Transportation: A Survey of AARP Members in New Mexico

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A Survey of AARP Members in New Mexico

Report Prepared by Kelly Ko and Joanne Binette
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.

Acknowledgements

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Background

Transportation: A Survey of AARP Members in New Mexico explores the attitudes and opinions of 972 AARP members in New Mexico about transportation. More specifically, the survey examines transportation preferences of members and their opinions and experiences with community transportation programs and services. In addition, this survey gauges state legislative priorities of AARP members in New Mexico.

This report is part of a larger mail survey of 972 New Mexico AARP members. The full annotated questionnaire is contained in the appendix to this report. Throughout the report, statistics representing member responses are reported in percentages. In some instances, percentages are small and may not seem to represent a significant proportion of members, yet when projected to the total New Mexico membership the actual number of people may be substantial. As of September 2006, the approximate number of AARP members in New Mexico was 250,300.

Highlights

- More than nine in ten members drive when they need to go somewhere.
- Half of members are not aware of Supplemental Transportation Programs in their community.
- Nine in ten members are satisfied with how they get around in their community.
- Seven in ten report that if they were no longer able to drive it would be difficult to get around in their current neighborhood.
- Despite less than favorable ratings on transportation characteristics in their community, seven in ten members rate their community positively when it comes down to being able to get to most places they wish to go.

1 Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Findings

Transportation

Nine in ten members in New Mexico drive when they need to go somewhere and one in five reports walking or getting a ride with family or friends.

Nine in ten members report that they are most likely to drive when needing to go somewhere, followed by one in five who report walking and getting a ride with family or friends. Members in New Mexico are least likely to: take a taxi, use transportation provided for people with disabilities, or ride a senior or community van.

In General When You Need to Go Somewhere How Do You Get There?  
(N = 972)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting a ride with family/friends</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior/community van</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation provided to people with disabilities</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transportation: A Survey of AARP Members in New Mexico, November 2006
Half of New Mexico members are not aware of a Supplemental Transportation Program in their community.

Some communities have personal transportation systems for those persons who cannot access ordinary kinds of transportation because of health or financial limitations. These programs are referred to as Supplemental Transportation Programs. Members were asked whether they were aware of a Supplemental Transportation Program in their community. Half of members responded no (49%), while roughly four in ten (38%) responded yes, and one in ten is not sure (11%).

Nine in ten members in New Mexico are satisfied with how they get around in their community.

Members were asked how satisfied they were with how they get around in their community when they want or need to go someplace. Nine in ten are satisfied with their transportation options.

Overall Satisfaction With How You Get Around When You Want or Need to Go Someplace (N = 972)

- Very satisfied: 43%
- Somewhat satisfied: 20%
- Not very or not at all satisfied: 7%
- No answer: 3%
- Extremely satisfied: 27%
Seven in ten members in New Mexico say that it would be difficult to continue to live in their current neighborhood if they were no longer able to drive.

Members were asked if they were no longer able to drive how difficult it would be to continue to live in their current neighborhood. Seven in ten members say that it would be difficult. Fifteen percent indicate that it would be neither difficult nor easy, and just over one in ten reports that it would be easy.

**Difficulty of Living in Current Neighborhood if You Were No Longer Able to Drive***

(N = 972)

- Very difficult: 35%
- Somewhat difficult: 34%
- Neither difficult nor easy: 15%
- Somewhat easy: 8%
- Very easy: 5%
- No answer: 2%

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Seven in ten members in New Mexico rate their community as good when it comes to being able to get to most of the places they wish to go.

Members were asked to rate their community on several characteristics. Seven in ten members rate their community as good when it comes to being able to get to most places they wish to go. Three in ten report that their community is good when it comes to offering dependable public transportation and offering convenient transportation for people with disabilities or health problems. Only one in five members reports their community provides a wide variety of services to maintain independence.
New Mexico AARP Members’ Rating on Community Characteristics
(N = 972)

- Being able to get to places you wish to go
  - Very good: 36%
  - Good: 36%
  - Fair: 13%
  - Poor: 6%
  - Very poor: 3%
  - Not sure/No answer: 11%

- Convenient transportation for people with disabilities/health problems
  - Very good: 8%
  - Good: 20%
  - Fair: 22%
  - Poor: 11%
  - Very poor: 11%
  - Not sure/No answer: 28%

- Dependable public transportation
  - Very good: 7%
  - Good: 22%
  - Fair: 23%
  - Poor: 14%
  - Very poor: 17%
  - Not sure/No answer: 21%

- Variety of services to maintain independence
  - Very good: 6%
  - Good: 16%
  - Fair: 22%
  - Poor: 15%
  - Very poor: 12%
  - Not sure/No answer: 33%

**Legislative Priorities**

Members list ensuring Social Security, making prescription drugs more affordable, and reducing the money in the political process as top priorities for AARP New Mexico.

Members were asked to indicate how much of a priority it should be for AARP New Mexico to work on various legislative issues. Members were given a list of 16 different issues. The most frequent issue that members mention as a top priority was ensuring that Social Security continues to provide a guaranteed base of retirement income. More than half mention making prescription drugs more affordable, reducing the influence of money in the political process, strengthening Medicare as a base for retirement health coverage, and protecting consumers from identity theft as top legislative priorities for AARP New Mexico.
Top and High Priority Legislative Issues for New Mexico Members
(N=972)

- Social Security: 66% (Top priority), 23% (High priority)
- Making prescription drugs more affordable: 57% (Top priority), 26% (High priority)
- Reducing the influence of money in the political process: 57% (Top priority), 20% (High priority)
- Strengthening Medicare: 53% (Top priority), 29% (High priority)
- Protecting consumers from identity theft: 52% (Top priority), 25% (High priority)
- Protecting consumers against fraudulent business practices: 47% (Top priority), 27% (High priority)
- Quantity, quality and conservation of state water resources: 42% (Top priority), 34% (High priority)
- Enforcing quality regulations for long-term care services: 37% (Top priority), 39% (High priority)
- Health insurance coverage for the uninsured: 34% (Top priority), 30% (High priority)
- Affordability of utility services: 34% (Top priority), 36% (High priority)
- Access to information comparing prescription drugs: 34% (Top priority), 35% (High priority)
- Expanding Medicaid: 31% (Top priority), 32% (High priority)
- Expanding funding for housing options: 27% (Top priority), 36% (High priority)
- Access to affordable housing: 25% (Top priority), 31% (High priority)
- Expanding long-term care services: 24% (Top priority), 38% (High priority)
- Expanding funding for alternative public/private transportation services: 22% (Top priority), 34% (High priority)
**Conclusions**

The issue of transportation seems to be a relatively positive experience for most members in the state of New Mexico. The vast majority of members still drive when they need to go somewhere, and one in five walks or gets a ride with family or friends. Half of members in New Mexico are unfamiliar with Supplemental Transportation Programs that provide transportation for those with health or financial limitations, likely due to the fact that few of them require such services. In addition, the majority is satisfied with how they get around in the community, and rate their community positively when it comes to being able to get to most places they wish to go. These results suggest that transportation does not appear to be a pressing issue among members in New Mexico. However, when asked if they were no longer able to drive, seven in ten report that it would be difficult to live in their current neighborhood. This may be attributed to the fact that only three in ten report positively on the dependability of their community's public transportation system. These results suggest that although transportation is not a pressing issue for current members, it may be a potential issue when members are no longer able to drive.

In general, members’ legislative priorities are consistent with AARP’s strategic priorities in New Mexico. Specifically, members report that the highest priorities for AARP New Mexico should be Social Security, prescription drugs, and reducing the influence of money in the political process. The influence of money in the political process was not included in previous surveys and in 2006 emerged as one of the top priorities mentioned by members. The emergence of “money in the political process” suggests that this may be an increasingly important issue for members in New Mexico.

**Methodology**

AARP conducted the 2006 AARP New Mexico Legislative Issues Survey from June 9 through July 7, 2006. A sample of 2,000 AARP members in New Mexico, 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. Forty-nine percent of the sampled New Mexico members returned surveys by the cut-off date, providing 972 useable surveys for analysis. Thus, the survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.2 percent. Survey responses were weighted to reflect the distribution of the age segments in the member population of New Mexico. As of September 2006, the approximate number of AARP members in New Mexico was 250,300.

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2 This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 3.2 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every AARP member in New Mexico age 50 or older had been surveyed.
### Demographic Characteristics

(N=972)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-74</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$20K</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20K-$50K</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50K+</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school or less</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College grad+</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital status</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hispanic</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annotated Questionnaire
State Legislative Issues

1. To be effective, AARP New Mexico wants to work on the most important issues facing New Mexico AARP members. 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 New Mexico?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Top Priority</th>
<th>High Priority</th>
<th>Medium Priority</th>
<th>Low Priority</th>
<th>Not a Priority</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Expanding access to home and community based long-term care services</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Expanding funding for alternative public/private transportation services for those unable to drive</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Maintaining the affordability of utility services</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Expanding Medicaid, the government program that provides health, including mental and emotional conditions, and long-term care for low income people and many nursing home residents</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Protecting consumers against fraudulent and deceptive business practices that can reduce their retirement savings and financial assets</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Access to affordable housing</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Protecting consumers from identity theft</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Making prescription drugs more affordable</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Quantity, quality, and conservation of state water resources</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Expanding funding for housing options that allow individuals to remain in their communities as they age</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. (CONTINUED) To be effective, AARP New Mexico wants to work on the most important issues facing New Mexico AARP members. Keeping in mind what's most important to you, how much of a priority should it be for AARP to work on the following legislative issues in New Mexico?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Top Priority</th>
<th>High Priority</th>
<th>Medium Priority</th>
<th>Low Priority</th>
<th>Not a Priority</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ensuring that Social Security continues to provide a guaranteed base of retirement income</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Strengthening Medicare as a base for retirement health coverage</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Enforcing quality regulations for long-term care services</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Access to information that compares the safety, effectiveness, and costs of prescription drugs</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Reducing the influence of money in the political process</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Utilities

2. Traditional telephone service refers to service received through a telephone line physically connected to your home that enables you to make and receive local and long-distance calls.

How satisfied are you with your traditional telephone service?

- 9% Extremely satisfied
- 38% Very satisfied
- 33% Somewhat satisfied
- 10% Not very satisfied
- 4% Not at all satisfied
- 4% Do not have traditional telephone service
- 2% No answer

3. Currently, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission sets limits on the prices telephone companies can charge for basic local telephone service. The New Mexico legislature is considering changing the law to allow telephone companies more flexibility to set their own prices for basic local telephone service.

How strongly would you support or oppose a change in the law?

- 7% Strongly support
- 7% Somewhat support
- 13% Neither support nor oppose
- 19% Somewhat oppose
- 53% Strongly oppose
- 2% No answer
4. How important is it for AARP New Mexico to work with the state legislature to maintain affordable, reliable, and high quality traditional telephone service?

- 33% Extremely important
- 41% Very important
- 17% Somewhat important
- 5% Not very important
- 2% Not at all important
- 2% No answer

5. Are you aware of any assistance programs in New Mexico that help rural residents currently without telephone service get up to $25,000 to install a phone line to their residence?

- 4% Yes
- 88% No
- 7% Not sure
- 2% No answer

6. Are you aware of any assistance programs in New Mexico that help make utility bills, such as telephone, electricity and gas, more affordable to households with low-incomes?

- 50% Yes
- 40% No
- 8% Not sure
- 2% No answer

If yes, have you ever applied for assistance programs in New Mexico to help you pay your utility bills? (n=487)

- 10% Yes
- 87% No
- * Not sure
- 3% No answer

7. How strongly would you support or oppose a state program that uses a small portion of all electric utility payments to help consumers use less energy?

- 26% Strongly support
- 31% Somewhat support
- 25% Neither support nor oppose (SKIP to Question 9)
- 6% Somewhat oppose (SKIP to Question 9)
- 8% Strongly oppose (SKIP to Question 9)
- 5% No answer

8. Would you still support having a state program to help consumers use less energy, even if it meant you had to pay an additional $1.25 each month on your electric bill to support the program? (n=547)

- 63% Yes
- 22% No
- 15% Not sure
- 1% No answer

9. If there was a state program to help consumers use less energy, should all customers, including business, industrial and commercial electricity users, contribute financially to the program?

- 69% Yes
- 15% No
- 13% Not sure
- 4% No answer
10. How strongly would you support or oppose the following actions to conserve the water supply in New Mexico?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Strongly Support ▼</th>
<th>Somewhat Support ▼</th>
<th>Somewhat Oppose ▼</th>
<th>Strongly Oppose ▼</th>
<th>Not Sure ▼</th>
<th>No Answer ▼</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Placing limits on private domestic wells ..................................</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. “Water Banking” to more freely buy and sell water rights ................</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Increasing taxes for purchase of additional public wells, water rights, storage, and water lines ....................................................</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Placing limits on growth and development ...................................</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Enforcing mandatory water conservation .......................................</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Increasing taxes to treat contaminated water sources ...........................</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Affordable Housing

11. How worried are you that you might not be able to get safe, affordable housing in New Mexico?

7% Extremely worried
9% Very worried
24% Somewhat worried
30% Not very worried
28% Not at all worried
2% No answer

12. In your opinion, is there currently a lack of affordable housing in New Mexico?

42% Yes ►►►► If yes, how serious is the lack of affordable housing? (n=409)
24% No 20% Extremely serious
31% Not sure 44% Very serious
3% No answer 31% Somewhat serious
1% Not very serious
0% Not at all serious
5% No Answer

13. During the past five years, has it become easier or harder for people like you to find decent, affordable housing, or has there been no change?

4% It’s gotten easier
38% There’s been no change
30% It’s gotten harder
26% Not sure
3% No answer
Consumer Financial Privacy

14. Personal information about individuals’ banking, insurance, securities, credit transactions, buying patterns, and use of telecommunications and medical services is collected by both businesses and government agencies.

How important is it to you that your personal, financial information is shared only with your permission?

- 86% Extremely important
- 9% Very important
- 2% Somewhat important
- 1% Not very important
- 1% Not at all important
- 2% No answer

15. Identify theft can occur when someone gets access to your bank accounts, checking accounts, or credit cards and then uses them fraudulently to run up bills. Identity theft can also occur when someone gets personal information about you – such as your name, Social Security number, date of birth, or mother’s maiden name – and uses it to open new bank accounts, open new loans, or make large purchases in your name.

How concerned are you about being a victim of identity theft?

- 54% Extremely concerned
- 26% Very concerned
- 16% Somewhat concerned
- 2% Not very concerned
- * Not at all concerned
- 1% No answer

16. How strongly do you support or oppose New Mexico stiffening penalties for identity theft?

- 92% Strongly support
- 5% Somewhat support
- 1% Neither support nor oppose
- * Somewhat oppose
- 0% Strongly oppose
- 2% No answer

17. In the past two years, have you requested a report of your credit history from a credit bureau?

- 43% Yes
- 53% No
- 2% Not sure
- 2% No answer

18. How likely are you to order a personal credit history report in the next twelve months?

- 20% Extremely likely
- 22% Very likely
- 21% Somewhat likely
- 25% Not very likely
- 9% Not at all likely
- 2% No answer
19. The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows consumers to request a free copy of their credit history every 12 months from three specified credit reporting agencies.

Knowing about this opportunity, how likely are you to order a credit history report in the next twelve months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely likely</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very likely</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat likely</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very likely</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all likely</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. A credit or security freeze blocks unauthorized access to your credit files without your consent. If you want to open a new credit account or get a new loan, you can lift the freeze on your credit files. You can also lift the freeze for a period of time or you can lift it for a specific creditor. However, some argue that this may limit your ability to make purchases quickly or spontaneously.

How strongly would you support or oppose New Mexico enacting legislation that permits you to place a security freeze on your credit report?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Long-Term Care

Long-term care refers to care provided over an extended period of time in a nursing home, at home, or in a community setting. People of all ages who are frail, ill, or have a disability who need assistance with regular daily activities, such as getting dressed, bathing, preparing meals or eating may receive long-term care services.

Long-term care can be provided in a nursing home, or in home and community-based setting, such as a person’s home by a nurse, a nurse’s aide, or family, or in an assisted-living facility.

21. In the past five years, have you or any member of your family (spouse, parents, children, siblings, or grandparents, etc.) needed long-term care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. How informed are you about long-term care services provided at home and in community-based settings in your community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informed Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very well informed</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairly well informed</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not well informed</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
23. How informed are you about nursing homes in your community?
   
   - 11% Very well informed
   - 33% Fairly well informed
   - 55% Not well informed
   - 1% No answer

24. How likely is it that you or a family member may need long-term care services in the next five years?
   
   - 12% Extremely likely
   - 15% Very likely
   - 28% Somewhat likely
   - 27% Not very likely
   - 6% Not at all likely
   - 11% Not sure
   - 1% No answer

25. If you or a family member needed long-term care services, how important would it be to you to have services that would allow you or your family member to stay at home for as long as possible?
   
   - 59% Extremely important
   - 30% Very important
   - 7% Somewhat important
   - 1% Not very important
   - 1% Not at all important
   - 1% Not sure
   - 1% No answer

26. If you needed long-term care services, would you prefer to receive those services in any of the following ways?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
<th>No Answer (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have family and friends provide all the care at home</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay a nurse or a personal care aide to provide care at home</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have care provided in a home-like setting, such as an assisted living</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facility, where housing, food, and personal help with bathing, dressing,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and other activities are provided to those who need them</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have care provided in a nursing home</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other way, SPECIFY:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27. Currently in New Mexico, there is a two-year waiting period for a person who is eligible for Medicaid to receive long-term care services in their home or in a community-based setting. How strongly do you support or oppose increasing state funds for home and community-based care to decrease this waiting period?
   
   - 53% Strongly support
   - 24% Somewhat support
   - 14% Neither support nor oppose (SKIP to Question 29)
   - 3% Somewhat oppose (SKIP to Question 29)
   - 2% Strongly oppose (SKIP to Question 29)
   - 4% No answer
28. Would you continue to support increasing state funds for home and community-based care to decrease the waiting period, even if it meant an increase in the amount of taxes you pay? (n=755)

66% Yes
12% No
20% Not sure
2% No answer

Campaign Finance Reform

29. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?
Politicians are overly influenced by individuals and groups that make large contributions to their campaigns.

76% Strongly agree
13% Somewhat agree
5% Neither agree nor disagree
2% Somewhat disagree
2% Strongly disagree
2% No answer

30. How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?
Major changes are needed in New Mexico’s campaign finance laws to reduce the influence campaign contributors have on the political process.

70% Strongly agree
17% Somewhat agree
7% Neither agree nor disagree
2% Somewhat disagree
1% Strongly disagree
2% No answer

31. How much of a priority should it be for AARP New Mexico to advocate for reforms aimed at reducing the influence of money in state politics?

45% Top priority
34% High priority
11% Medium priority
3% Low priority
2% Not a priority
3% Not sure
2% No answer

32. “Clean Elections” laws that have passed in Maine and Arizona have given candidates for office the option to run using public funds exclusively, rather than relying on money from private donors and interest groups. To qualify for public funds, the candidates must first demonstrate popular support among voters in their districts in the form of a required number of signatures and agree to a number of rules including participating in debates and limiting their spending.

Two-thirds of the Maine legislature is now made up of legislators who ran for office using this “Clean Elections” system. Establishing a similar system for all New Mexico legislative and gubernatorial elections is estimated to cost each taxpayer in New Mexico $5 per year.
32. (continued) How strongly would you support or oppose the State of New Mexico creating and adequately financing a “Clean Elections” system?

60% Strongly support
21% Somewhat support
10% Neither support nor oppose
3% Somewhat oppose
4% Strongly oppose
3% No answer

Transportation

33. In general, when you need to go somewhere, do you usually get there by ……?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Walking</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Driving</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Getting a ride with family or friends</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Taking a taxi</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Taking public transportation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Taking a Senior or Community Van</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Taking transportation provided to people with disabilities who cannot use or get to public transportation</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Some other way, SPECIFY:__________________________________________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34. Some communities have personal transportation systems for those persons who cannot access ordinary kinds of transportation because of health or financial limitations. These programs are referred to as Supplemental Transportation Programs. Are you aware of a Supplemental Transportation Program in your community?

38% Yes
49% No
11% Not sure
2% No answer

35. Overall, how satisfied are you with how you get around in your community when you want or need to go someplace?

27% Extremely satisfied
43% Very satisfied
20% Somewhat satisfied
5% Not very satisfied
2% Not at all satisfied
3% No answer

36. If you were no longer able to drive, how difficult would it be for you to continue to live in your current neighborhood?

35% Very difficult
34% Somewhat difficult
15% Neither difficult nor easy
8% Somewhat easy
5% Very easy
2% No answer
37. Please rate your community on the following characteristics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Very Poor</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Being able to get to most of the places you wish to go</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Offering dependable public transportation</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Offering convenient transportation for people with disabilities or health problems</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Providing a wide variety of services to help you maintain your independence as you grow older...</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About You

The following questions are for classification purposes only, and will be kept entirely confidential.

38. Are you male or female?

- 47% Male
- 50% Female
- 3% No answer

39. What is your age as of your last birthday? ________ (in years)

- 29% 50-59
- 42% 60-74
- 22% 75+
- 8% No answer

40. What is your current marital status?

- 57% Married
- 3% Not married, living with partner
- 1% Separated
- 14% Divorced
- 17% Widowed
- 5% Never married
- 4% No answer

41. Thinking about your state elections for New Mexico Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, how often would you say you vote?

- 60% Always
- 24% Most of the time
- 4% About half of the time
- 4% Seldom
- 5% Never
- 3% No answer

Transportation: A Survey of AARP Members in New Mexico, November 2006
42. What is the highest level of education that you completed?
   - 7% 0-12\textsuperscript{th} grade (no diploma)
   - 20% High school graduate or equivalent
   - 18% Post high school education (no degree)
   - 8% 2-year college degree
   - 11% 4-year college degree
   - 8% Post-graduate study (no degree)
   - 20% Graduate or professional degree(s)
   - 8% No answer

43. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
   - 6% Self-employed full-time
   - 5% Self-employed part-time
   - 21% Employed full-time
   - 6% Employed part-time
   - 54% Retired, not working at all
   - 4% Not in the labor force for other reasons
   - 1% Unemployed, but looking for work
   - 4% No answer

44. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?
   - 18% Yes
   - 76% No
   - * Not sure
   - 5% No answer

45. What race do you consider yourself?
   - 85% White or Caucasian
   - 1% Black or African American
   - 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native
   - 1% Asian
   - * Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
   - 7% Other
   - 6% No answer

46. What is your 5-digit ZIP Code? WRITE IN YOUR ZIP CODE:___ ___ ___ ___ ___

47. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2005?
   - 5% Less than $10,000
   - 14% $10,000 but less than $20,000
   - 20% $20,000 but less than $35,000
   - 15% $35,000 but less than $50,000
   - 8% $50,000 but less than $60,000
   - 8% $60,000 but less than $75,000
   - 9% $75,000 but less than $100,000
   - 9% $100,000 or more
   - 4% Not sure
   - 9% No answer
48. Do you own or rent your primary residence?

- 88% Own
- 8% Rent
- 2% Other
- 2% No answer

49. What type of home is your primary residence?

- 78% Single family home
- 10% Mobile home
- 3% Duplex or townhouse
- 4% Apartment
- 2% Condominium or coop
- 1% Other
- 2% No answer

Thank you for completing this survey.
Please use the postage-paid envelope and return it to
State Member Research, AARP, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049,
AARP
Knowledge Management
For more information please contact Joanne Binette at:
202.434.6303 or by email at: jbinette@aarp.org