

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

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AARP

2010 Election Survey Results

Pennsylvania Statewide

Prepared for
AARP Strategic Issues Research

Prepared by
Gary Ferguson, Guy Molyneux and Jay Campbell

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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 Pennsylvania AARP members interviewed are highly likely to vote. In all, 87% say they are definitely planning to vote and another 13% are likely to vote.
- Like many Americans, most Pennsylvania 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, 78% are dissatisfied with the current state of the economy, and 90% are concerned about the deficit. Fewer than four in ten (37%) think the national economy will get better over the course of the next year while 18% think it will get worse and 39% 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 27% are confident that life for their children's generation will be better than it has been for them while 62% 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 (17% very satisfied) while 29% of Pennsylvania members are dissatisfied with their own economic situation. In addition, they are reasonably optimistic about their economic outlook in the near-term. Most (67%) indicate that their personal financial situation will remain about the same in the next year while 19% think it will get better and 11% worse.
- Part of this optimism may stem from their confidence in Social Security. More than seven in ten (73%) Pennsylvania members are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement while 22% 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, 97% of the AARP members interviewed in Pennsylvania 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, Pennsylvania AARP members do not support reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees in order to control the deficit. The vast majority (74%) 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. Fewer than one in five (19%) 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, 67% 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 (68%), Democrats (69%) and Independents (63%) 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 (68%). Pennsylvania 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 (51%), although a substantial number say the most important reason to fight fraud is that it will save consumers money (16%), protect seniors' health (12%) or help reduce the deficit (7%).
- Pennsylvania 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 55% who say it would help to a great extent. Similarly, 87% say that "changing the way Medicare pays claims so that suspicious claims would have to be verified before they are paid" would help; 51% a great deal. Further, 69% say it would be helpful to "prevent Medicare from using a person's Social Security number as their Medicare number" (37% a great deal). Here again, a majority of Pennsylvania AARP members (66%) are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports these proposals while just 6% are less likely.

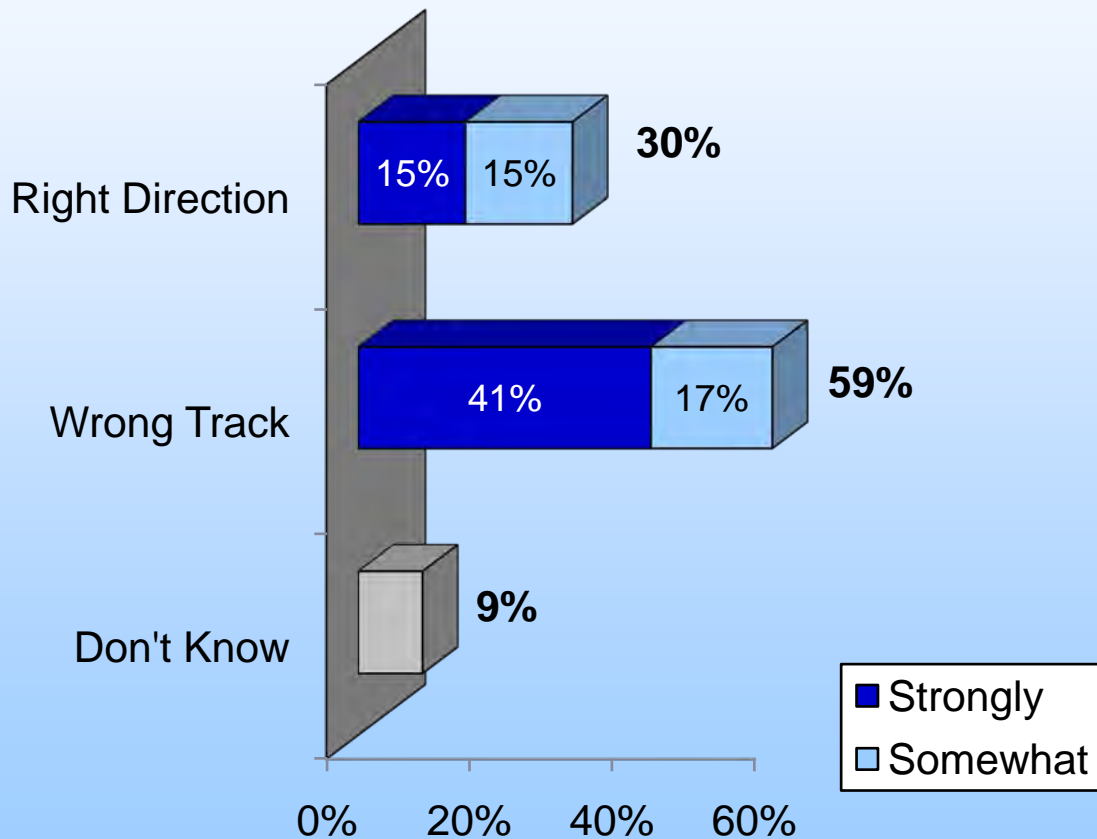
Executive Summary

- Pennsylvania 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 50% 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; 81% of those not currently enrolled in Medicare say that they are concerned – 52% 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 (58%) 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 8% are less likely.

Political Environment

Mood of the Country: Like other Americans, many Pennsylvania 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 30% overall say things are going in the right direction. A more positive perspective is found among Democrats (61% right direction) and liberals (58%).

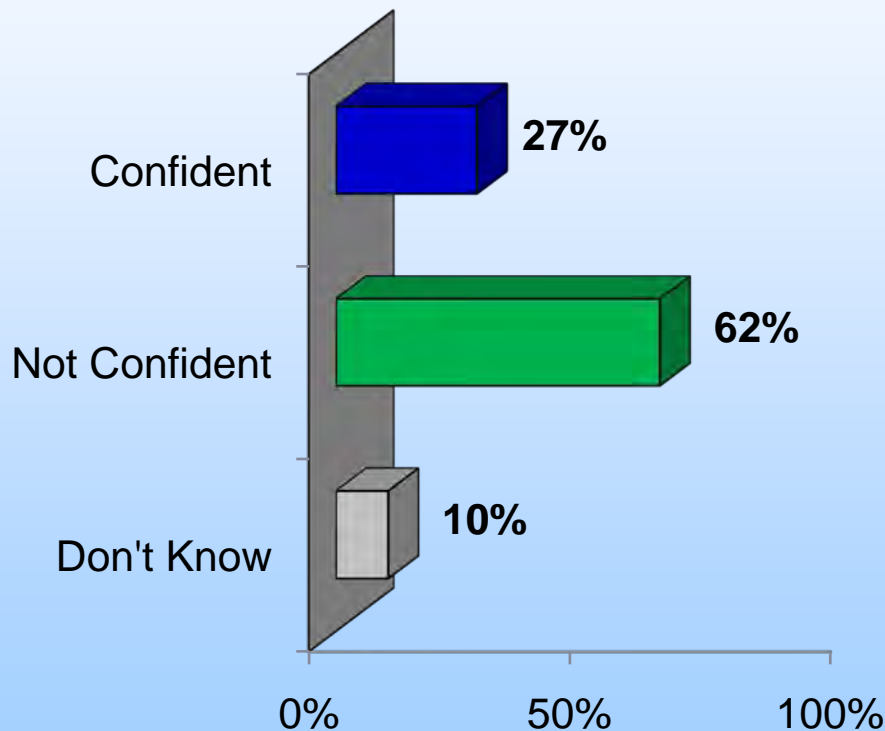
Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?



	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Harris/Lancaster	26%	62%
Philadelphia	40%	49%
Pittsburgh	21%	67%
Wilkes/Scranton	27%	65%
Balance	22%	66%
Male 64 & under	31%	62%
Male 65+	33%	52%
Female 64 & under	33%	60%
Female 65+	26%	59%
Republican	4%	90%
Ticket Splitter	26%	61%
Democrat	61%	26%
Liberal	58%	30%
Moderate	32%	52%
Conservative	16%	79%

Life for our Children's Generation: Most Pennsylvania 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.

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

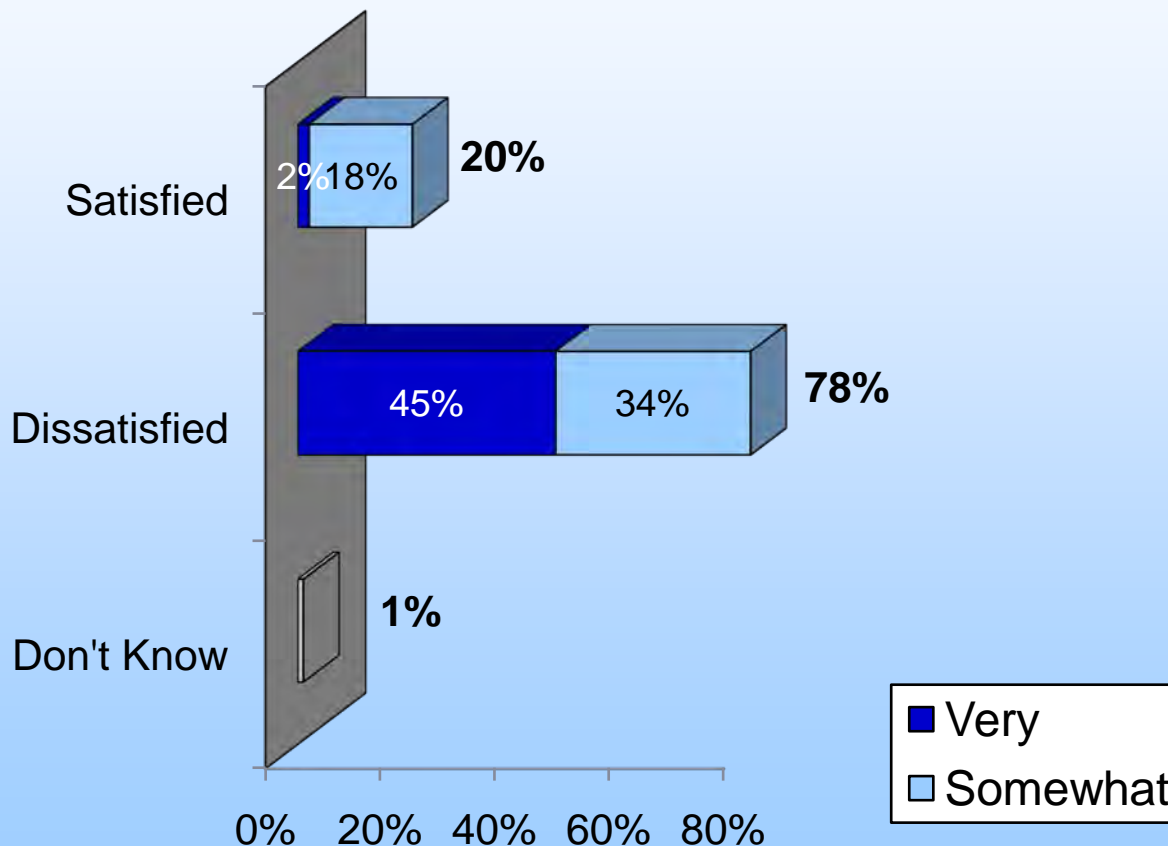


	Confident	Not Confident
Harris/Lancaster	26%	63%
Philadelphia	34%	57%
Pittsburgh	23%	62%
Wilkes/Scranton	17%	74%
Balance	19%	65%
Male 64 & under	26%	65%
Male 65+	32%	56%
Female 64 & under	20%	69%
Female 65+	27%	60%
Republican	10%	84%
Ticket Splitter	25%	65%
Democrat	46%	38%
Liberal	46%	43%
Moderate	26%	60%
Conservative	18%	75%
Under \$30K	29%	58%
\$30K-\$49K	20%	67%
\$50K-\$74K	27%	66%
\$75K and Over	29%	61%

The Economy

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

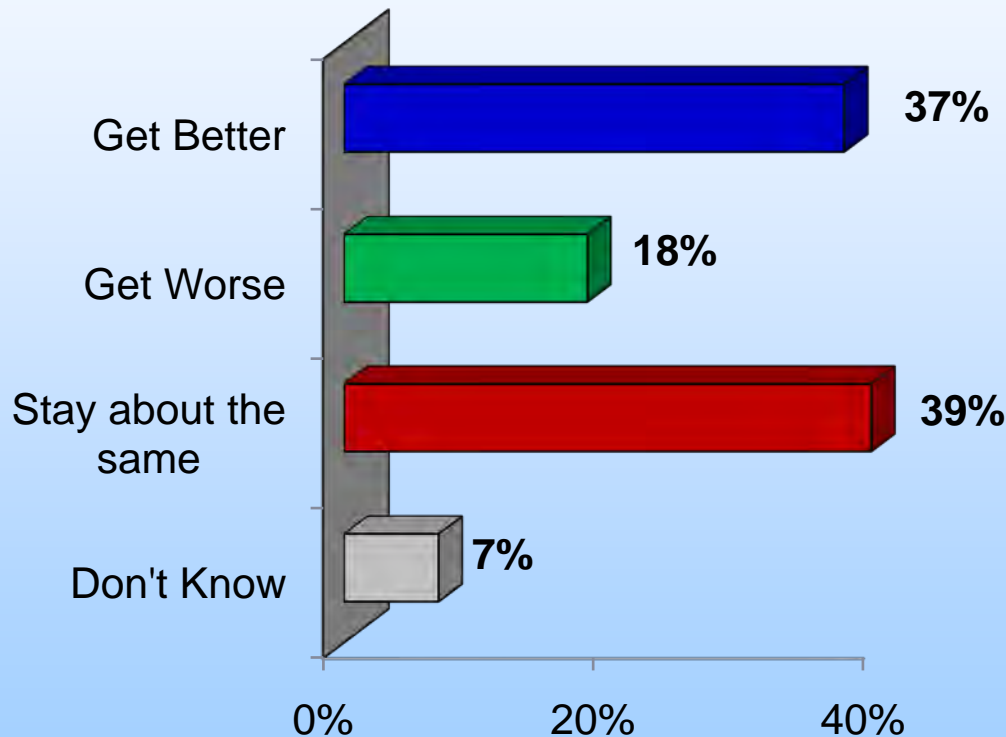
How satisfied are you with the state of the U.S. economy today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the state of the economy?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Harris/Lancaster	21%	77%
Philadelphia	22%	77%
Pittsburgh	16%	83%
Wilkes/Scranton	17%	83%
Balance	25%	72%
Male 64 & under	19%	81%
Male 65+	22%	75%
Female 64 & under	20%	78%
Female 65+	20%	79%
Republican	13%	86%
Ticket Splitter	17%	83%
Democrat	35%	61%
Liberal	33%	66%
Moderate	19%	79%
Conservative	16%	83%
S.S. Through Retire.		
Confident	25%	74%
Not Confident	8%	92%

Economic outlook: 37% think the economy will get better in the next year, 18% that it will get worse, and 39% that it will stay about the same. Democrats, liberals, men age 64 and under, those residing in the Philadelphia media market and those who are confident about Social Security are among the most optimistic about the economic outlook.

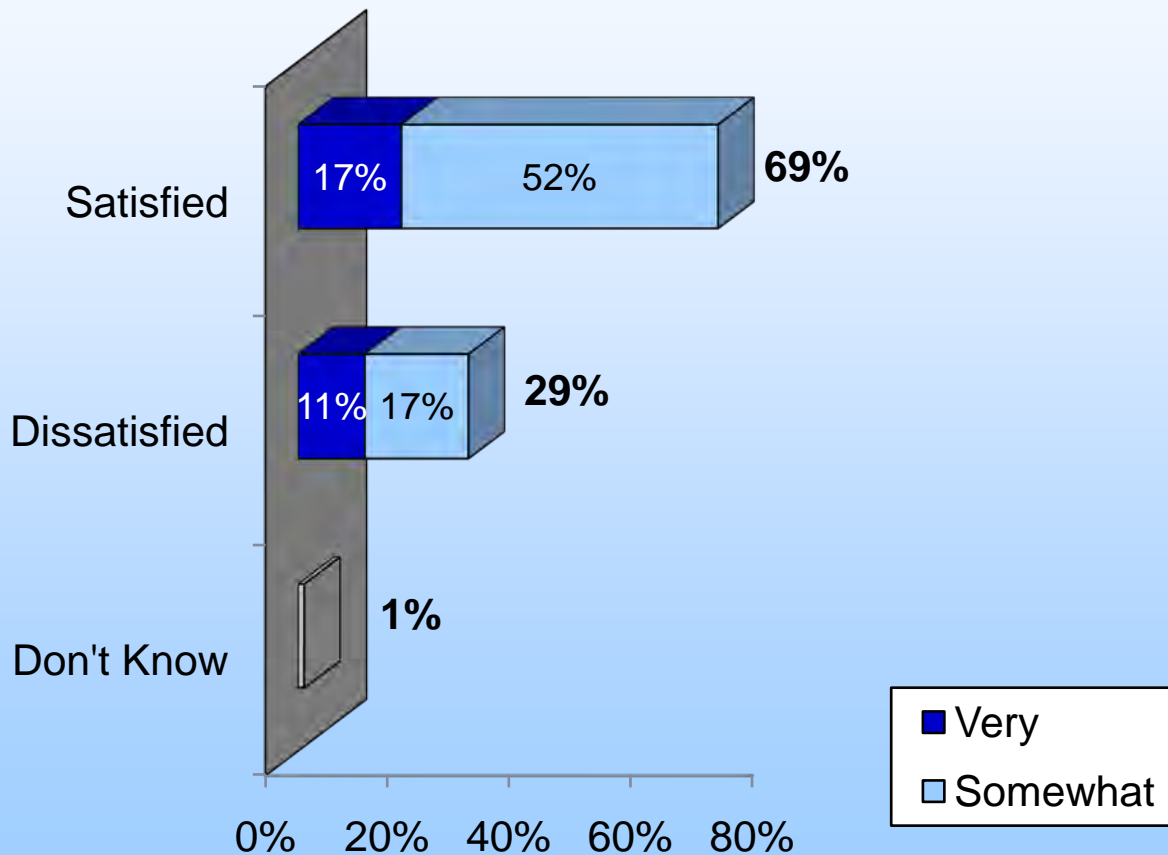
Thinking about a year from now, do you think the national economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same as it is now?



	Better	Worse	Same
Harris/Lancaster	36%	17%	43%
Philadelphia	43%	15%	37%
Pittsburgh	30%	24%	37%
Wilkes/Scranton	32%	13%	44%
Balance	33%	22%	33%
Male 64 & under	48%	18%	32%
Male 65+	37%	16%	37%
Female 64 & under	34%	16%	46%
Female 65+	32%	21%	37%
Republican	12%	33%	48%
Ticket Splitter	36%	14%	44%
Democrat	61%	8%	23%
Liberal	61%	7%	26%
Moderate	39%	15%	38%
Conservative	22%	27%	45%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	43%	12%	39%
Not Confident	19%	35%	40%

Satisfaction with personal financial situation: Most Pennsylvania members are at least somewhat satisfied with their own financial situation. Satisfaction scores increase with income but are relatively high regardless of income group. Those who lack confidence in Social Security are less satisfied than those who are confident that they will continue to receive benefits throughout retirement.

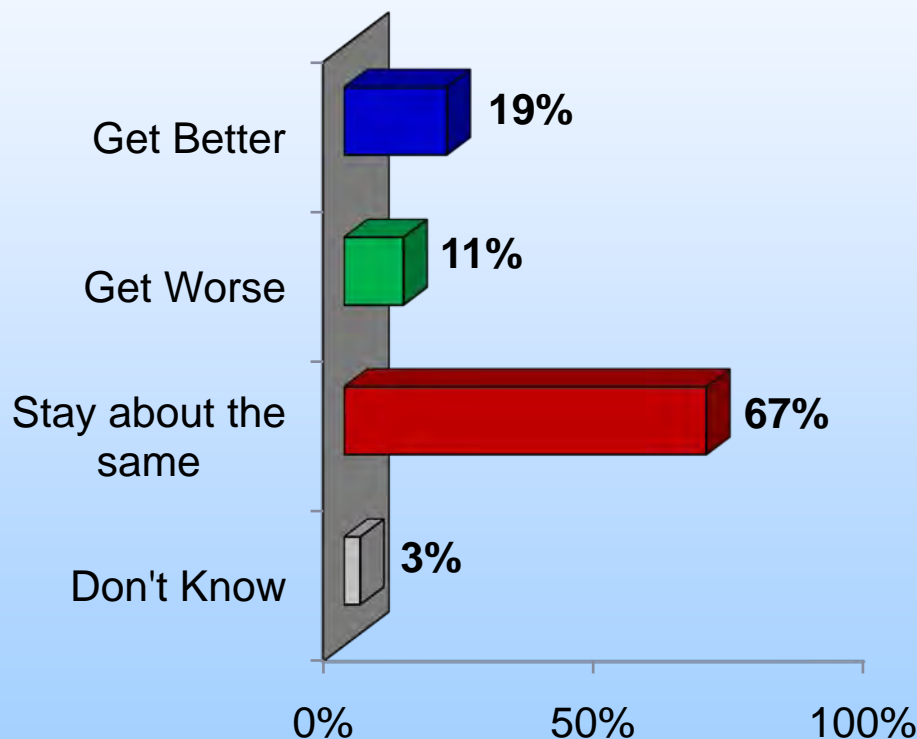
How satisfied are you with the state of your own financial situation today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with your own financial situation?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Harris/Lancaster	78%	19%
Philadelphia	67%	30%
Pittsburgh	65%	35%
Wilkes/Scranton	61%	37%
Balance	81%	17%
Male 64 & under	68%	30%
Male 65+	71%	27%
Female 64 & under	70%	29%
Female 65+	70%	29%
Republican	68%	31%
Ticket Splitter	69%	30%
Democrat	76%	23%
Liberal	82%	17%
Moderate	68%	30%
Conservative	67%	31%
Under \$30K	61%	37%
\$30K-\$49K	65%	34%
\$50K-\$74K	73%	27%
\$75K and Over	79%	21%
S.S. Through Retire. Confident	79%	21%
S.S. Through Retire. Not Confident	42%	55%

Most Pennsylvania 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.

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?

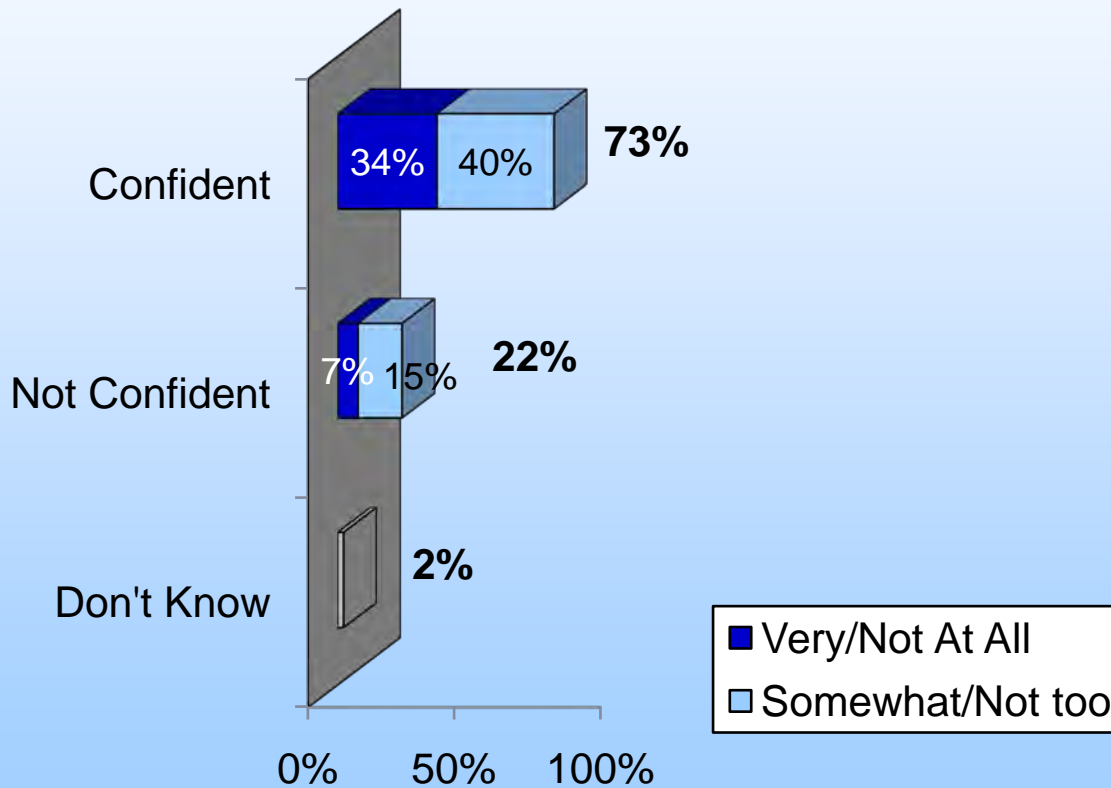


	Better	Worse	Same
Harris/Lancaster	17%	11%	70%
Philadelphia	23%	8%	65%
Pittsburgh	19%	18%	61%
Wilkes/Scranton	13%	11%	68%
Balance	12%	9%	78%
Male 64 & under	30%	8%	63%
Male 65+	13%	12%	71%
Female 64 & under	21%	10%	68%
Female 65+	15%	14%	66%
Republican	13%	18%	66%
Ticket Splitter	21%	11%	67%
Democrat	21%	5%	71%
Liberal	26%	7%	65%
Moderate	18%	9%	70%
Conservative	16%	15%	66%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	19%	8%	71%
Not Confident	17%	22%	57%

Social Security

Confidence in Social Security: Nearly three-fourths of Pennsylvania AARP members say they are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement. However, only one-third (34%) express high confidence. Women under 64 are less confident than men or older women. Republicans are less confident than Democrats.

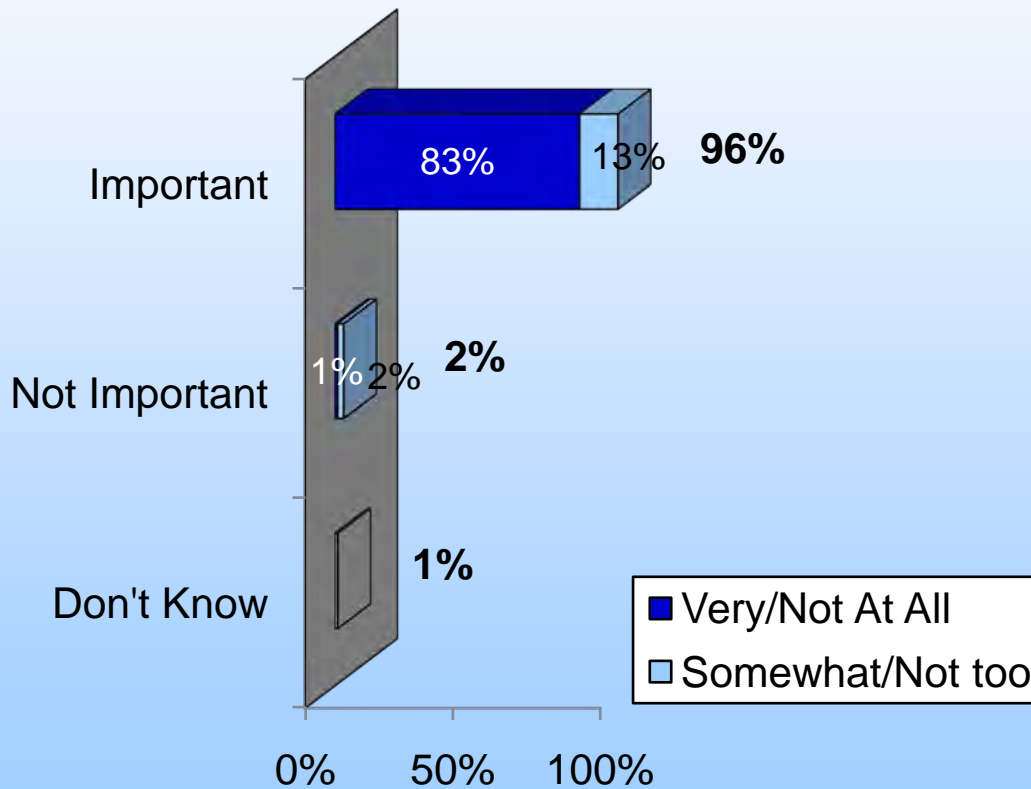
How confident are you that you will receive full Social Security benefits throughout your retirement?



	Confident	Not Confident
Harris/Lancaster	74%	20%
Philadelphia	76%	20%
Pittsburgh	70%	26%
Wilkes/Scranton	71%	25%
Balance	72%	24%
Male 64 & under	74%	26%
Male 65+	84%	11%
Female 64 & under	54%	43%
Female 65+	83%	11%
Republican	65%	31%
Ticket Splitter	73%	23%
Democrat	86%	12%
Liberal	85%	13%
Moderate	73%	22%
Conservative	69%	27%

The future of Social Security is important to Pennsylvania 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?

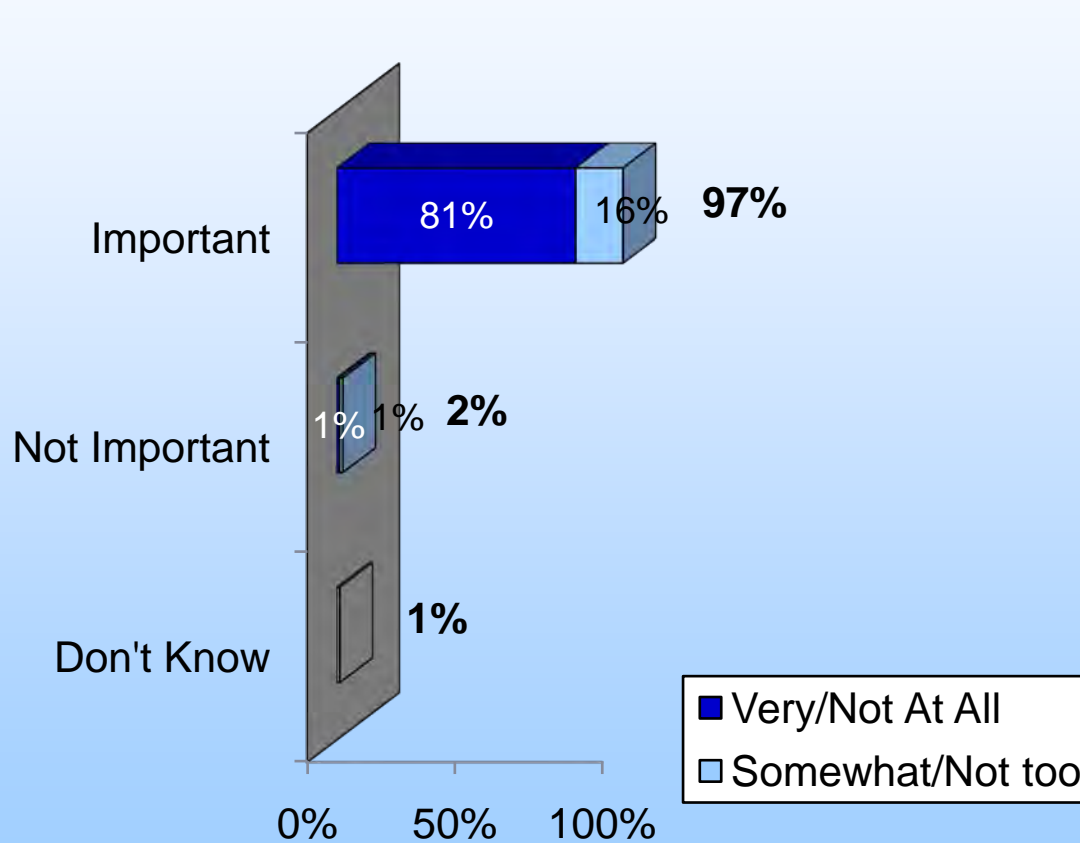


	Total Important	Very Important	Not Important
Harris/Lancaster	93%	82%	5%
Philadelphia	97%	86%	2%
Pittsburgh	98%	81%	1%
Wilkes/Scranton	97%	83%	3%
Balance	93%	79%	2%
Male 64 & under	96%	77%	4%
Male 65+	97%	83%	1%
Female 64 & under	95%	85%	4%
Female 65+	97%	86%	1%
Republican	95%	77%	4%
Ticket Splitter	96%	85%	2%
Democrat	99%	86%	1%
Liberal	98%	83%	1%
Moderate	96%	84%	2%
Conservative	96%	84%	3%

Pennsylvania 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.

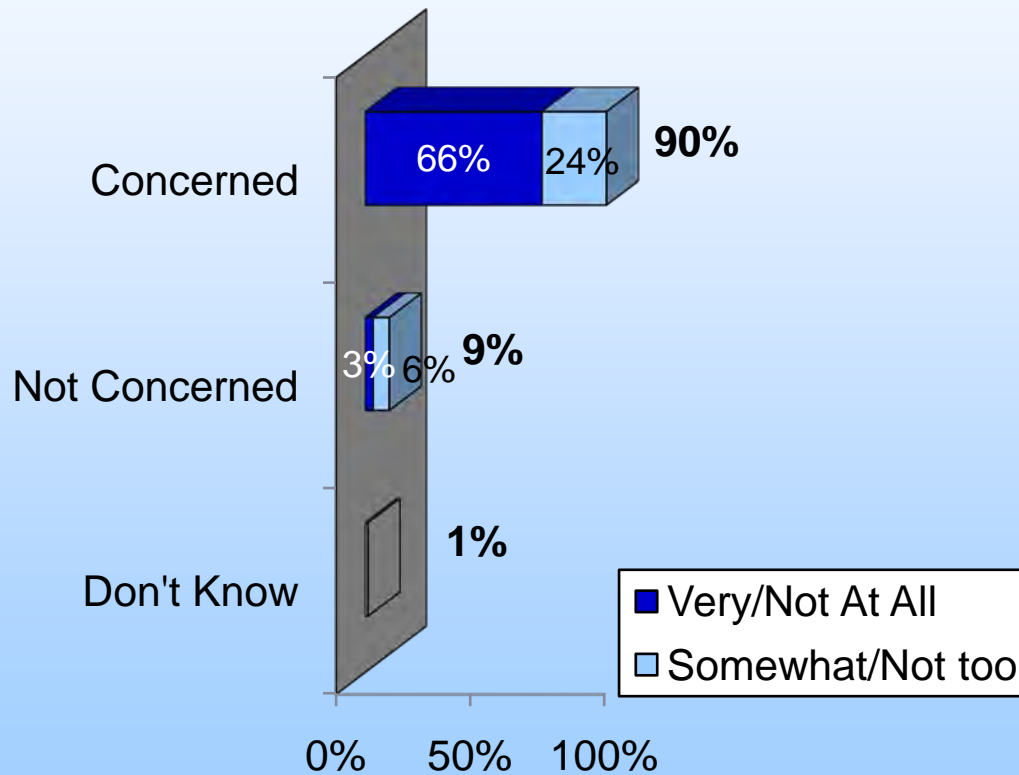


	Total Important	Very Important	Not Important
Harris/Lancaster	96%	81%	2%
Philadelphia	95%	80%	3%
Pittsburgh	99%	85%	1%
Wilkes/Scranton	97%	75%	1%
Balance	97%	81%	1%
Male 64 & under	96%	72%	3%
Male 65+	96%	81%	2%
Female 64 & under	96%	81%	2%
Female 65+	99%	88%	1%
Republican	97%	80%	2%
Ticket Splitter	97%	76%	1%
Democrat	99%	93%	1%
Liberal	96%	87%	2%
Moderate	97%	76%	2%
Conservative	98%	84%	1%

The Deficit

Concern about the national deficit runs high across the Pennsylvania member population: 90% are concerned about the deficit and 66% are very concerned.

How concerned are you about the national deficit?



	Total Concerned	Very Concerned	Not Concerned
Harris/Lancaster	92%	75%	7%
Philadelphia	88%	61%	10%
Pittsburgh	91%	67%	6%
Wilkes/Scranton	92%	71%	8%
Balance	89%	67%	8%
Male 64 & under	92%	65%	6%
Male 65+	84%	62%	14%
Female 64 & under	91%	66%	8%
Female 65+	93%	71%	6%
Republican	97%	89%	1%
Ticket Splitter	92%	67%	7%
Democrat	80%	45%	19%
Liberal	80%	41%	19%
Moderate	89%	60%	9%
Conservative	96%	85%	3%

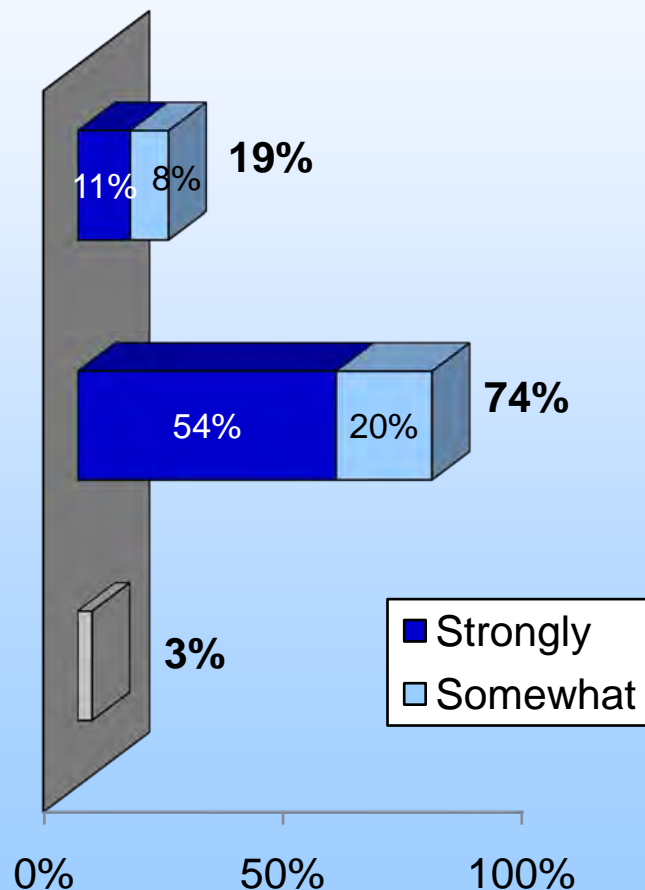
Nearly three-fourths of Pennsylvania AARP members reject the idea of reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees in order to control the deficit: Fewer than one in five would agree more with a candidate who says we can't control the deficit without reducing the Social Security benefits of future 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.

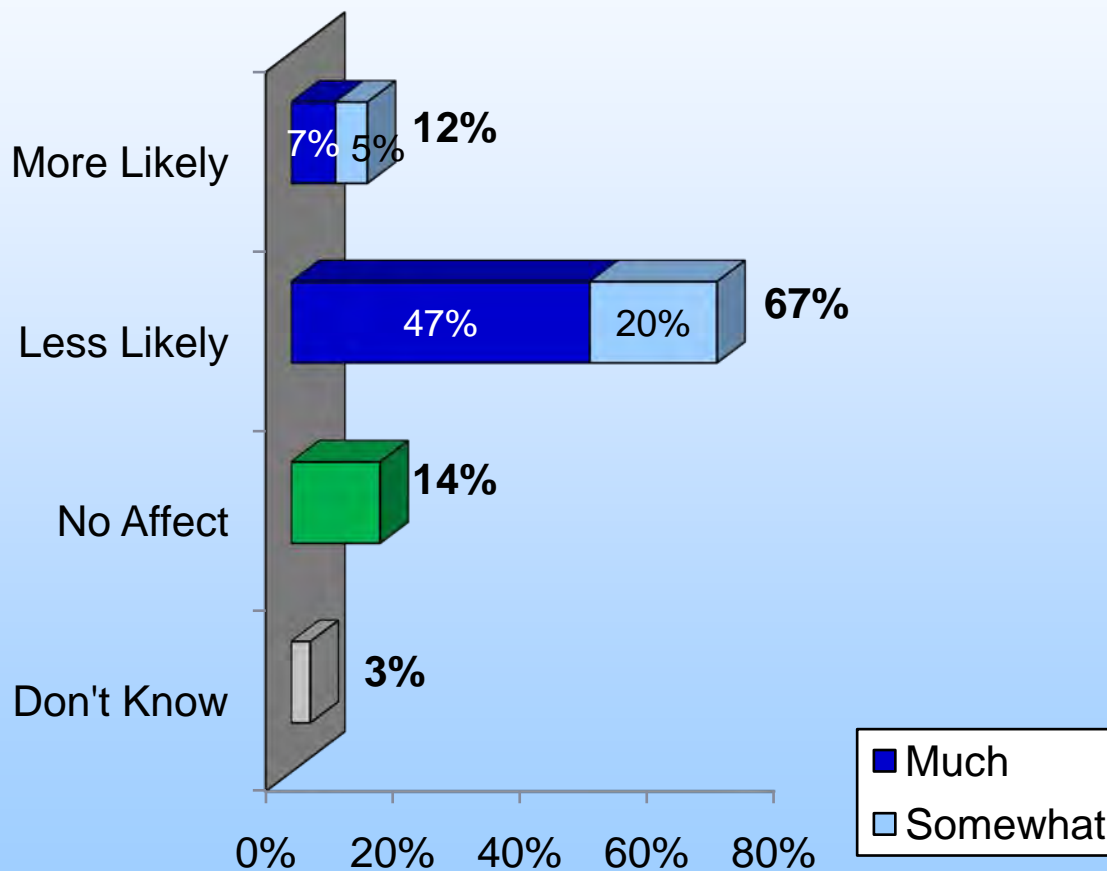
Don't Know



	Cuts Needed	Unfair Burden
Harris/Lancaster	18%	76%
Philadelphia	22%	73%
Pittsburgh	16%	76%
Wilkes/Scranton	20%	71%
Balance	18%	77%
Male 64 & under	14%	80%
Male 65+	23%	72%
Female 64 & under	20%	75%
Female 65+	19%	74%
Republican	26%	66%
Ticket Splitter	19%	75%
Democrat	15%	83%
Liberal	13%	80%
Moderate	17%	78%
Conservative	24%	69%

Pennsylvania AARP members would be less likely to vote for a candidate who would reduce the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees. 67%, 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?

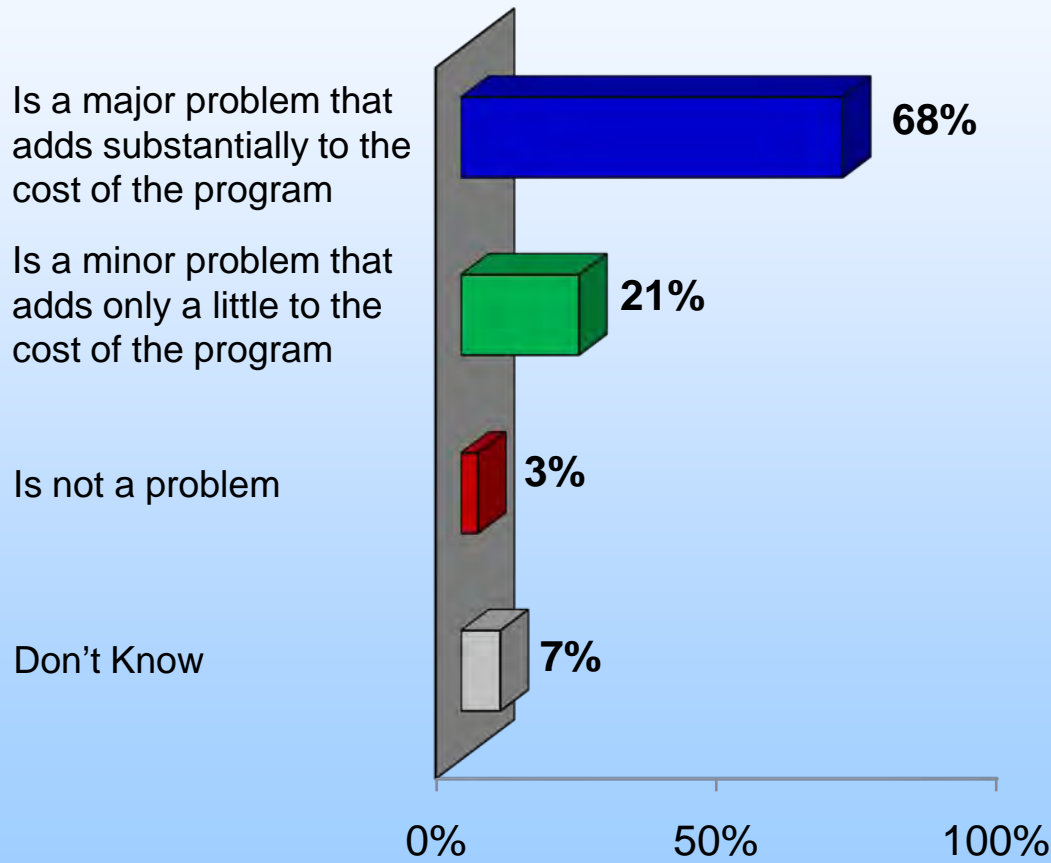


	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Harris/Lancaster	10%	68%	18%
Philadelphia	13%	68%	13%
Pittsburgh	13%	63%	18%
Wilkes/Scranton	17%	65%	8%
Balance	8%	68%	15%
Male 64 & under	11%	71%	12%
Male 65+	11%	64%	15%
Female 64 & under	11%	68%	15%
Female 65+	15%	65%	15%
Republican	12%	68%	18%
Ticket Splitter	15%	68%	9%
Democrat	8%	69%	17%
Liberal	5%	75%	17%
Moderate	14%	66%	12%
Conservative	13%	65%	15%

Reducing Medicare Fraud

Medicare fraud is seen as a major problem that adds substantially to the cost of the program. In all, 68% say fraud is a major problem, 21% a minor problem, and 3% that it is not a problem. Majorities of most major subgroups call fraud a major problem.

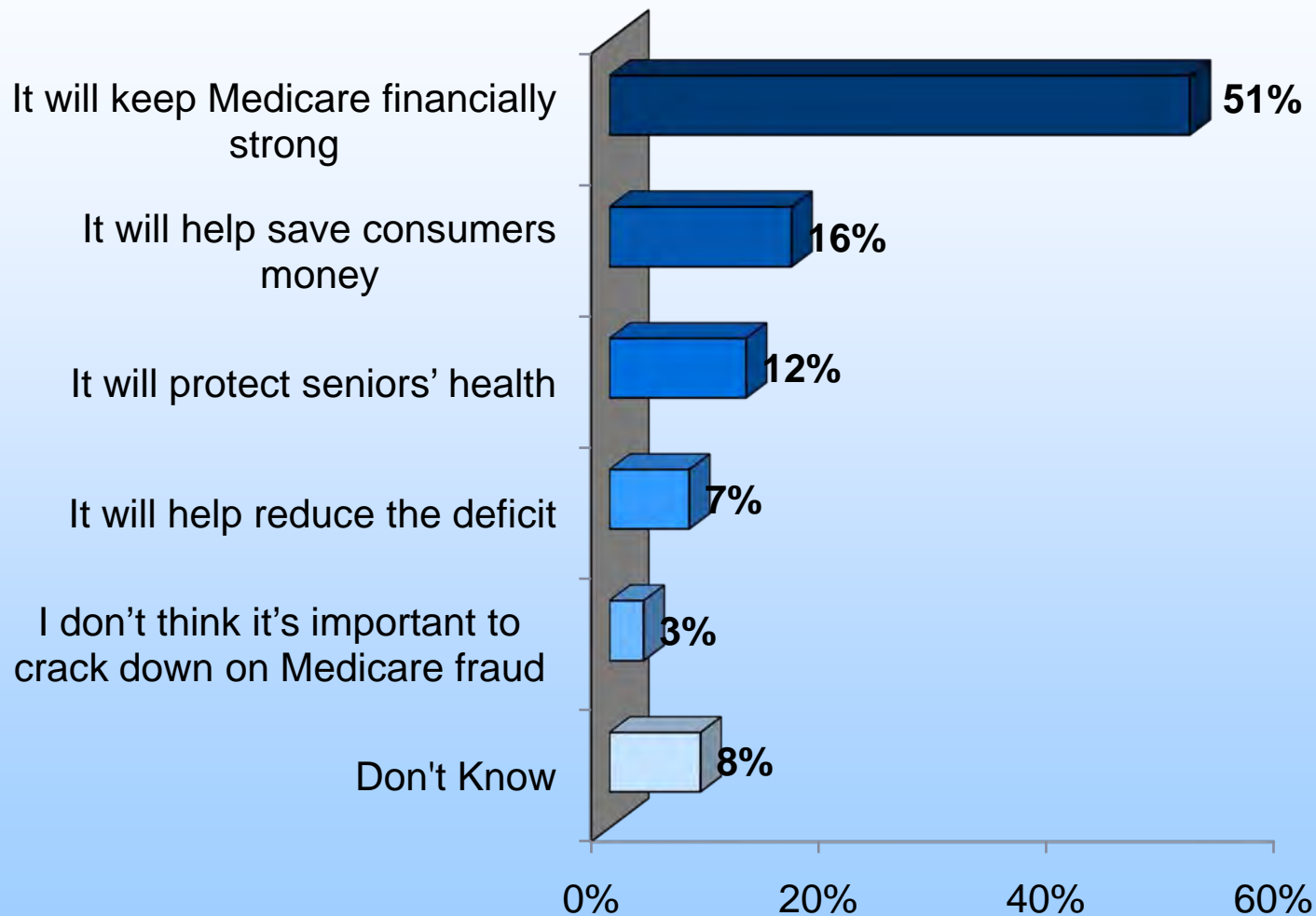
Would you say that Medicare fraud:



	Major Problem	Minor Problem
Harris/Lancaster	79%	11%
Philadelphia	64%	23%
Pittsburgh	65%	23%
Wilkes/Scranton	65%	30%
Balance	74%	14%
Male 64 & under	69%	18%
Male 65+	64%	27%
Female 64 & under	66%	21%
Female 65+	72%	18%
Republican	84%	7%
Ticket Splitter	69%	20%
Democrat	52%	35%
Liberal	44%	41%
Moderate	69%	19%
Conservative	77%	13%

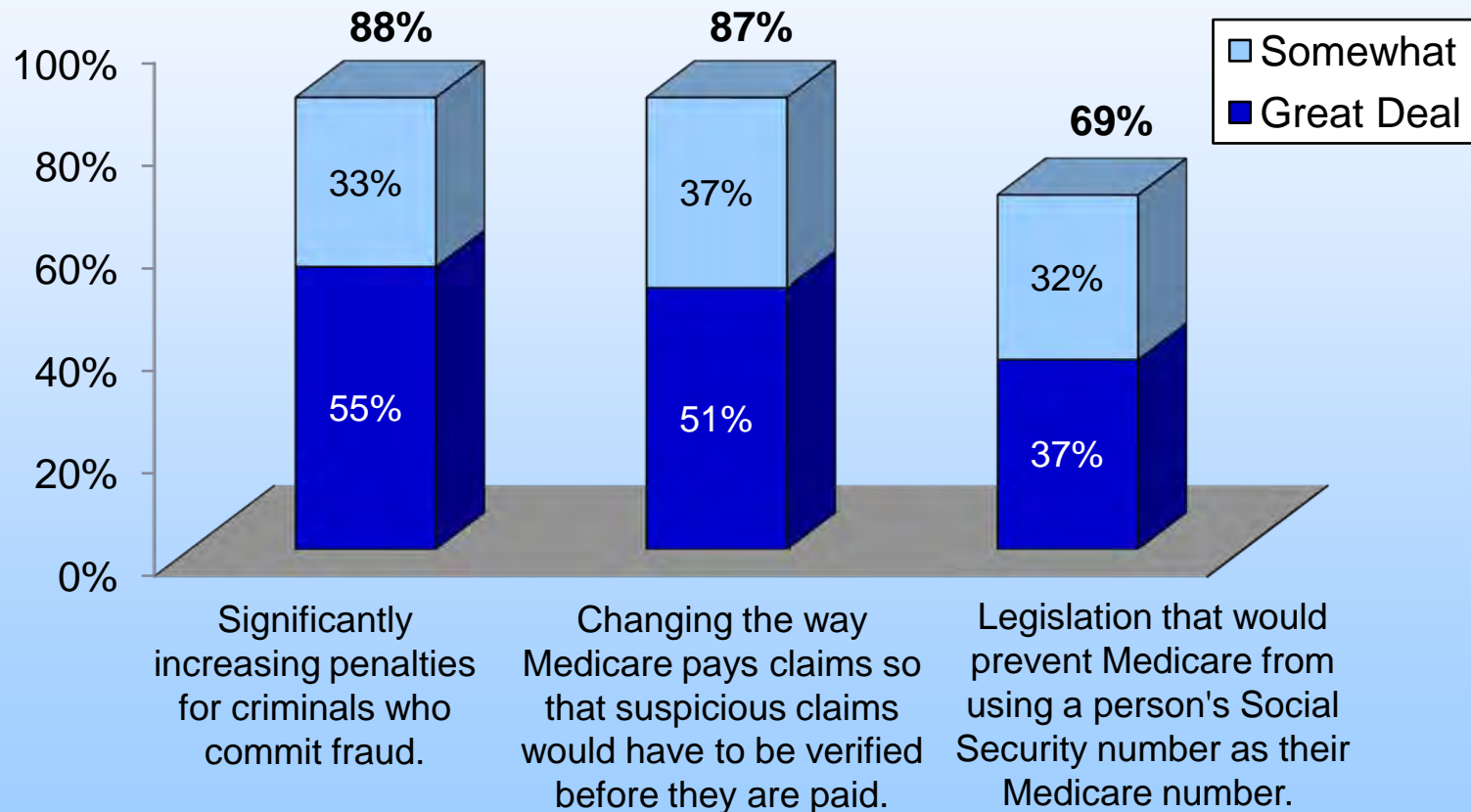
Cracking down on Medicare Fraud: A majority of Pennsylvania AARP members say the most important reason to crack down on fraud is to keep Medicare financially strong. Majorities of men and women age 65 and older hold this view.

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



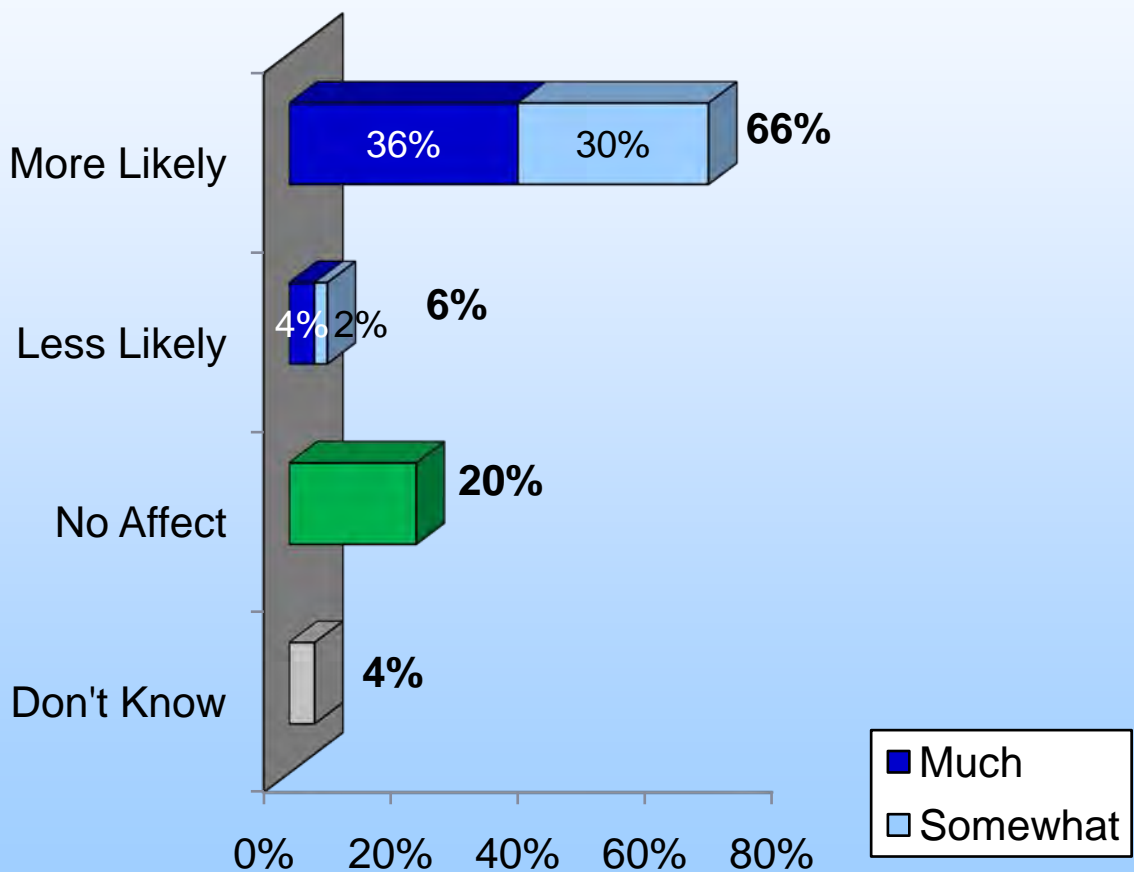
Pennsylvania members are very responsive to a number of bipartisan legislative proposals that have been offered in Congress to fight Medicare fraud.

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?



Pennsylvania AARP members are more likely to vote for candidates who support these legislative proposals. Two-thirds of Pennsylvania 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?



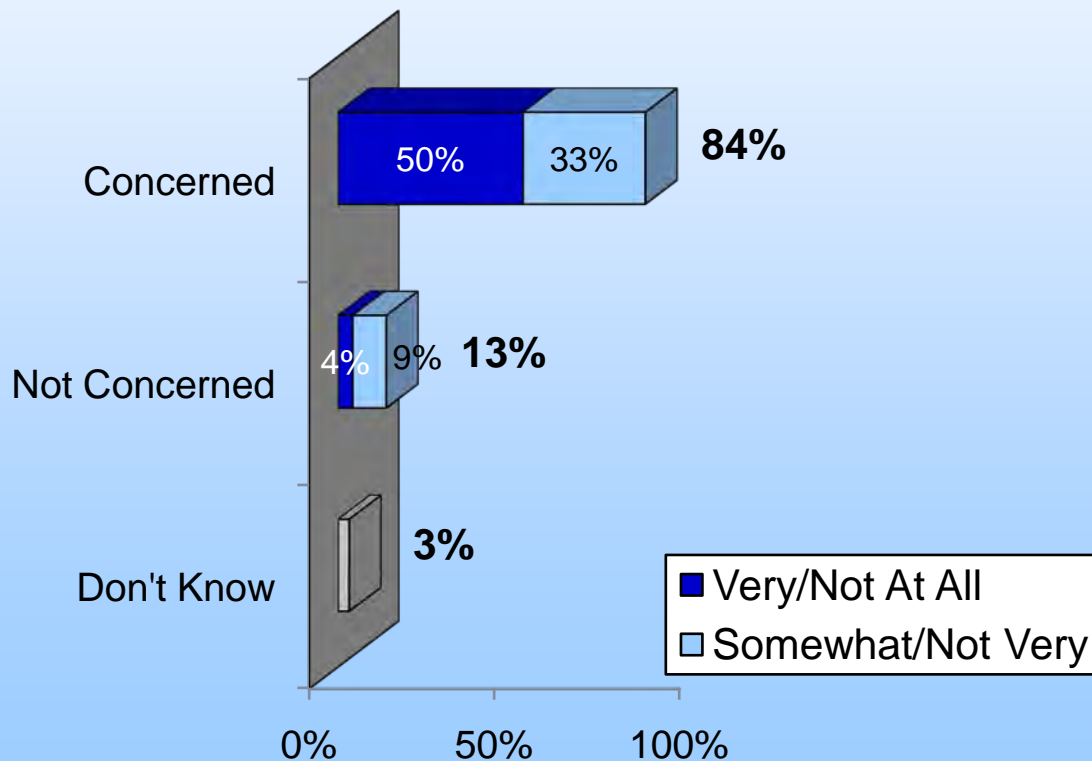
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Harris/Lancaster	72%	5%	16%
Philadelphia	63%	6%	20%
Pittsburgh	68%	6%	20%
Wilkes/Scranton	72%	6%	15%
Balance	59%	7%	28%
Male 64 & under	68%	8%	16%
Male 65+	69%	2%	22%
Female 64 & under	65%	8%	22%
Female 65+	65%	5%	21%
Republican	75%	4%	16%
Ticket Splitter	65%	6%	21%
Democrat	62%	6%	23%
Liberal	64%	4%	27%
Moderate	62%	7%	21%
Conservative	73%	6%	16%
Under \$30K	67%	9%	14%
\$30K-\$49K	69%	6%	19%
\$50K-\$74K	65%	5%	24%
\$75K and Over	70%	5%	21%

Doc Fix

Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: Pennsylvania 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=224)



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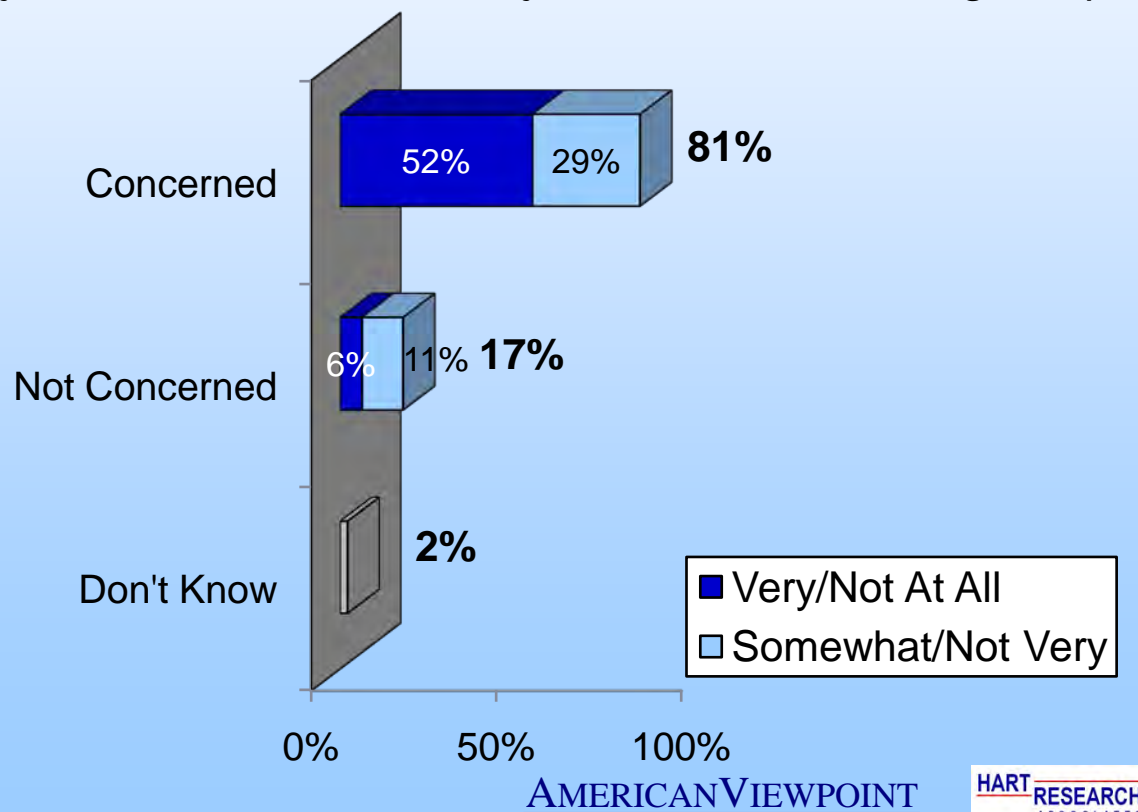
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AARP 2010 Pennsylvania Statewide Election Survey

Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: the non-Medicare Pennsylvania 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.

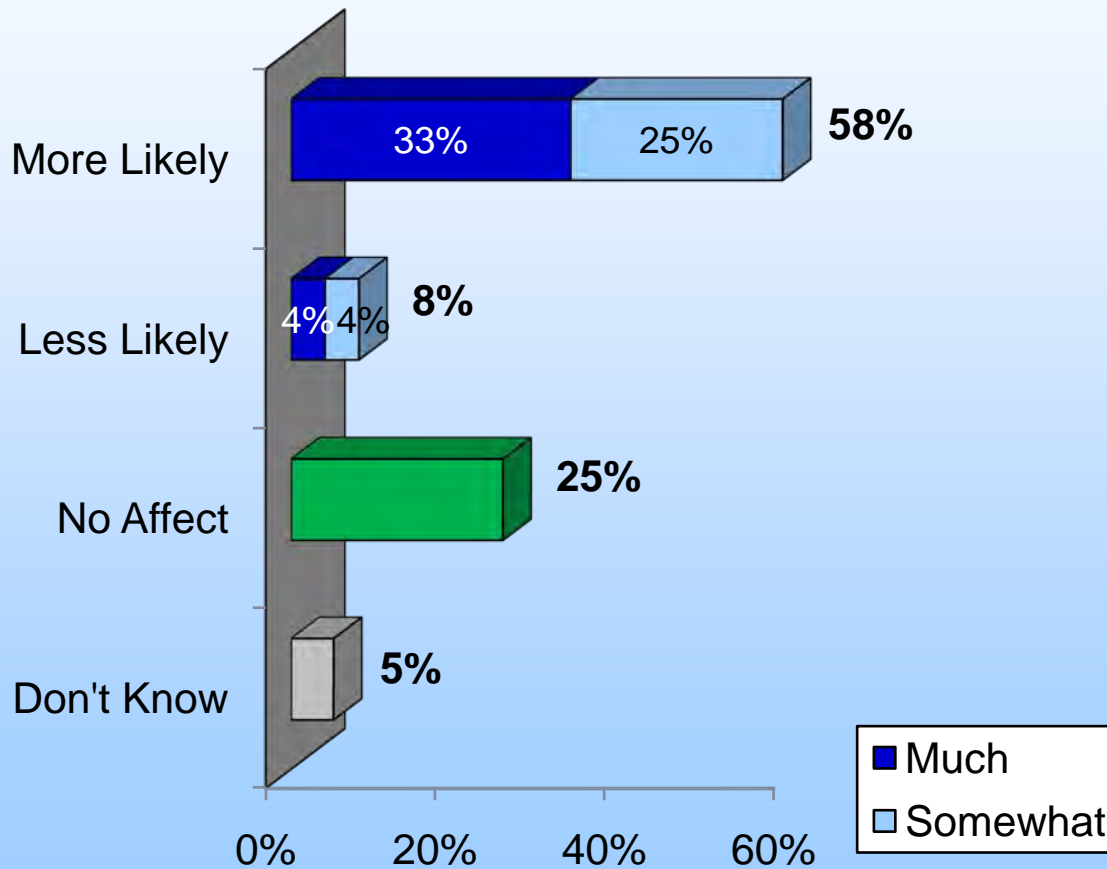
As you may know, in an effort to control the rate of growth in Medicare spending, current law requires that doctors who treat Medicare patients receive a reduction in reimbursement rates every year. Although Congress has taken action to block the cuts in the past, it has been unable to come up with a 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=271)



Pennsylvania 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, 58% are more likely and 33% are much more likely to vote for such a candidate. Only 8% are less likely. A majority of Republicans (67%), Ticket-Splitters (59%) and Democrats (55%) 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
Harris/Lancaster	50%	8%	36%
Philadelphia	61%	7%	21%
Pittsburgh	59%	7%	21%
Wilkes/Scranton	58%	12%	24%
Balance	56%	6%	29%
Male 64 & under	63%	6%	27%
Male 65+	55%	8%	26%
Female 64 & under	59%	9%	23%
Female 65+	59%	9%	23%
Republican	67%	5%	22%
Ticket Splitter	59%	8%	24%
Democrat	55%	10%	26%
Liberal	53%	11%	28%
Moderate	57%	7%	26%
Conservative	64%	8%	20%

Summary and Conclusions

- This survey reveals a political climate born out of the economic crisis and uncertainty of recent years. Pennsylvania 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 nearly one in five thinks economic conditions will worsen during that time.
- In addition, members are very concerned about the deficit and about the future. Indeed, more than six in ten (62%) Pennsylvania 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 73% of all Pennsylvania 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 74% of Pennsylvania AARP members (including 67% of Republicans, 82% of Democrats and 71% of Independents) as an unfair burden to future retirees. Further, 67% 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 (68% of Republicans, 63% of Independents and 69% 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, 58% 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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**For more information, please feel free to
contact Gary Ferguson at:**

**American Viewpoint
300 N. Lee Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-3325 / (800) 684-4410
(703) 684-9295 fax
gferguson@amview.com**