposals. More than two-thirds of Colorado members are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the legislative proposals to minimize Medicare fraud and identity theft. Candidate support is strong regardless of party, ideology, region, age, sex, or income.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports these proposals or would it not affect your vote either way?



	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Col. Springs	60%	5%	24%
Denver	71%	3%	20%
Balance	57%	9%	22%
Male 64 & under	68%	0%	27%
Male 65+	71%	6%	16%
Female 64 & under	65%	3%	23%
Female 65+	69%	6%	16%
Republican	70%	4%	19%
Ticket Splitter	73%	2%	19%
Democrat	64%	5%	24%
Liberal	68%	2%	26%
Moderate	64%	4%	21%
Conservative	70%	4%	19%
Under \$30K	60%	8%	16%
\$30K-\$49K	73%	1%	19%
\$50K-\$74K	80%	3%	15%
\$75K or Over	70%	2%	24%

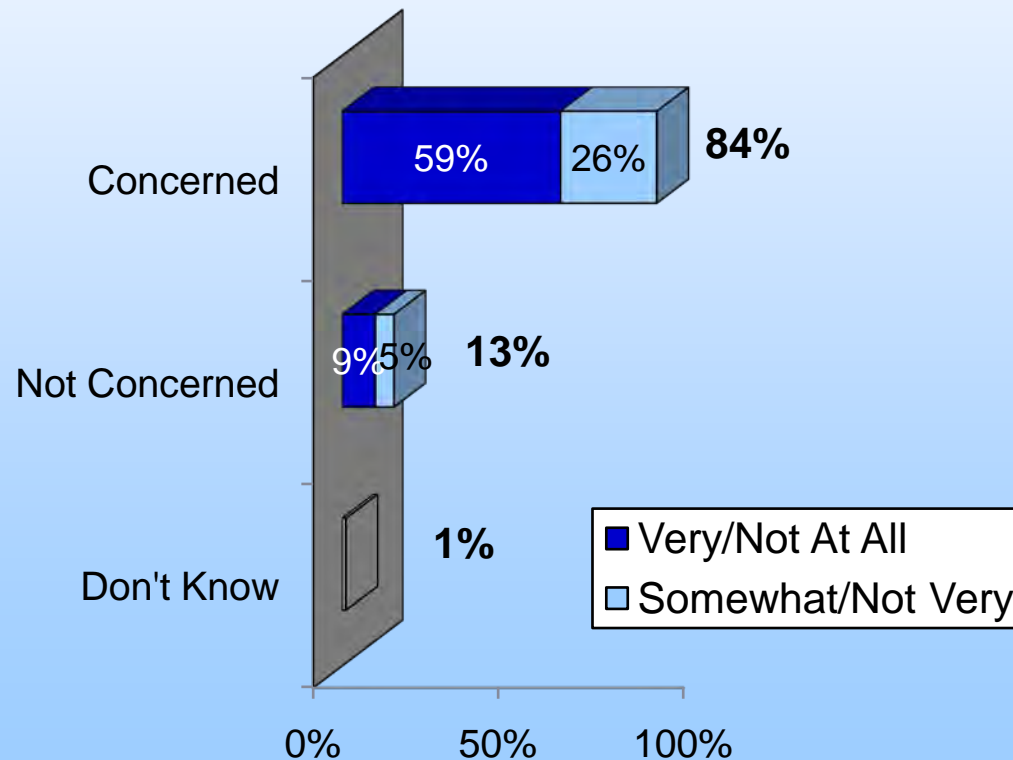


Doc Fix

Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: Colorado Medicare enrollees express a high level of concern that their current doctors will stop accepting Medicare if the scheduled 23% cut goes into effect.

As you may know, in an effort to control the rate of growth in Medicare spending, current law requires that doctors who treat Medicare patients receive a reduction in reimbursement rates every year. Although Congress has taken action to block the cuts in the past, it has been unable to come up with a permanent solution to the problem. Currently, doctors are scheduled to receive a 23% cut in reimbursement rates starting December 1.

If the 23 percent payment cut takes effect, how concerned are you that your current doctors will stop accepting Medicare? Are you: (Base n=213)



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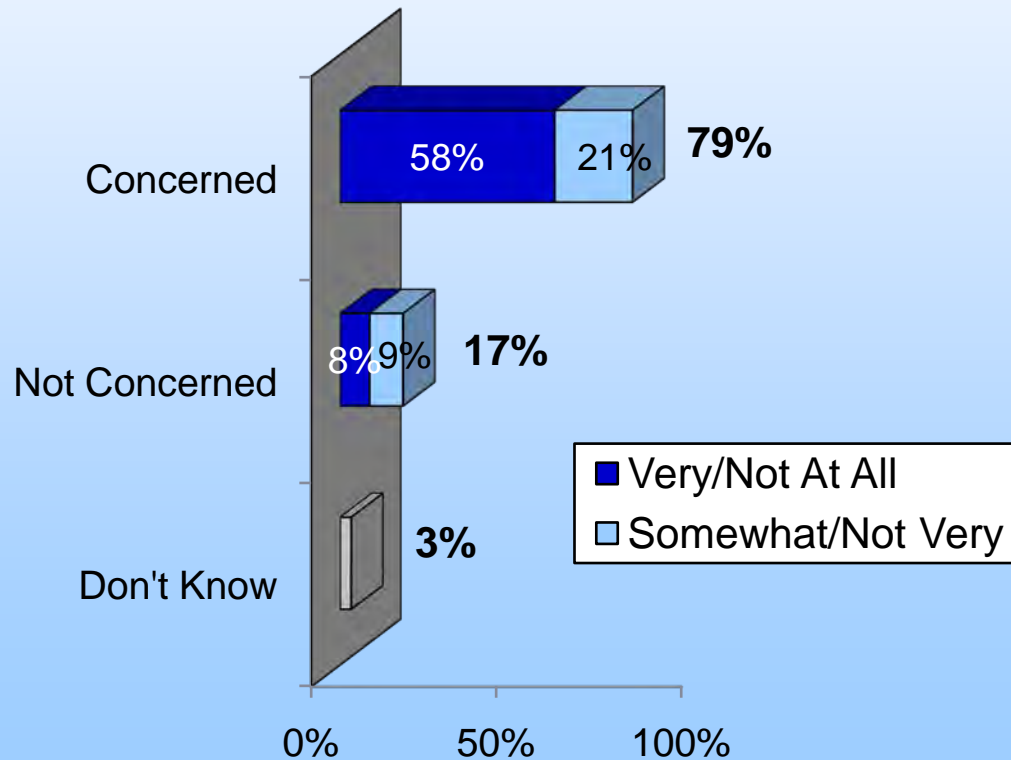
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Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: the non-Medicare Colorado population is highly concerned that their access to Medicare doctors will be limited in the future if Congress fails to fix the doctor reimbursement problem.

As you may know, in an effort to control the rate of growth in Medicare spending, current law requires that doctors who treat Medicare patients receive a reduction in reimbursement rates every year. Although Congress has taken action to block the cuts in the past, it has been unable to come up with a permanent solution to the problem. Currently, doctors are scheduled to receive a 23% cut in reimbursement rates starting December 1.

If Congress fails to fix the doctor reimbursement problem, how concerned are you that it will limit your access to doctors when you become Medicare eligible? (Base n=284)



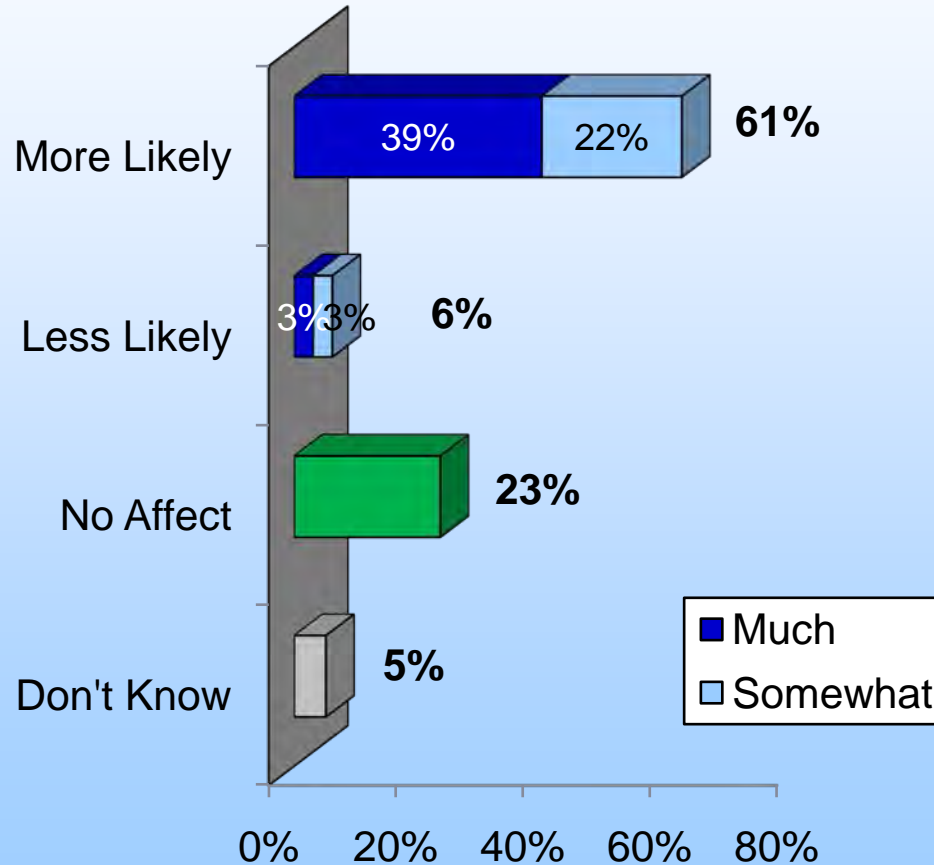
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AARP 2010 Colorado Statewide Election Survey

Colorado AARP members are more likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent future cuts in Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors. In all, 61% are more likely and 39% are much more likely to vote for such a candidate. Only 6% are less likely. A majority of Republicans (67%), Ticket-Splitters (61%) and Democrats (63%) are more likely.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent future cuts in reimbursement rates to doctors, or would it not affect your vote either way?



	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Col. Springs	60%	2%	27%
Denver	61%	7%	21%
Balance	58%	7%	23%
Male 64 & under	63%	7%	24%
Male 65+	55%	7%	24%
Female 64 & under	58%	5%	27%
Female 65+	67%	6%	14%
Republican	67%	5%	18%
Ticket Splitter	61%	5%	24%
Democrat	63%	5%	22%
Liberal	60%	8%	26%
Moderate	59%	6%	29%
Conservative	65%	4%	15%

Summary and Conclusions

- This survey reveals a political climate born out of the economic crisis and uncertainty of recent years. Colorado AARP members are highly dissatisfied with the direction of the country and with the U.S. economy. Fewer than four in 10 are optimistic about the nation's economic prospects over the next year and 22% five think economic conditions will worsen during that time.
- In addition, members are very concerned about the deficit and about the future. Indeed, nearly two-thirds (65%) of Colorado AARP members say they lack confidence that life for their children's generation will be better than it has been for them.
- Even so, most are relatively satisfied with their own economic circumstances and think that their own financial situation will remain stable in the near-term.
- Confidence in Social Security may underpin this view as 62% of all Colorado respondents are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement.
- Not surprisingly, then, most think Social Security is very important for future generations and would like to see candidates pledge their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit. Republicans, Democrats and Ticket-Splitters all stress the importance of this commitment.
- In fact, on the important policy questions in this survey, there was surprisingly little difference based on partisan affiliation or voting behavior.

Summary and Conclusions

- This common outlook extends to the concept of reducing the Social Security benefits of future retirees in order to control the deficit. This approach is rejected by 67% of Colorado AARP members (including 59% of Republicans, 75% of Democrats and 69% of Independents) as an unfair burden to future retirees. Further, 64% say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors this approach to deficit reduction. Once again, a majority of all partisan groups (56% of Republicans, 56% of Independents and 80% of Democrats) hold this view.
- Similarly, there is widespread concern about the continued threat of reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors. Most think that their ability to receive treatment from a doctor who accepts Medicare will be impacted if the issue is not addressed. As a result, 61% say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent further cuts to reimbursement rates to doctors.
- Medicare fraud is perceived as a major problem and members think the most important reason to crack down on fraud is to keep Medicare strong. To that end, they are receptive to the bipartisan legislative proposals tested and would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports these efforts to minimize fraud and identity theft of Medicare patients.

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