

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

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AARP

2010 Election Survey Results

Florida Statewide

Prepared for
AARP Strategic Issues Research

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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 Florida AARP members interviewed are highly likely to vote. In all, 89% say they are definitely planning to vote and another 11% are likely to vote.
- Like many Americans, most Florida 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, 64% say the country is on the wrong track, 85% are dissatisfied with the current state of the economy, and 91% are concerned about the deficit. Fewer than four in ten (35%) think the national economy will get better over the course of the next year while 24% think it will get worse and 34% 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, 63% are satisfied overall (17% very satisfied) while 35% of Florida members are dissatisfied with their own economic situation. In addition, they are reasonably optimistic about their economic outlook in the near-term. Most (55%) indicate that their personal financial situation will remain about the same in the next year while 21% think it will get better and 19% worse.
- Part of this optimism may stem from their confidence in Social Security. Nearly seven in ten (68%) Florida members are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement while 27% are not confident. The inherent value of Social Security is underscored by the fact virtually all respondents (96%) – 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, 94% of the AARP members interviewed in Florida 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, Florida 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. One in four (24%) agrees 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 (60%), Democrats (71%) and Independents (59%) 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 (74%). Florida 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 (53%), although a substantial number say the most important reason to fight fraud is that it will save consumers money (14%), protect seniors' health (10%) or help reduce the deficit (10%).
- Florida 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 60% who say it would help to a great extent. Similarly, 83% say that "changing the way Medicare pays claims so that suspicious claims would have to be verified before they are paid" would help; 52% a great deal. Further, 61% say it would be helpful to "prevent Medicare from using a person's Social Security number as their Medicare number" (34% a great deal). Here again, a majority of AARP members (70%) are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports these proposals while just 5% are less likely.

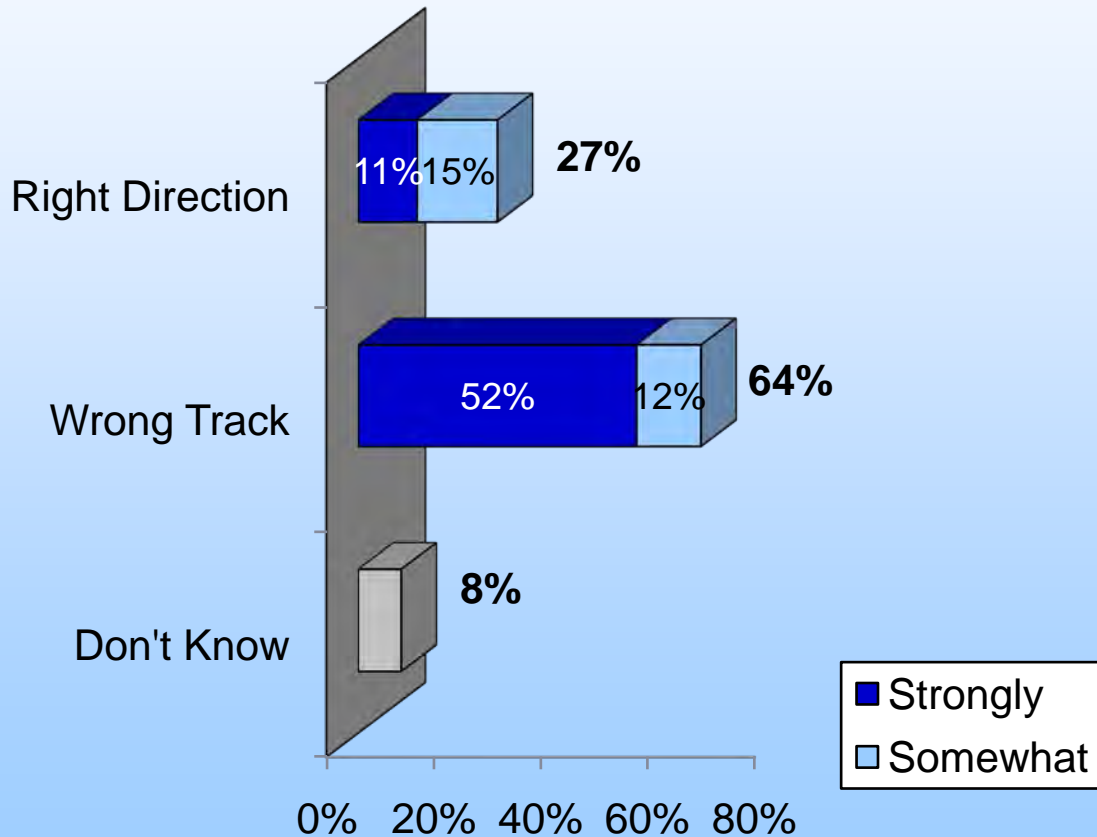
Executive Summary

- Florida members see the threat of annual reduction in reimbursement rates to Medicare doctors as a problem and support a permanent solution. In all, 81% of AARP Medicare beneficiaries say that they are concerned – and 57% 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; 83% of those not currently enrolled in Medicare say that they are concerned – 55% 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 (59%) 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 5% are less likely.

Political Environment

Mood of the Country: Like other Americans, many Florida AARP members are dissatisfied with the direction of the country – 64% say things are off on the wrong track. Majorities of most major subgroups hold this view while just 27% overall say things are going in the right direction. A more positive perspective is found among Democrats (57% right direction) and liberals (60%).

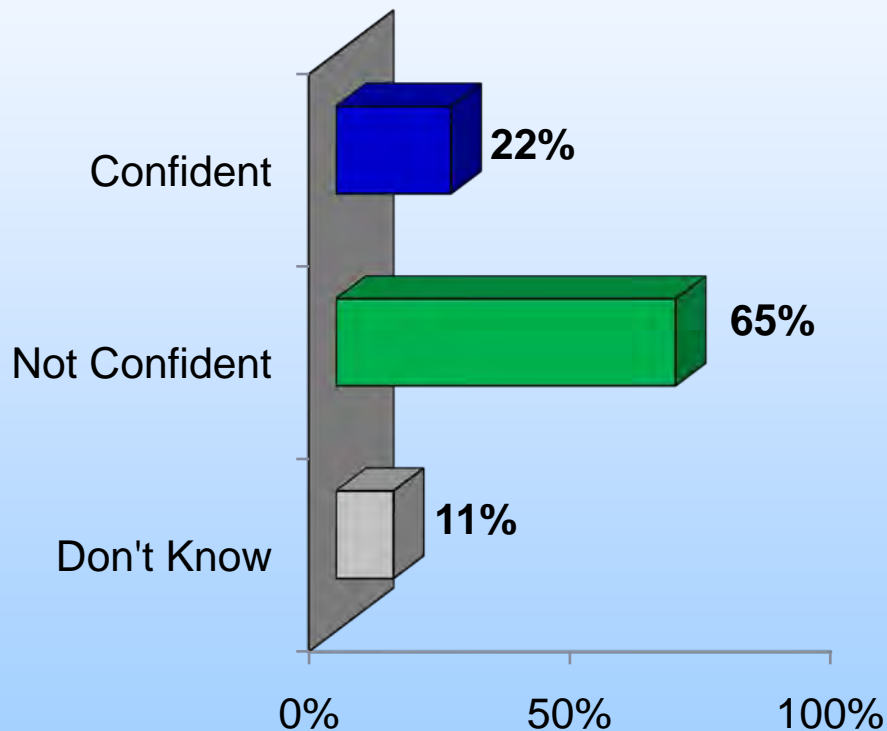
Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?



	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Miami/South	31%	61%
Jax/North	20%	70%
Orland./Gaines.	28%	62%
Tampa/St. Peters.	22%	67%
Male 64 & under	26%	64%
Male 65+	19%	77%
Female 64 & under	37%	57%
Female 65+	27%	57%
Republican	2%	95%
Ticket Splitter	25%	66%
Democrat	57%	26%
Liberal	60%	31%
Moderate	32%	53%
Conservative	6%	90%

Life for our Children's Generation: Most Florida 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. Here again, liberals and Democrats have a more positive outlook.

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

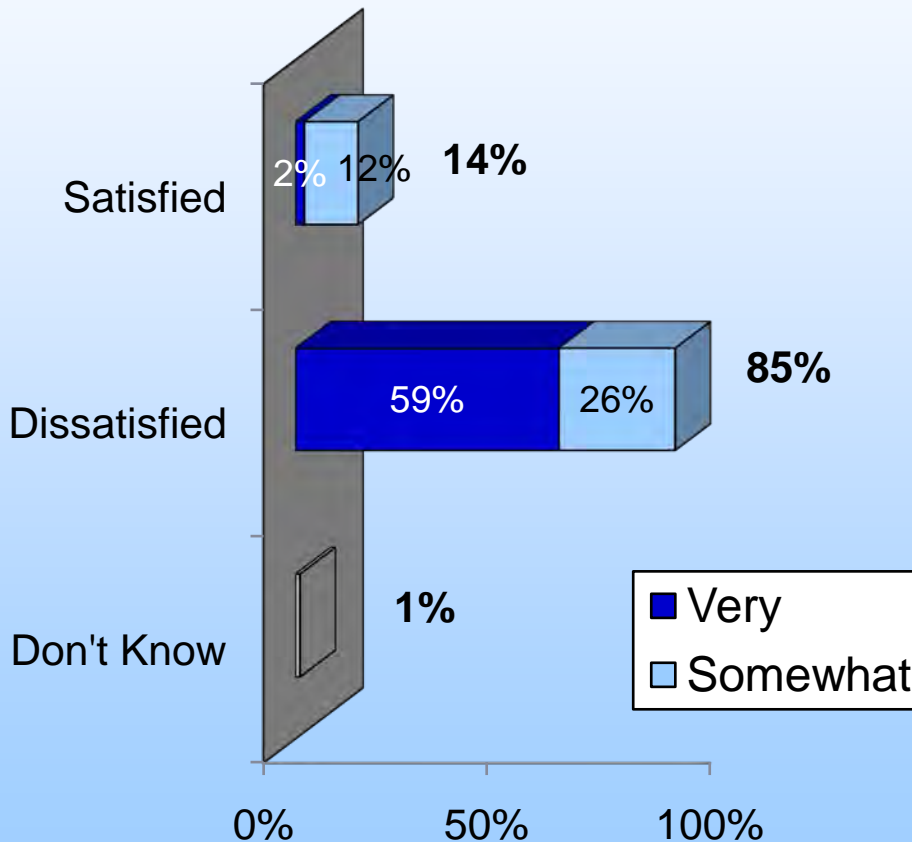


	Confident	Not Confident
Miami/South	21%	66%
Jax/North	20%	67%
Orland./Gaines.	26%	63%
Tampa/St. Peters.	20%	64%
Male 64 & under	23%	62%
Male 65+	14%	76%
Female 64 & under	29%	62%
Female 65+	24%	60%
Republican	5%	90%
Ticket Splitter	18%	68%
Democrat	47%	40%
Liberal	46%	43%
Moderate	24%	57%
Conservative	7%	84%
Under \$30K	23%	58%
\$30K-\$49K	22%	65%
\$50K-\$74K	21%	69%
\$75K and Over	24%	69%

The Economy

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

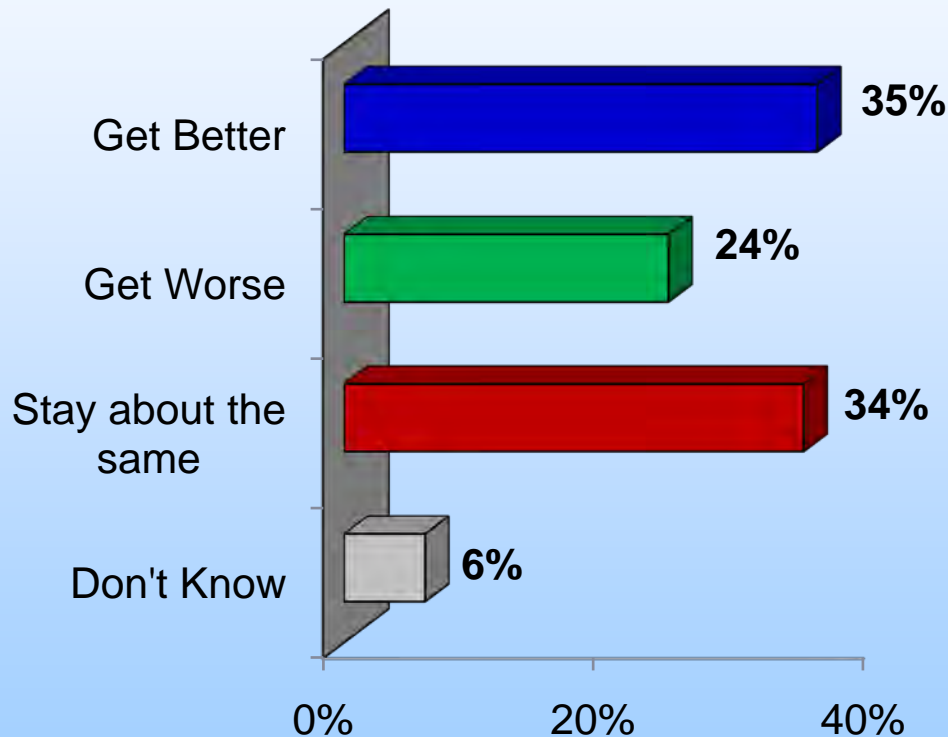
How satisfied are you with the state of the U.S. economy today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the state of the economy?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Miami/South	14%	86%
Jax/North	16%	81%
Orland./Gaines.	15%	85%
Tampa/St. Peters.	13%	86%
Male 64 & under	20%	79%
Male 65+	12%	87%
Female 64 & under	11%	89%
Female 65+	15%	84%
Republican	4%	95%
Ticket Splitter	11%	88%
Democrat	29%	70%
Liberal	28%	71%
Moderate	15%	84%
Conservative	6%	93%
S.S. Through Retire.		
Confident	18%	82%
Not Confident	5%	93%

Economic outlook: 35% think the economy will get better in the next year, 24% that it will get worse, and 34% 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.

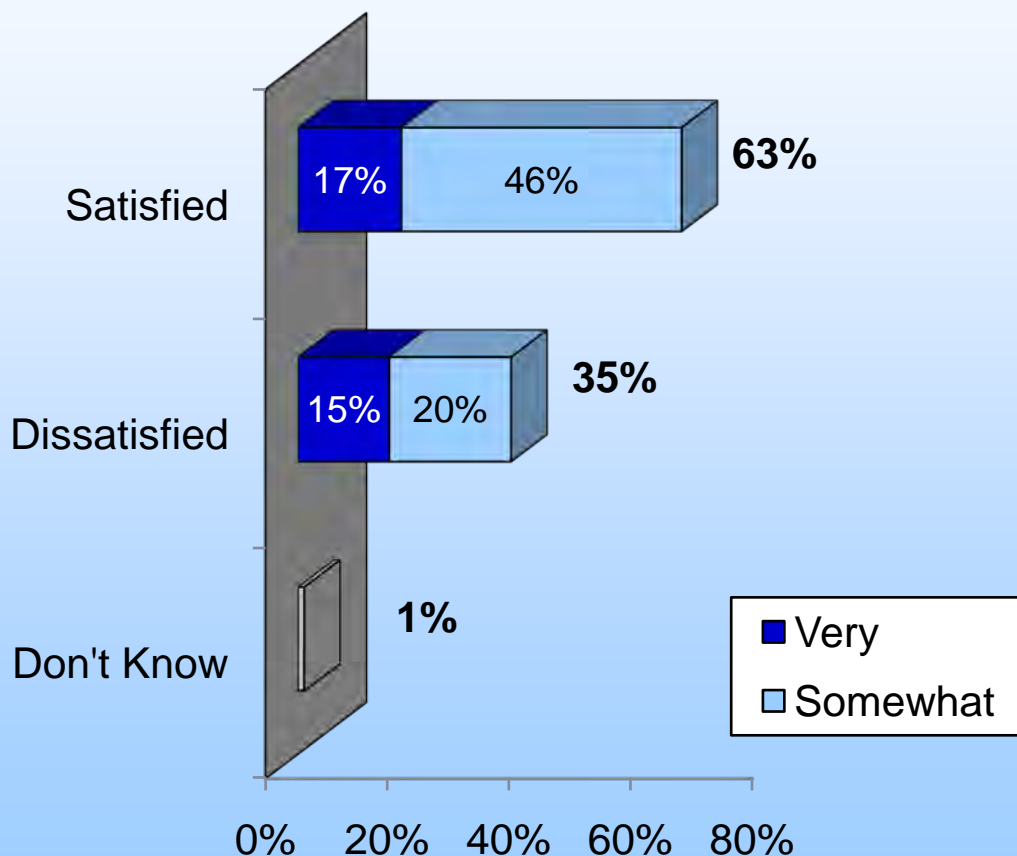
Thinking about a year from now, do you think the national economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same as it is now?



	Better	Worse	Same
Miami/South	37%	19%	39%
Jax/North	29%	40%	27%
Orland./Gaines.	33%	22%	40%
Tampa/St. Peters.	39%	24%	28%
Male 64 & under	33%	25%	35%
Male 65+	31%	23%	36%
Female 64 & under	43%	26%	29%
Female 65+	36%	22%	36%
Republican	17%	39%	37%
Ticket Splitter	34%	25%	36%
Democrat	59%	8%	31%
Liberal	58%	7%	33%
Moderate	41%	16%	36%
Conservative	19%	42%	33%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	46%	15%	32%
Not Confident	10%	43%	41%

Satisfaction with personal financial situation: Most Florida members are at least somewhat satisfied with their own financial situation. Democrats are more satisfied than Republicans. Those who lack confidence in Social Security are less satisfied than those who are confident that they will continue to receive benefits throughout retirement.

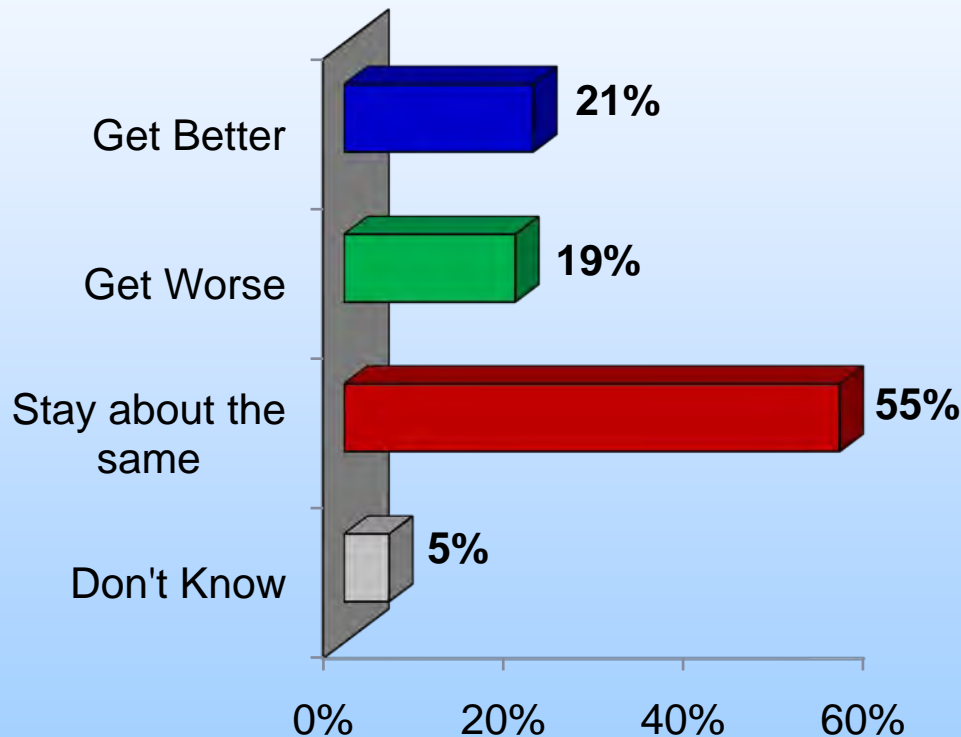
How satisfied are you with the state of your own financial situation today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with your own financial situation?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Miami/South	61%	36%
Jax/North	74%	26%
Orland./Gaines.	57%	42%
Tampa/St. Peters.	65%	31%
Male 64 & under	60%	37%
Male 65+	69%	29%
Female 64 & under	59%	41%
Female 65+	62%	34%
Republican	58%	40%
Ticket Splitter	65%	34%
Democrat	71%	29%
Liberal	68%	30%
Moderate	63%	35%
Conservative	60%	38%
Under \$30K	51%	47%
\$30K-\$49K	67%	31%
\$50K-\$74K	64%	36%
\$75K and Over	80%	20%
S.S. Through Retire.		
Confident	68%	30%
Not Confident	53%	47%

Most Florida members indicate that their personal financial situation will be stable in the next year. Republicans, conservatives, and those who lack confidence in Social Security are more likely to say their situation will worsen over the next year. Younger members, liberals and Democrats are more optimistic.

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?

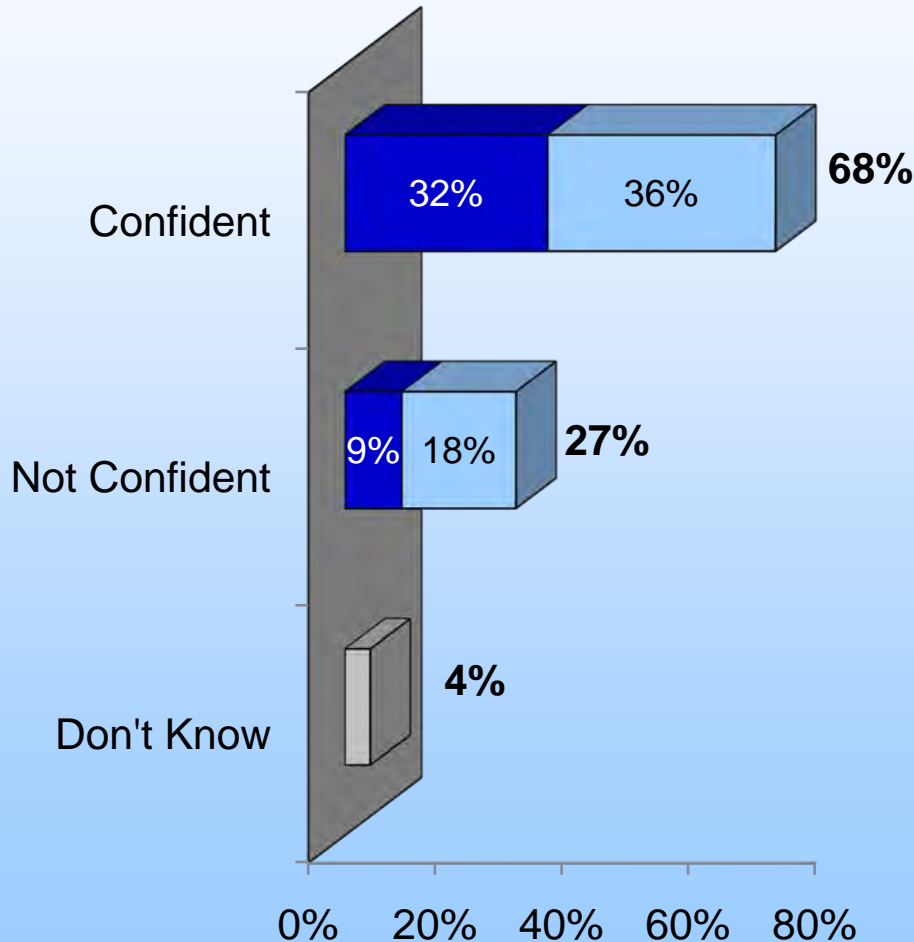


	Better	Worse	Same
Miami/South	19%	15%	60%
Jax/North	20%	29%	46%
Orland./Gaines.	26%	19%	51%
Tampa/St. Peters.	21%	18%	55%
Male 64 & under	31%	17%	48%
Male 65+	15%	25%	58%
Female 64 & under	36%	15%	46%
Female 65+	11%	18%	63%
Republican	12%	29%	54%
Ticket Splitter	22%	17%	57%
Democrat	30%	9%	56%
Liberal	29%	12%	54%
Moderate	23%	11%	60%
Conservative	16%	30%	50%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	25%	13%	59%
Not Confident	15%	33%	46%

Social Security

Confidence in Social Security: More than two-thirds of Florida AARP members say they are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement. However, just one-third (32%) express high confidence. Not surprisingly, younger members are less confident than their older counterparts. Republicans and Ticket-Splitters are less confident than Democrats. Conservatives are less confident than moderates or liberals.

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

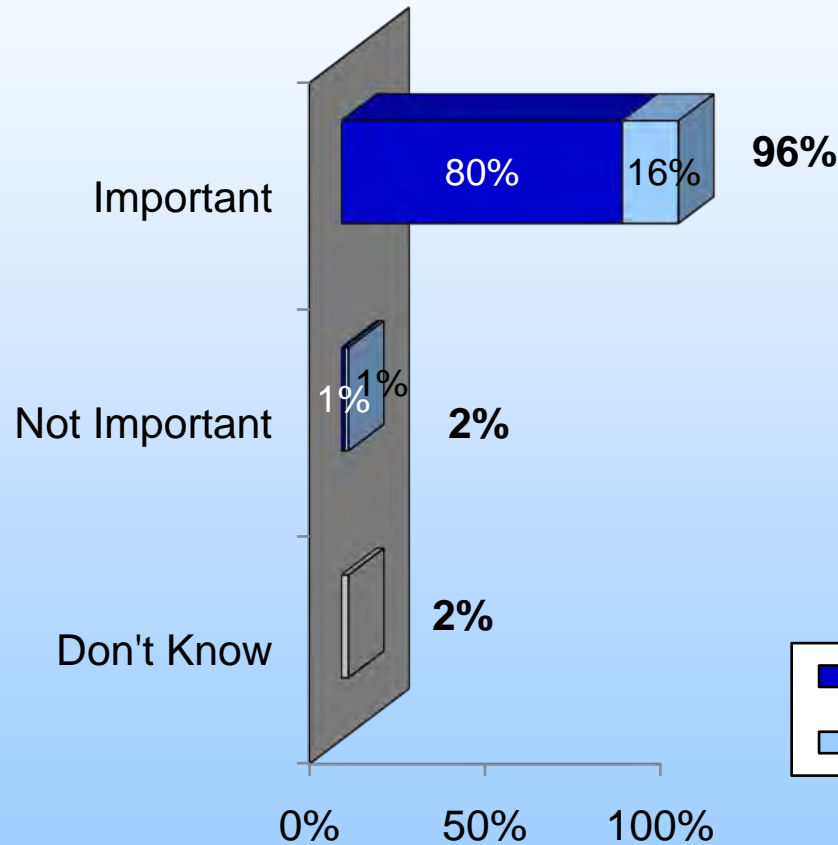


	Confident	Not Confident
Miami/South	67%	27%
Jax/North	60%	33%
Orland./Gaines.	71%	25%
Tampa/St. Peters.	70%	26%
Male 64 & under	58%	38%
Male 65+	75%	21%
Female 64 & under	60%	39%
Female 65+	73%	17%
Republican	61%	32%
Ticket Splitter	66%	30%
Democrat	80%	17%
Liberal	79%	17%
Moderate	70%	25%
Conservative	60%	34%

■ Very/Not At All
■ Somewhat/Not too

The future of Social Security is important to Florida 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?



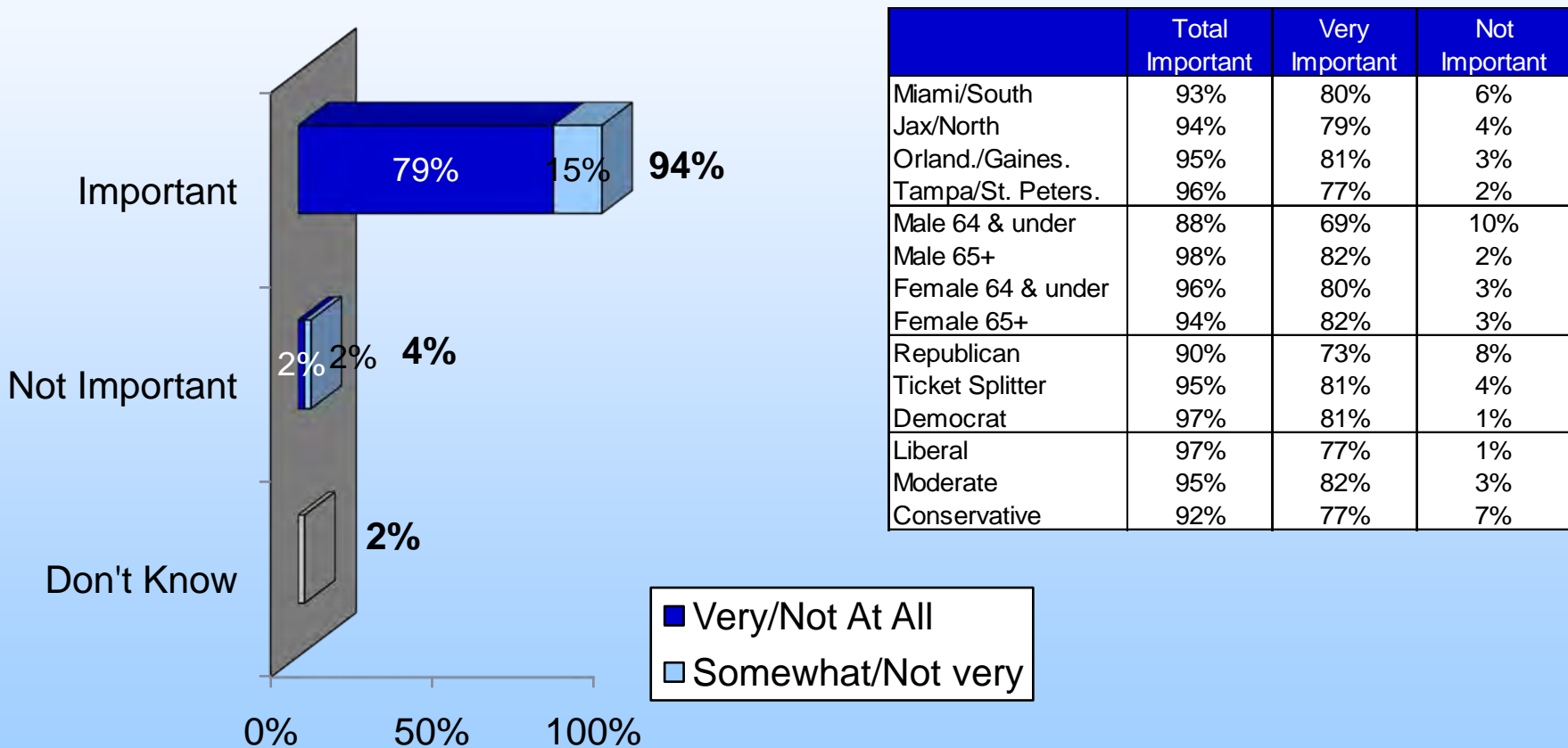
	Total Important	Very Important	Not Important
Miami/South	97%	81%	2%
Jax/North	94%	74%	4%
Orland./Gaines.	97%	86%	2%
Tampa/St. Peters.	96%	76%	1%
Male 64 & under	93%	75%	5%
Male 65+	95%	82%	2%
Female 64 & under	98%	82%	1%
Female 65+	97%	79%	1%
Republican	93%	72%	4%
Ticket Splitter	97%	81%	1%
Democrat	99%	86%	1%
Liberal	99%	84%	1%
Moderate	96%	82%	2%
Conservative	95%	76%	3%

■ Very/Not At All
■ Somewhat/Not too

Florida 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.

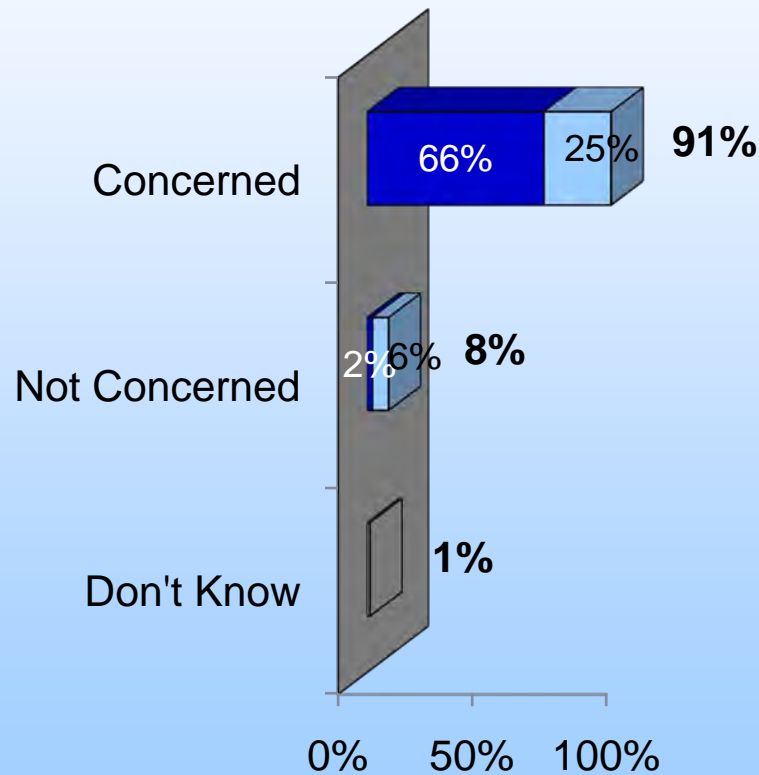
In the 2010 election campaign, how important is it to you that a candidate pledge their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit.



The Deficit

Concern about the national deficit runs high across the Florida member population: 91% are concerned about the deficit and 66% are very concerned.

How concerned are you about the national deficit?



	Total Concerned	Very Concerned	Not Concerned
Miami/South	94%	65%	6%
Jax/North	90%	70%	8%
Orland./Gaines.	92%	69%	8%
Tampa/St. Peters.	87%	63%	12%
Male 64 & under	88%	59%	11%
Male 65+	95%	74%	5%
Female 64 & under	92%	67%	8%
Female 65+	89%	63%	10%
Republican	98%	92%	2%
Ticket Splitter	92%	68%	7%
Democrat	83%	33%	16%
Liberal	80%	41%	20%
Moderate	90%	58%	9%
Conservative	96%	87%	4%

■ Very/Not At All
 □ Somewhat/Not too

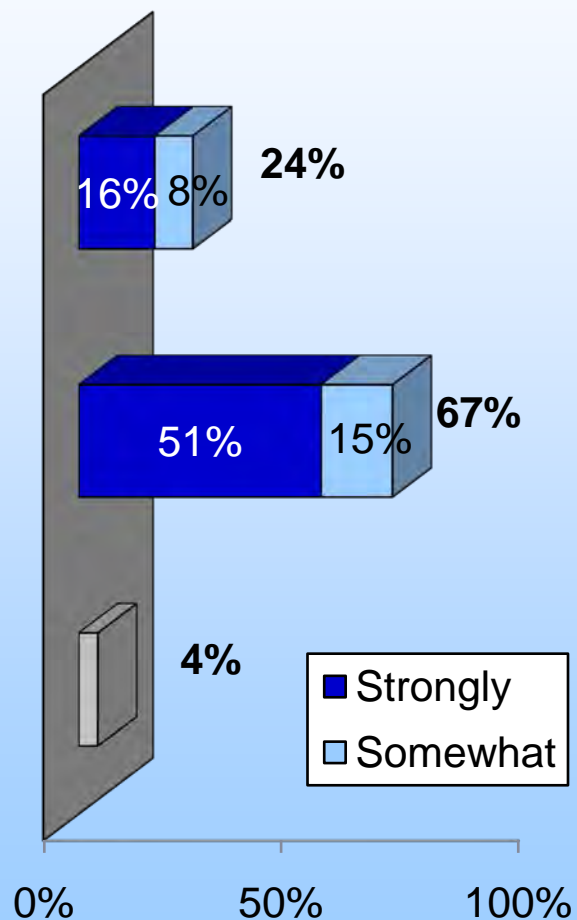
Two-thirds of Florida AARP members reject the idea of reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees in order to control the deficit: Only one in four would agree more with a candidate who says we can't control the deficit without reducing the Social Security benefits of future retirees.

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.

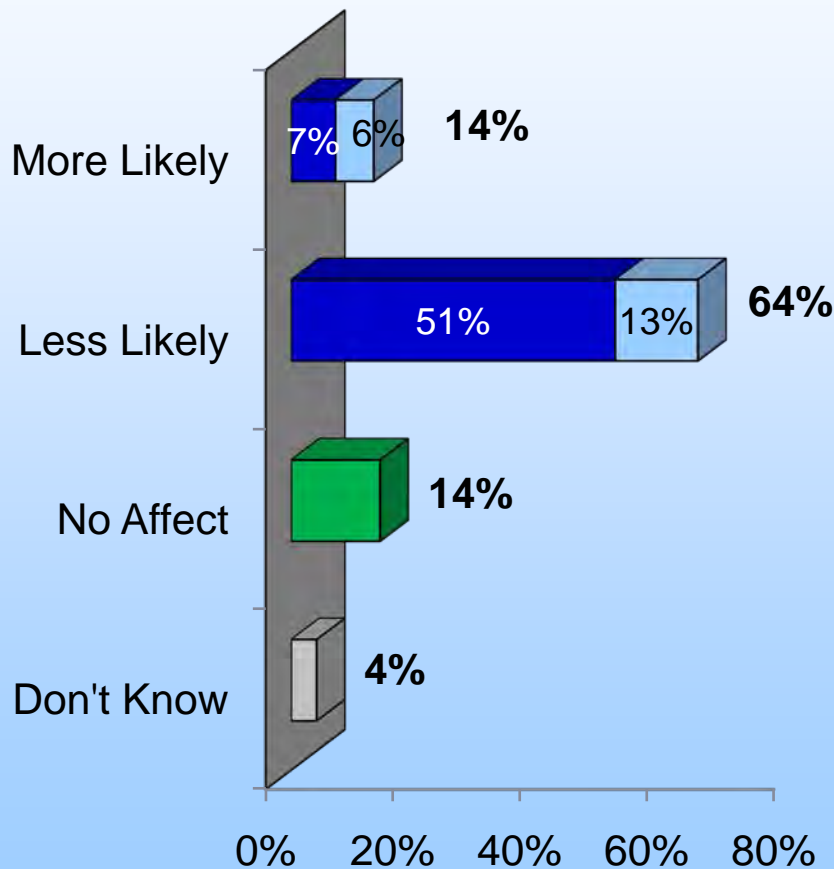
Don't Know



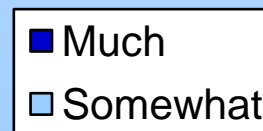
	Cuts Needed	Unfair Burden
Miami/South	26%	64%
Jax/North	27%	69%
Orland./Gaines.	18%	75%
Tampa/St. Peters.	24%	62%
Male 64 & under	25%	68%
Male 65+	28%	63%
Female 64 & under	23%	68%
Female 65+	20%	68%
Republican	25%	62%
Ticket Splitter	26%	65%
Democrat	23%	71%
Liberal	18%	74%
Moderate	26%	67%
Conservative	26%	62%

Florida 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 Ticket-Splitters and Democrats – as well as a large plurality of Republicans – 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?



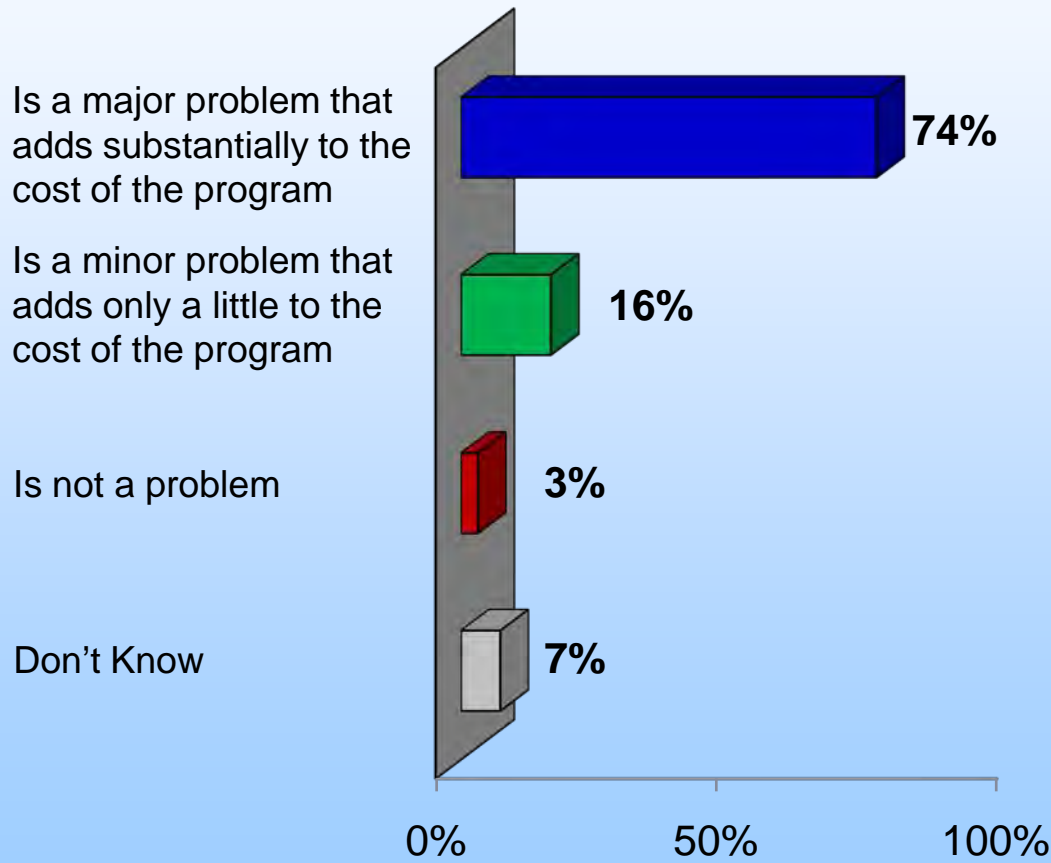
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Miami/South	13%	66%	14%
Jax/North	20%	63%	13%
Orland./Gaines.	12%	64%	13%
Tampa/St. Peters.	14%	61%	14%
Male 64 & under	14%	63%	16%
Male 65+	11%	58%	19%
Female 64 & under	11%	67%	14%
Female 65+	17%	67%	8%
Republican	24%	49%	14%
Ticket Splitter	9%	67%	16%
Democrat	11%	71%	14%
Liberal	12%	69%	15%
Moderate	12%	70%	11%
Conservative	16%	55%	17%



Reducing Medicare Fraud

Medicare fraud is seen as a major problem that adds substantially to the cost of the program. In all, 74% say fraud is a major problem, 16% a minor problem, and 3% that it is not a problem. Majorities of all major subgroups call fraud a major problem.

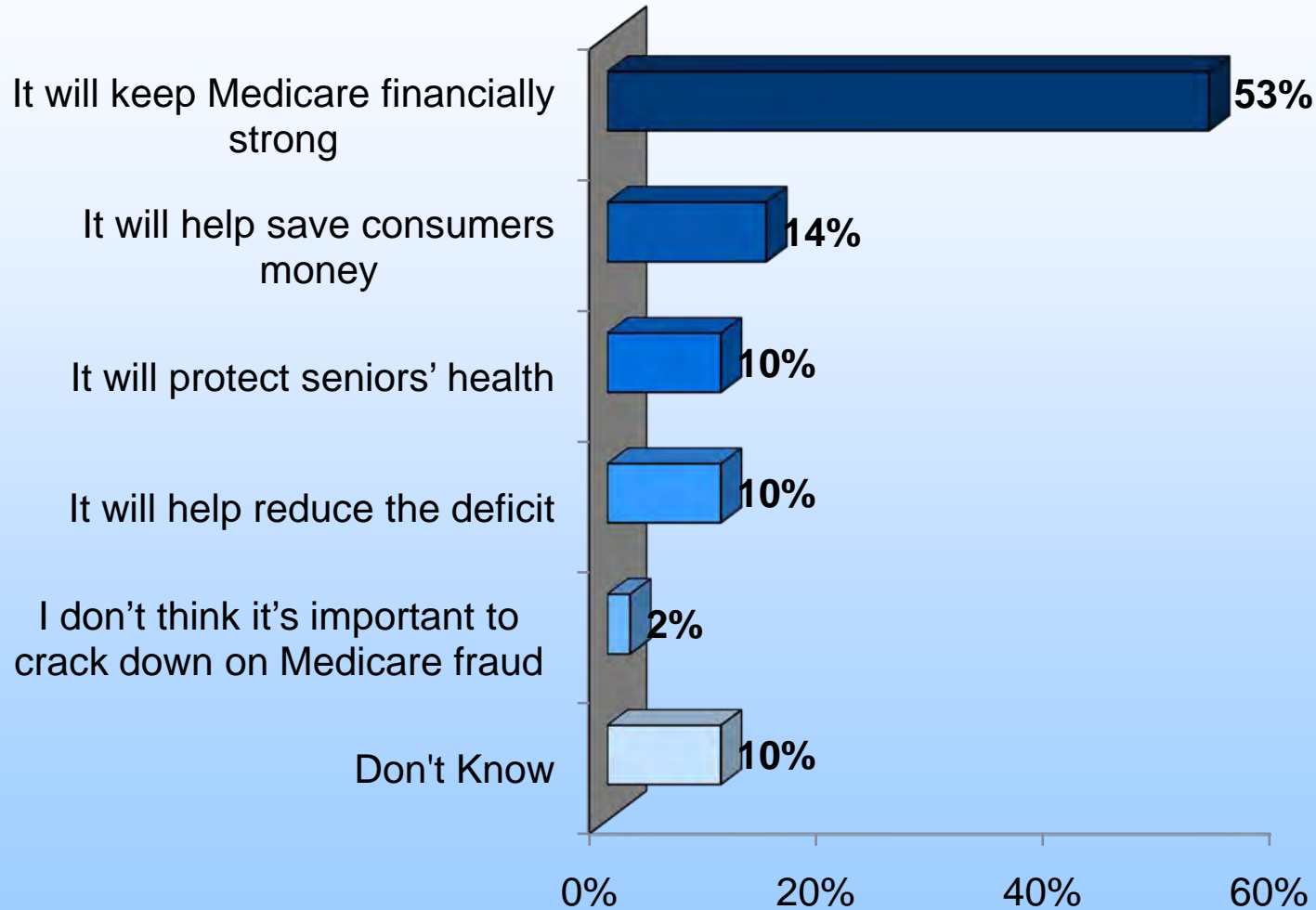
Would you say that Medicare fraud:



	Major Problem	Minor Problem
Miami/South	75%	15%
Jax/North	64%	22%
Orland./Gaines.	72%	19%
Tampa/St. Peters.	80%	11%
Male 64 & under	67%	26%
Male 65+	82%	9%
Female 64 & under	68%	18%
Female 65+	77%	13%
Republican	79%	14%
Ticket Splitter	79%	12%
Democrat	66%	21%
Liberal	71%	21%
Moderate	74%	15%
Conservative	75%	14%

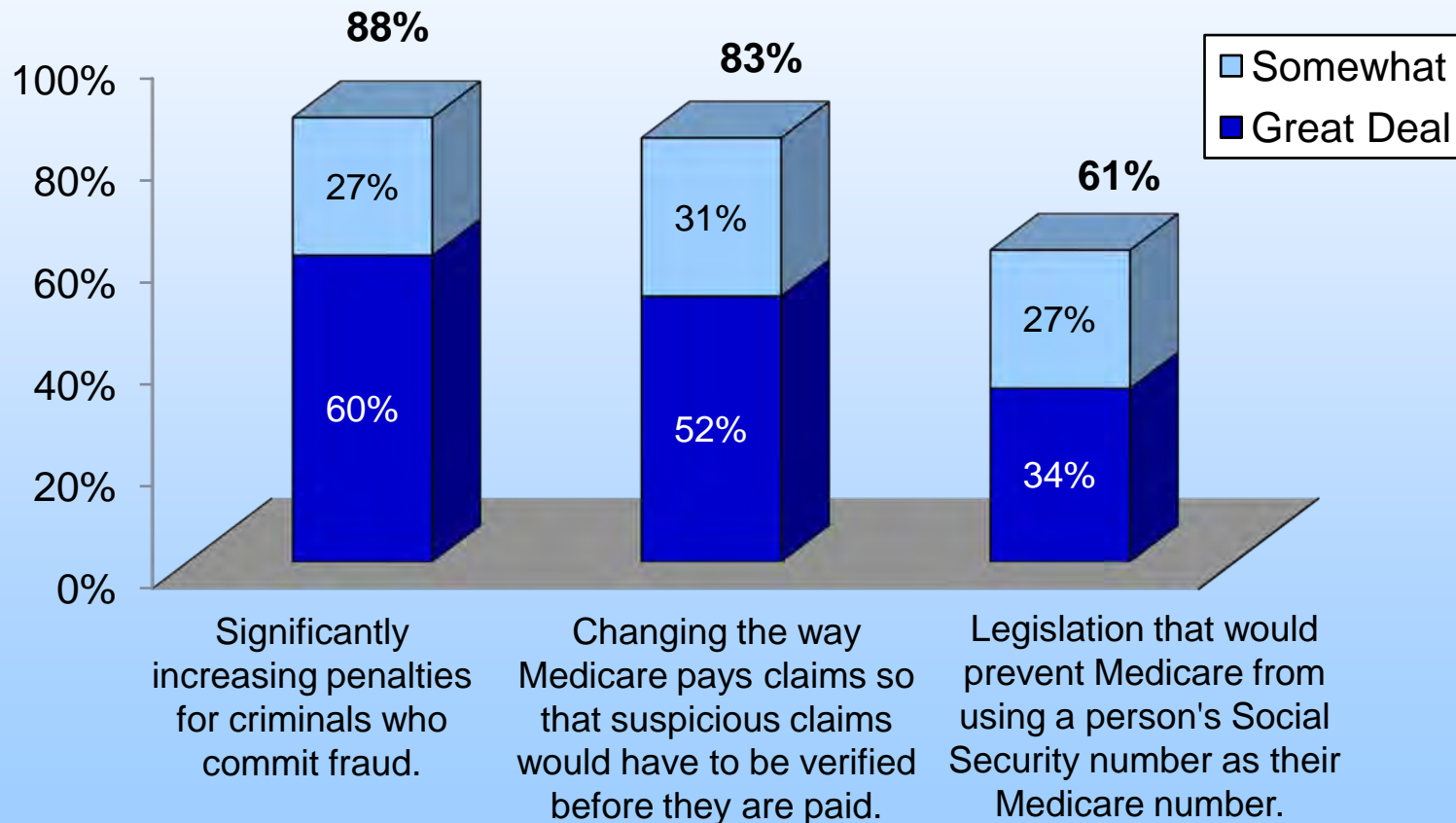
Cracking down on Medicare Fraud: A majority of Florida AARP members say the most important reason to crack down on fraud is to keep Medicare financially strong. Majorities of men and women age 65 and older hold this view.

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



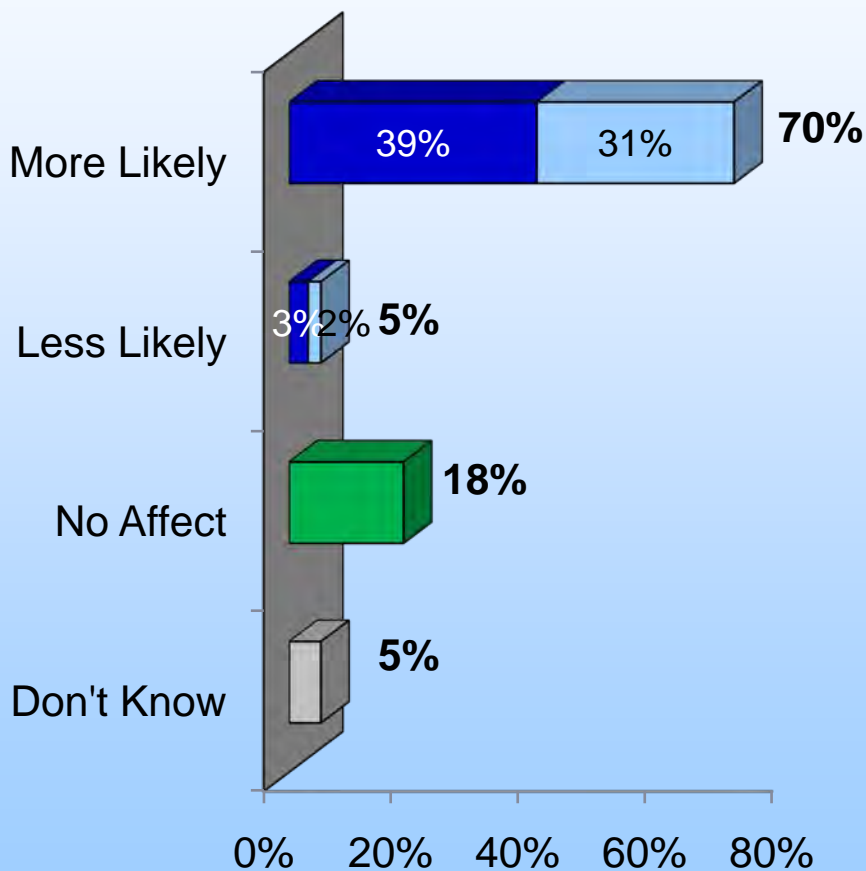
Florida members are very responsive to a number of bipartisan legislative proposals that have been offered in Congress to fight Medicare fraud.

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?



Florida AARP members are more likely to vote for candidates who support these legislative proposals. Seven in ten Florida 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
Miami/South	68%	4%	20%
Jax/North	71%	4%	16%
Orland./Gaines.	75%	9%	11%
Tampa/St. Peters.	67%	4%	21%
Male 64 & under	63%	4%	25%
Male 65+	69%	8%	16%
Female 64 & under	74%	2%	18%
Female 65+	72%	5%	14%
Republican	76%	2%	16%
Ticket Splitter	70%	7%	16%
Democrat	65%	4%	24%
Liberal	61%	2%	27%
Moderate	72%	5%	14%
Conservative	71%	5%	17%
Under \$30K	75%	3%	15%
\$30K-\$49K	75%	4%	12%
\$50K-\$74K	68%	4%	23%
\$75K and Over	66%	6%	22%

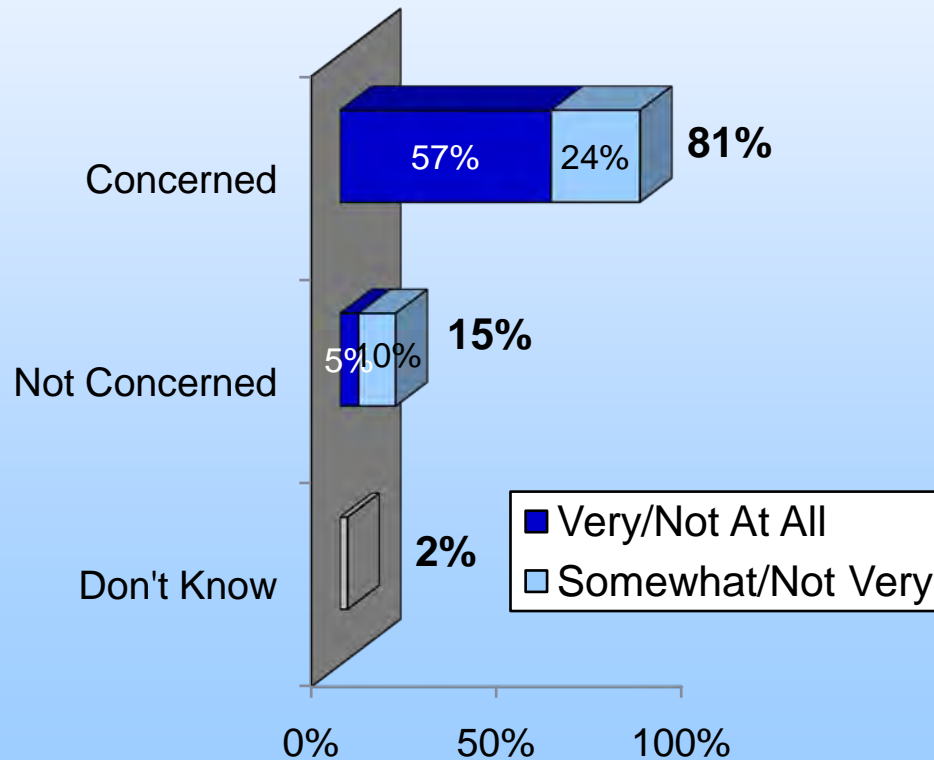
■ Much
 □ Somewhat

Doc Fix

Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: Florida 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=255)



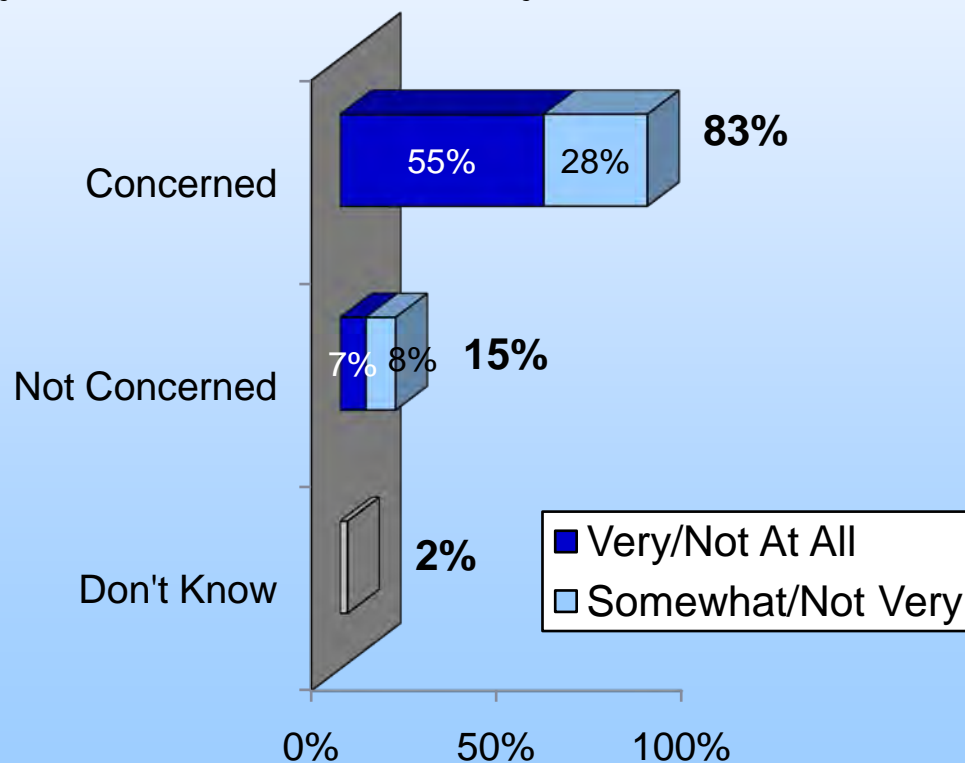
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Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: the non-Medicare Florida population is highly concerned that their access to Medicare doctors will be limited in the future if Congress fails to fix the doctor reimbursement problem.

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=240)

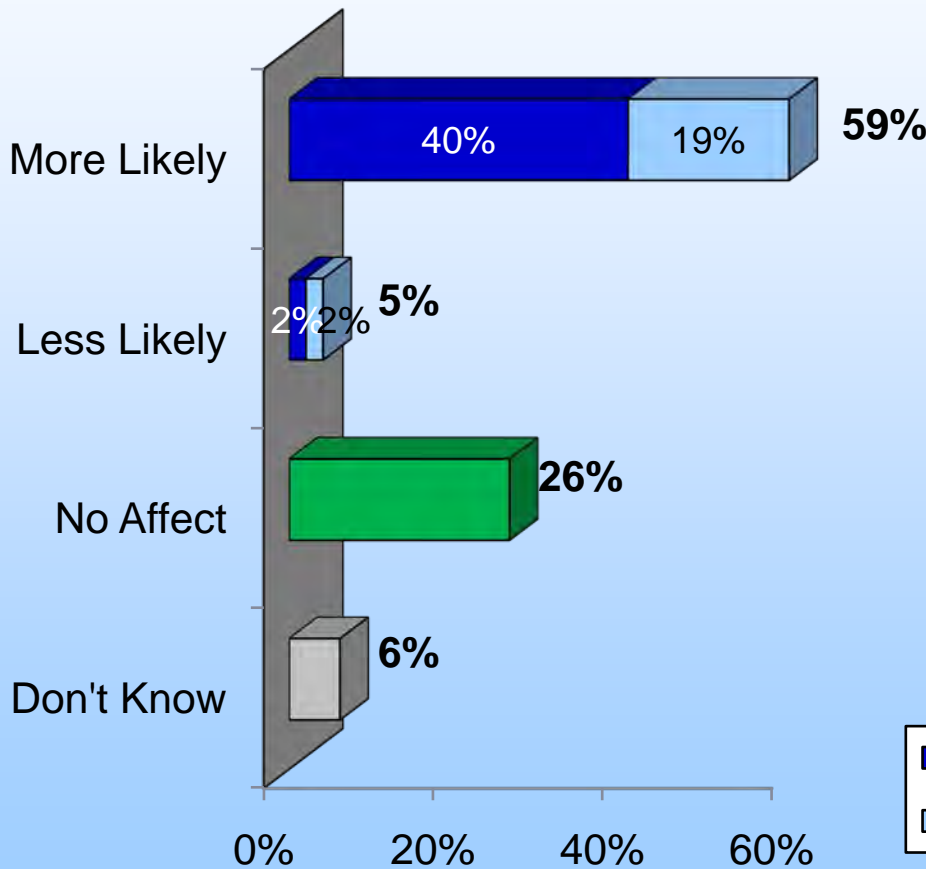


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Florida AARP members are more likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent future cuts in Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors. In all, 59% are more likely and 40% are much more likely to vote for such a candidate. Only 5% are less likely. A majority of Republicans (72%), Ticket-Splitters (57%) and a plurality of Democrats (48%) 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
Miami/South	57%	4%	28%
Jax/North	59%	4%	28%
Orland./Gaines.	66%	3%	22%
Tampa/St. Peters.	56%	6%	27%
Male 64 & under	53%	4%	32%
Male 65+	61%	6%	23%
Female 64 & under	51%	6%	37%
Female 65+	67%	4%	18%
Republican	72%	4%	14%
Ticket Splitter	57%	5%	28%
Democrat	48%	5%	38%
Liberal	50%	5%	39%
Moderate	56%	6%	29%
Conservative	67%	4%	18%

■ Much
 □ Somewhat

Summary and Conclusions

- This survey reveals a political climate born out of the economic crisis and uncertainty of recent years. Florida 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 24% 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 Florida 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 68% of all Florida 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 Florida AARP members (including 64% of Republicans, 71% of Democrats and 64% 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 (60% of Republicans, 59% of Independents and 71% 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, 59% 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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