

2005 AARP Maryland Legislative Issues Survey

A Publication of AARP Knowledge Management | January 2006
Represents the Views of 799,000+ AARP Members



2005 Maryland Legislative Issues Survey:

Member Priorities

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[http:// www.aarp.org/research/](http://www.aarp.org/research/)
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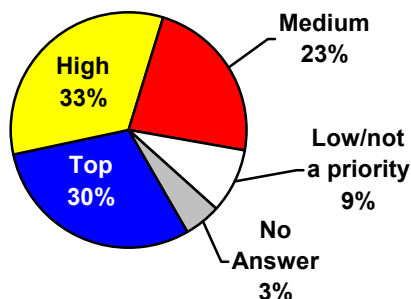
Maryland Members Vote and are Interested in State Government

Eighty-one percent of Marylanders surveyed vote **all** or **most** of the time. Two-thirds say they are extremely or very interested in state government activities that affect residents age 50 and older.

Expand Health Care for Uninsured

Members were asked how much of a priority it should be for AARP to work on key legislative issues in Maryland. Nearly nine out of ten (86%) members say it should be a priority to expand health insurance coverage for the uninsured. Less than one in ten (9%) say expanding health insurance is a low priority or not a priority at all.

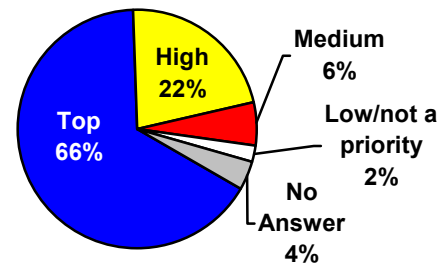
Expanding Health Insurance Coverage for the Uninsured (N=989)



Make Health Care and Prescription Drugs Accessible and Affordable

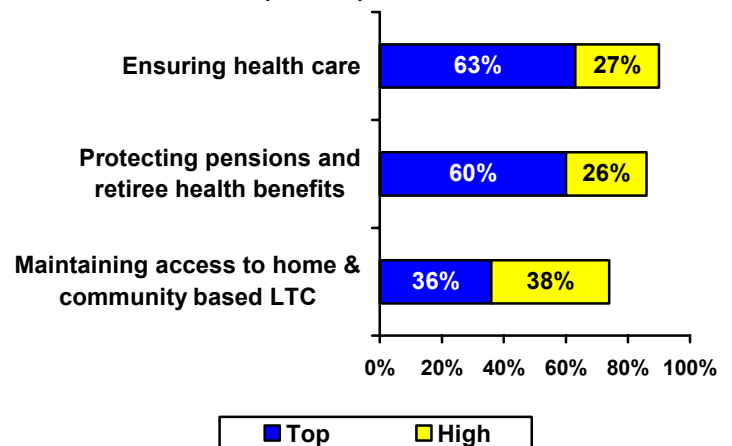
Nine in ten members think ensuring the availability, cost, and quality of health care and making prescription drugs more affordable should be top or high legislative priorities.

Making Rx More Affordable (N=989)



Protecting access to promised pensions and retiree health benefits, and maintaining access to home and community based long-term care round out the top or high legislative priorities.

Top and High Priorities for Maryland Members (N=989)



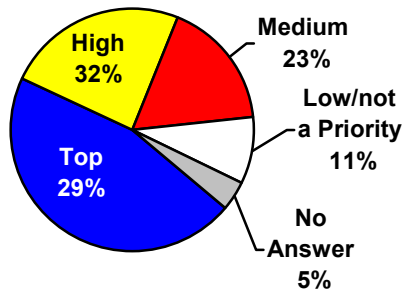
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Expand Medicaid

More than eight in ten members think it should be a priority for AARP Maryland to work on expanding Medicaid. Only about one in ten say it should be a low priority or not a priority.

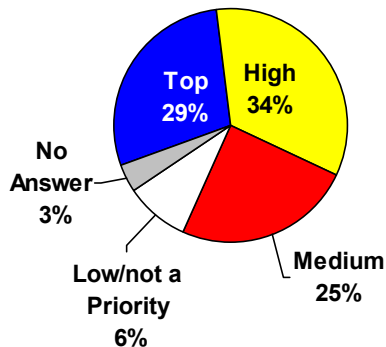
Expanding Medicaid
(N=989)



Aging in Place Matters

About 88% of members think it should be a priority to expand funding for home modifications that allow people to stay in their communities or homes as they age.

Expanding Funding for Home Modifications that Let Individuals Remain in Communities/Homes
(N=989)



Create More Jobs for 50+

Finally, although a little more than half (51%) of Maryland members are retired, more than four out of five respondents think it should be a priority for AARP to work on creating more jobs for older people and ensuring opportunities for older workers to retrain.

Methodology

AARP conducted the Maryland member survey in October through November 2005. A statewide sample of 2,000 AARP members in Maryland, proportionally stratified by three age segments—50 to 59, 60 to 74, and 75+, was selected from AARP's membership database. Each sampled member was contacted about the survey in four ways: a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey.

Fifty percent of the surveys --989 useable surveys were returned by the cut-off date for analysis. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.2 percent. Responses to the legislative priorities and demographic survey questions are attached. The full survey with responses to all questions is available on the AARP website at www.aarp.org/research/ or by contacting Erica Dinger, AARP Knowledge Management, (202) 434-6176.

For more information on AARP Maryland legislative issues contact Darrin E. Brown, Associate State Director, (410) 895-7613.

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Annotated Questions

Legislative Priorities

To be effective, AARP Maryland wants to work on the most important issues facing AARP members in Maryland. Keeping in mind what is most important to you, how much of a priority should it be for AARP to work on the following legislative issues in Maryland?

a. Protecting access to promised pensions and retiree health benefits

%	
60	Top Priority
26	High Priority
6	Medium Priority
2	Low Priority
2	Not a Priority
5	No Response

b. Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured

%	
30	Top Priority
33	High Priority
23	Medium Priority
6	Low Priority
3	Not a Priority
5	No Response

c. Creating more jobs for older people and ensuring opportunities for older workers to retrain

%	
20	Top Priority
33	High Priority
33	Medium Priority
7	Low Priority
2	Not a Priority
5	No Response

d. Expanding Medicaid, the government program that provides health and long-term care for low-income people

%	
29	Top Priority
32	High Priority
23	Medium Priority
9	Low Priority
3	Not a Priority
5	No Response

e. Expanding funding for home modifications that allow individuals to remain in their communities/homes as they age

%	
29	Top Priority
34	High Priority
25	Medium Priority
6	Low Priority
3	Not a Priority
4	No Response

f. Ensuring the availability, cost, and quality of health care

%	
63	Top Priority
27	High Priority
5	Medium Priority
1	Low Priority
1	Not a Priority
4	No Response

g. Making Rx more affordable

%	
66	Top Priority
22	High Priority
6	Medium Priority
1	Low Priority
1	Not a Priority
4	No Response

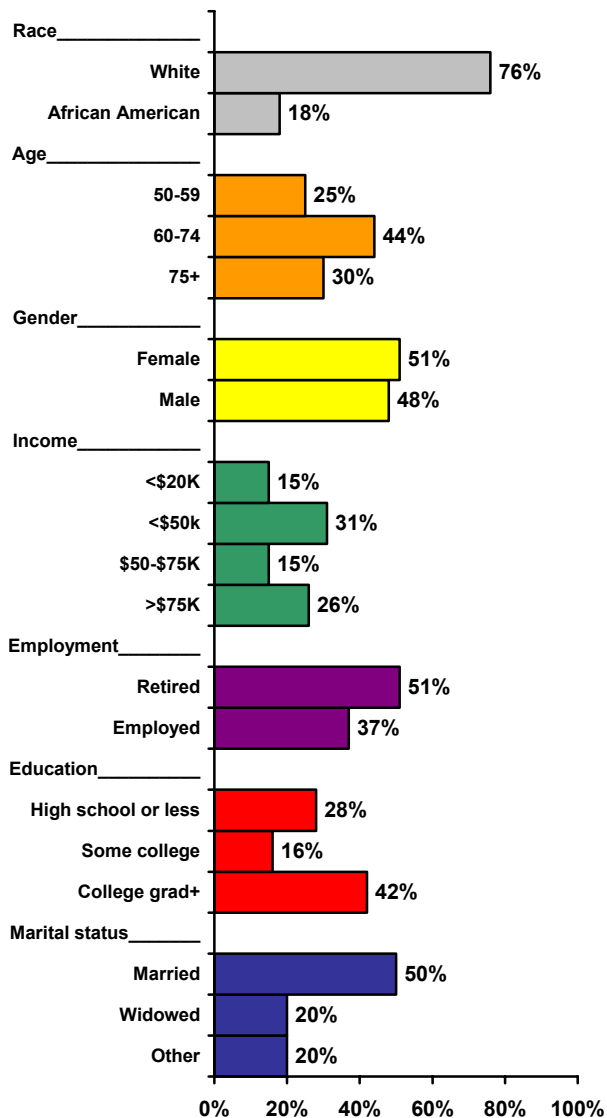
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h. Maintaining access to home and community based long-term care services

Priority	%
Top Priority	36
High Priority	38
Medium Priority	18
Low Priority	3
Not a Priority	1
No Response	5

Members' Demographic Profile (N=989)



Acknowledgements

AARP staff from the Maryland Office, State Affairs, and Knowledge Management contributed to the design and implementation of the study. Special thanks go to AARP staff including Joseph DeMattos Jr., Darrin E. Brown, Kelley Coates-Carter, Gretchen Straw, Rachelle Cummins, Erica Dinger, Darlene Matthews, Cheryl Barnes, Jennifer Leslie and Cassandra Burton.

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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For more information about the full report, contact Erica Dinger (202) 434-6176.