



2010 AARP Illinois Statewide Survey of Members

Fact Sheet Prepared by Aisha Bonner

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2010 AARP Illinois State Wide Member Survey



Introduction

AARP Illinois commissioned a survey to explore member opinion about state legislative priorities, state budget and tax issues, good governance, economic security, work and retirement, livable community and transportation issues, and volunteerism. Results are based on 661 responses to the survey conducted March through May 2010.

State Legislative Issues

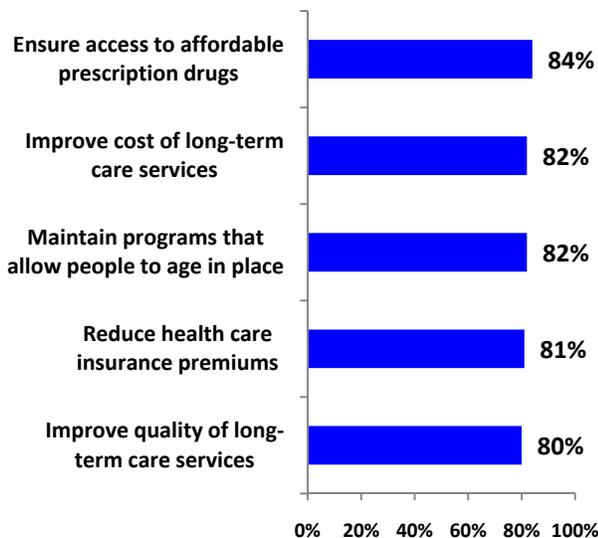
AARP Illinois wants to work on issues that are most important to its members. Almost six in ten of Illinois members stated that AARP Illinois' top priority should be *reduction of health care insurance premiums and co-payments*. Nearly half of members indicate that *ensuring access to affordable prescription drugs* should be AARP Illinois' top priority.

contributors have on the political process. A similar proportion of members, nearly three-quarters (73%), believes that politicians are unduly influenced by groups that make large contributions to their campaigns. Thirty-eight percent believe that AARP Illinois should make campaign finance reform a top priority, while eight in ten believe it should be a high priority.

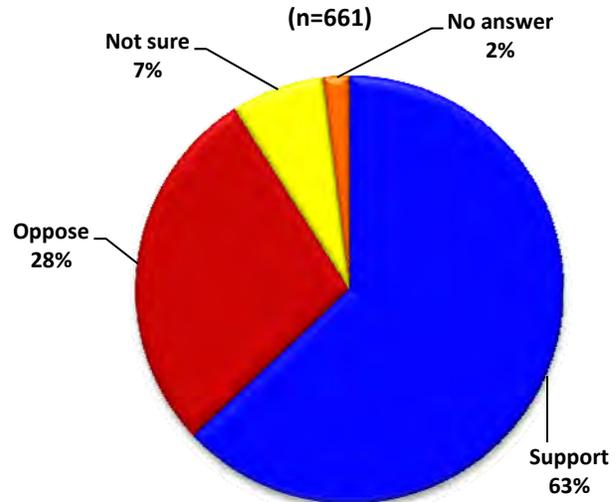
State Budget and Taxes

Sixty-three percent of members strongly support raising taxes if it prevents cuts to home and community-based health and long-term care services. Members also strongly support increases on cigarette taxes (79%) to help raise revenues. While members are concerned with balancing the state budget, they are strongly opposed to measures that would require cuts to education (73%) and community-based health and long-term care services (71%).

Top Five AARP Member Priorities in IL
(n=661)



AARP Member Support/Opposition for Raising Taxes in IL
(n=661)



Good Governance

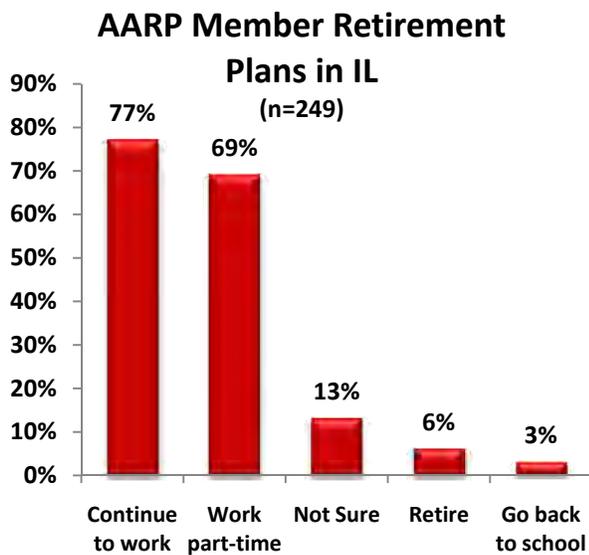
Three-quarters of respondents strongly agree that major changes are needed in campaign finance laws to decrease the influence state campaign

Economic Security and Financial Planning

In the last 12 months, over 50 percent of members stated that they found it more difficult to pay for essential items like food, and medicine and utilities. More than 200,000 members found it difficult to pay their mortgage or rent. Almost 70 percent of members feel they have done a good job of preparing financially for retirement; 64 percent are not confident they will have enough for long-term care, if needed.

Work and Retirement

Over half (55%) of working members are likely to put off retirement and work as long as possible. Furthermore, if the economy does not improve over the next 12 months, 57 percent of AARP members in Illinois still in the workforce indicate they will delay retirement and work longer. Almost 60 percent of members state that maintaining health insurance coverage, paying health insurance premiums and paying for prescription drugs are factors in working past customary retirement age.

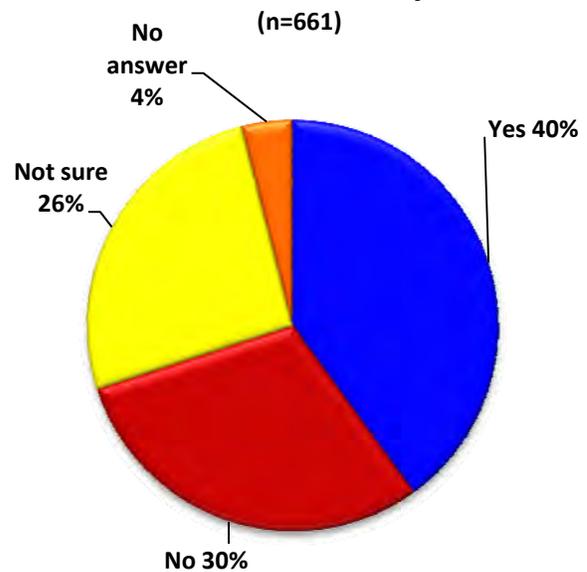


Livable Communities and Transportation

Over 60 percent of AARP members in Illinois say they have lived in their community for over 20 years; most indicate that it is extremely or very important to them to remain in their communities as they grow older. Seventy-one percent of survey respondents said it is important to remain in their communities as they grow older.

An overwhelming number of members (90%) continues to drive. Over a third of members say they are extremely or very informed about transportation services in their community. However, four in ten say they are only somewhat informed and another one in five (19%) say they are not informed about transportation services in their community.

AARP Members on Adequate Transportation Options in Their Community



Methodology

AARP commissioned Questar, Inc. to assist with a mail survey to 2,000 members in Illinois. Between March, 2010 and May, 2010, 2000 surveys were mailed to a random statewide sample of members, stratified by age to select members proportionate to each of three age groups: 50-59, 60-74, and 75+. 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. Of those surveyed, 661 returned completed questionnaires by the survey end date, yielding a response rate of 33 percent. The survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.81 percent at the 95% level of confidence. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would be within ± 3.81 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed. Survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of members by age. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 35.1 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's millions of members and Americans 50+; AARP VIVA su Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an 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.

State Research brings the right knowledge at the right time to our state and national partners in support of their efforts to improve the lives of people age 50+. State Research consultants provide strategic insights and actionable research to attain measurable state and national outcomes.

The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

Acknowledgements

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