

AARP Survey of North Carolina Residents age 50+ on State Legislative Issues

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METHODOLOGY

In December 2010, AARP engaged Universal Survey to conduct a research study among residents aged 50 and older living in North Carolina. The sample was generated using a random digit dialing process designed to reach all households in North Carolina with landline telephone service.

Interviews took place December 16 through December 21, 2010. The total sample of 800 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of $\pm 3.5\%$ 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 ± 3.5 percentage points of the results obtained had everyone in the population been interviewed.

Data were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of age, gender, income and race for the population. Responses are shown for the entire sample, and for key subgroups based on gender, age, income, political party affiliation, level of education, and employment status. Percentages of some questions may exceed 100% due to the rounding or the use of multiple response question formats. Statistical tests have been performed to determine whether observed differences in the tables are statistically significant. This survey of 800 completed interviews yielded a response rate of 13.7 percent, a cooperation rate of 76.4 percent, and a margin of error of ± 3.46 percent. The response, cooperation, and refusal rates were calculated according to AAPOR standards RR3, CCOP3, REF3.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a membership 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, 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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Total N=800

[ME = 3.46 percent]

Issue Priorities

1. What do you feel are the 3 MOST IMPORTANT issues facing people age 50 and over in North Carolina today? [DO NOT READ – USE LIST FOR CODING - RECORD EACH AS FIRST MENTION, SECOND MENTION, THIRD MENTION] => ASK AS 3 QUESTIONS.

	1st Mention	2nd Mention	3rd Mention
Age discrimination	0%	0%	0%
Controlling gov't spending / cutting gov't spending	3%	4%	7%
Cost of Living	4%	5%	4%
Crime	1%	1%	1%
Economy in general	14%	9%	6%
Education	1%	3%	5%
Environment	1%	1%	2%
Family Care-giving [include caring for elderly/disabled relative]	1%	1%	3%
Gas Prices	0%	1%	1%
Health Care	28%	19%	9%
Housing	0%	2%	3%
Immigration	1%	1%	1%
Insurance	3%	3%	1%
Jobs / Employment	18%	11%	6%
Long Term Care [include 'nursing homes/nursing home quality/safety]	0%	1%	1%
Medicaid	1%	1%	1%
Medical Bills	1%	1%	0%
Medicare	2%	3%	2%
Pensions/Retirement	4%	6%	5%
Personal Safety	1%	1%	2%
Prescription Drugs	0%	1%	1%
Religion	1%	1%	1%
Social Security	7%	8%	6%
Taxes	5%	7%	5%
Transportation	0%	1%	1%
War/Terrorism	1%	1%	3%
Other	0%	0%	0%
Not Sure	2%	7%	21%

Overall State Economic Opinion

2. In general, do you think the state of North Carolina is on the right track, on the wrong track, or in the middle? [DO NOT READ RESPONSES AGAIN]

Right track	11%
Wrong track	31%
In the middle	52%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	6%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

3. How much have you heard, read, or seen about North Carolina’s budget issues – would you say a lot, some, not that much, or nothing at all?

A lot	37%
Some	38%
Not that much	19%
Nothing at all	5%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	1%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

4. The state of North Carolina provides many services for its residents. How important is it to you for North Carolina to maintain current levels of funding for [INSERT, READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-h] – Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not important at all to you?

	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
Home care services like meals on wheels or transportation	62%	29%	9%
Education for K-12 students	83%	12%	5%
Public safety including police, prisons, courts	78%	19%	3%
Transportation services such as road and bridge maintenance, public transit	64%	31%	5%
Local government aid for fire and police departments, parks, senior centers	62%	33%	5%
Home care services that provide elderly and disabled with daily assistance	72%	24%	4%
Caregiver services such adult day care and respite care	56%	32%	12%
State colleges and universities	63%	29%	8%

5. Like most states, North Carolina faced a large budget deficit in 2010. To help balance the budget, the state cut some services and raised some taxes. Still, North Carolina will have about a 3-and-a-half-billion-dollar-deficit in 2011. Which of the following statements best represents your opinion on how the Governor and State Legislators should balance the state budget in North Carolina: *The state should:* [READ AND ROTATE]

...cut state services without finding new ways to raise money	12%
...find new ways to raise money without cutting state services	51%
...needs to both cut state services and find new ways to raise money	30%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	7%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Home and Community Based Services

6. **Home and community based care services allow people to remain in their own homes longer by providing services such as home delivered meals and in-home aide services. Would you support or oppose the state of North Carolina providing additional funding for home and community based services, even if it meant an increase in taxes?**

Support	57%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	2%
Oppose	38%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	3%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Caregiver Tax

7. **Some states allow taxpayers to claim a tax credit if they are caring for a parent or other family member who cannot care for themselves due to a physical or mental disability or illness. These tax breaks build on the federal tax credit, which reduces the amount of income taxes a family owes. Typically, caregiver tax credits or deductions are based on family income. Would you support or oppose North Carolina providing family caregivers with a tax break?**

Support	87%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	1%
Oppose	10%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	2%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Q8 - CUT before fielding

9. **Thinking about state taxes, which of the following do you think is the worst or least fair tax in North Carolina – READ AND ROTATE *personal income taxes, state sales taxes, or corporate income taxes*?**

a. Personal income taxes	35%
b. State sales taxes	30%
c. Corporate income taxes	24%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	10%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	1%

Sales Tax

10. **Currently in North Carolina, there is a general state sales tax on goods and services such as alcoholic drinks, boats, cable services and dry cleaning. However, services such as limousine services, barber and beauty shops, or accounting services are not subject to a North Carolina sales tax. To help balance the state budget and avoid cuts to state services, would you support or oppose expanding the state sales tax to include more services?**

Support	61%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	1%
Oppose	34%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	4%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

11. **Would you support or oppose expanding the state sales tax to include more services if it meant the state would lower the overall sales tax rate for all goods and services?**

Support	72%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	1%
Oppose	22%
It depends [VOLUNTEERED]	1%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	4%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Property Tax

12. **North Carolina currently allows low income seniors and disabled homeowners to exclude \$25,000 or one-half of the home's appraised value from their property taxes – whichever is greater. To qualify, their income must be \$25,600 a year or less. Would you support or oppose increasing the income eligibility level for low income seniors and disabled homeowners to \$30,000 even if you yourself were not eligible?**

Support	69%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	1%
Oppose	27%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	2%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Corporate Tax Reform and Income Tax

13. **Currently, corporations headquartered in other states but who generate a profit on their products and services sold in North Carolina are not required to pay North Carolina income taxes on those profits. Would you support or oppose North Carolina requiring corporations headquartered in other states to pay a North Carolina income tax on their sales and profits made in this state?**

Support	74%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	1%
Oppose	21%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	4%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Campaign Finance Reform

14. **Do you support or oppose a ruling by the US Supreme Court made earlier this year that says corporations and unions can spend as much money as they want to help political candidates win elections?**

Support	18%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	2%
Oppose	77%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	3%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Financial Fraud and Regulation

15. **Are you very, somewhat, or not at all concerned about being the victim of a financial or investment crime or scam?**

Very concerned	44%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not at all concerned	24%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	1%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

16. **Should it be a high priority, a medium priority, or a low priority for North Carolina to work on providing greater oversight and regulation of local financial companies and people selling financial products and services?**

High priority	50%
Medium priority	29%
Low priority	10%
Not a priority at all	5%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	6%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Redistricting

By law, every ten years based on U.S. Census results, states must re-draw the boundaries of their political voting districts. This process is called re-dis-trict-ing. In North Carolina, the state legislature draws new voting boundaries for representatives in the U-S Congress and for North Carolina state representatives and senators. Before the 2012 election, new voting boundaries will be redrawn.

17. Some feel that an independent commission to draw voting boundaries or districts would make the election process more partial and fair. Others feel that new voting district boundaries should continue to be drawn by the state legislature. Would you support or oppose the creation of an independent commission for election redistricting?

Support	57%
Neither support or oppose [VOLUNTEERED – DO NOT READ]	2%
Oppose	35%
Not sure [DO NOT READ]	6%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	0%

Demographics

My last few questions are for classification purposes only!

D0. RECORD RESPONDENT GENDER

[IF NECESSARY SAY: “To ensure it is recorded accurately, could you please state your gender?]

1) MALE	46%
2) FEMALE	54%

D1. What is your age as of your last birthday? [RECORD IN YEARS] PLEASE SEE RAW DATA

50-59	57%
65-75	24%
75+	17%

D2. Are you:

1) Married,	69%
2) Not married, but living with your partner	2%
3) Separated	2%
4) Divorced,	7%
5) Widowed,	14%
6) Currently Single and never been married.	4%
7) DON'T KNOW	0%
8) REFUSED	1%

D3. Are you:

1) Self-employed full-time,	7%
2) Self-employed part-time,	4%
3) Employed full-time,	20%
4) Employed part-time,	7%
5) Retired and not working at all,	49%
6) Unemployed, but looking for work	5%
7) Not in the labor force for other reasons?	7%
8) DON'T KNOW	0%
9) REFUSED	1%

D4. [IF D2 = 1 ASK: “Are you or your spouse currently a member of A-A-R-P?” IF D2 = 2 ASK: “Are you or your partner currently a member of A-A-R-P?” OTHERWISE ASK: “Are you currently a member of A-A-R-P?”]

1) Yes	49%
2) No	50%
3) DON'T KNOW	1%
4) REFUSED	0%

D5. Do you consider yourself a...

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF 1-3]

1) Republican,	28%
2) Democrat,	41%
3) Independent,	23%
4) Or, something else?	5%
5) DON'T KNOW	1%
6) REFUSED	2%

D6. What is the highest level of education that you completed? (DO NOT READ)

1) 0 to 12th grade, but with no diploma	12%
2) High school graduate or equivalent	24%
3) Post high school education, but with no degree	8%
4) 2 year college degree	20%
5) 4 year college degree	18%
6) Post-graduate study, but with no degree	5%
7) Graduate or professional degree	13%
8) DON'T KNOW	0%
9) REFUSED	0%

D7. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

1) Yes	2%
2) No	97%
3) DON'T KNOW	0%
4) REFUSED	0%

D8. What is your race? (DO NOT READ)

1) White/Caucasian	75%
2) Black/African American	17%
3) Asian	2%
4) Native American or Alaskan Native	0%
5) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2%
6) Or are you some other race?	2%
7) DON'T KNOW	1%
8) REFUSED	1%

D9. We realize income is a private matter and so rather than ask anything specific about your income, I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that includes your family's income before taxes in 2009. Was it... [READ]

1) Less than \$10,000	3%
2) \$10,000 but less than \$20,000	7%
3) \$20,000 but less than \$35,000	21%
4) \$35,000 but less than \$50,000	14%
5) \$50,000 but less than \$60,000	10%
6) \$60,000 but less than \$75,000	7%
7) \$75,000 or more	28%
8) DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE	3%
9) REFUSED	6%

D10. How often do you go online to access the Internet or send email? Would you say:

1) Several Times a Day	32%
2) About Once a Day	13%
3) 3-5 Days a Week	9%
4) 1-2 Days a Week	8%
5) Once every few weeks	3%
6) Once a Month or Less,	2%
7) Never go online	32%
8) DON'T KNOW	0%
9) REFUSED	1%

D11. Do you have.....:

Cell only service	2%
Landline service,	15%
OR both	82%
No phone	1%

D13. What is your 5-digit zip code? *PLEASE SEE RAW DATA*

— — — — —

DON'T KOW = 99998

REFUSED = 99999

THANKS AND HAVE A GOOD DAY / NIGHT



AARP

Knowledge Management

For more information, please contact Jennifer Sauer at:

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