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AARP Election Watch: Pulse of a Generation

November 6, 2006

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November 2006

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.

Executive Summary

In late October 2006, AARP commissioned a national telephone survey (titled AARP Election Watch: Pulse of a Generation) of a representative sample of Boomer+ or people ages 42 and older, who constitute the segment of the population who are most likely to vote. In fact, 90 percent of respondents in the current survey report they are already registered to vote and 86 percent are likely voters. A total of 1,500 interviews were conducted.

Issue of the Week: Government Spending

A total of 83 percent of boomer+ respondents say the rising budget deficit will be a serious consideration in their voting decision in the upcoming election (40% *very serious* and 43% *somewhat serious*). Yet 76 percent of these likely voters say they are likely to vote for a candidate who supports increasing spending on domestic issues such as healthcare, Medicare and Social Security.

A total of 47 percent of all respondents would support creating a national sales tax between 3 percent and 5 percent dedicated to paying healthcare costs for children and the uninsured, while 40 percent would oppose such a tax.

Voting Participation

Self reported voter registration is very high (90%). Respondents say that they are also *very likely* to vote this November (86%).

Survey respondents report voting with regularity – 59 percent say they *always* vote and 27 percent say they *nearly always* vote. Sixty-five percent of those over 60 say that they *always* vote compared to 49 percent of younger boomers (ages 42 to 50) and 56 percent older boomers (ages 51 to 60).

Interest in the upcoming election is high. Six in 10 (63%) say they are *very interested* in this year's election.

As of October 29th, with just nine days before the election, 59 percent say they have given *quite a lot* of thought to the upcoming election, and less than half (45%) say they have not yet decided which candidate they will vote for in their House of Representatives race. Less than 4 in 10 (38%) have not yet decided which candidate they will vote for in their U.S. Senate race.

Americans are narrowly divided between basing their vote for congressional candidates on “bringing home the bacon” to their congressional district (41%) and agreement with the candidate's position on major national issues (45%).

On the other hand, more say a candidate's position on one or two key issues (47%) matters most when they vote rather than the personal qualities of the candidates (35%).

AARP Election Watch: Pulse of a Generation

November 6, 2006

As the upcoming mid-term elections draw near, AARP wanted to take the pulse of the public's opinion on issues that our members have indicated they want to hear about in the national and state public discourse. AARP also wanted to determine how much attention people are paying to the elections and what they consider when making their voting decisions.

This *AARP Election Watch: Pulse of a Generation* report is the final in a series of 9 reports scheduled for release each week leading up to the mid-term elections. The first eight reports dealt with the issues of ID theft, affordability of prescription drugs, Social Security (fielded and reported twice: week of 9/25 & 10/23), consumer privacy, healthcare coverage, long-term care and Medicare. This report is about government spending. Additionally, this report includes a weekly reporting of changes in boomer+ voters' level of interest and opinions leading up to Election Day.

The current schedule is below:

Week of 9/11	Identity Theft **RELEASED
Week of 9/18	Rx Affordability **RELEASED
Week of 9/25	Social Security **RELEASED
Week of 10/2	Privacy **RELEASED
Week of 10/9	Healthcare Coverage **RELEASED
Week of 10/16	Long-term Care **RELEASED
Week of 10/23	Social Security **RELEASED
Week of 10/30	Medicare **RELEASED
Week of 11/6	Government Spending **CURRENT

In late October 2006, AARP commissioned a national telephone survey of a representative sample of people ages 42 and older, who constitute the segment of the population who are most likely to vote. In fact, 90 percent of respondents in the current survey report they are already registered to vote and 86 percent are likely voters. Moreover, 59 percent say they *always* vote and another 27 percent say they *nearly always* vote. A total of 1,500 interviews were conducted.

The survey methodology is described at the end of this report, and a tabulated questionnaire is appended.

AARP is non-partisan and we do not support, oppose or give money to any candidates or political parties. We educate Americans on peace-of-mind issues important to our families so that they can make informed choices when they vote.

Key Findings

Government Spending

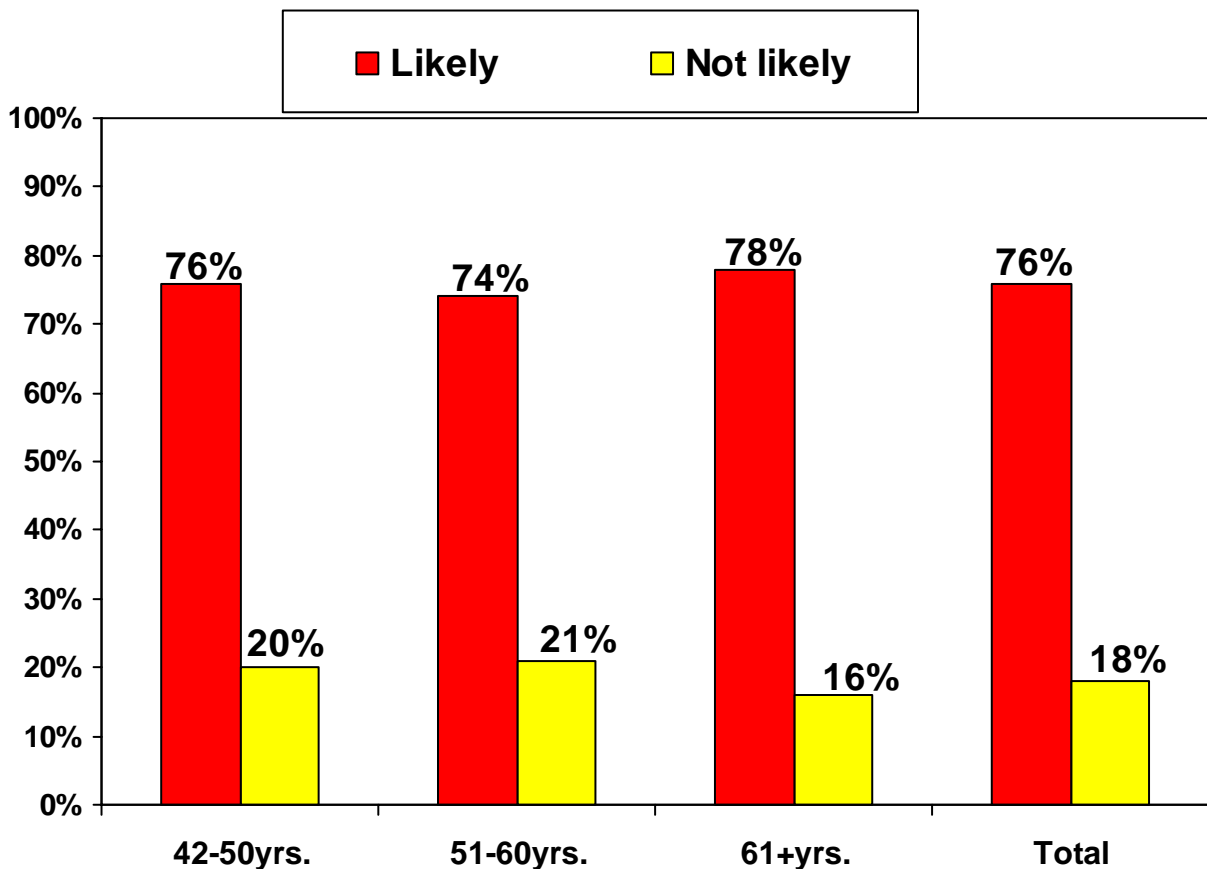
The rising budget deficit is a serious voting consideration to a substantial majority of boomer+ respondents. A total of 83 percent say the rising budget deficit will be a serious consideration in their voting decision in the upcoming election (40% *very serious* and 43% *somewhat serious*). Yet 76 percent say they are likely to vote for a candidate who supports increasing spending on domestic issues such as healthcare, Medicare and Social Security (see Figure 1). Thirty-eight percent reports they are *very likely* to vote for a candidate who supports increasing spending on healthcare, Medicare and Social Security and another 38 percent say they are *somewhat likely*. Approximately one-fifth of all likely voters (18%) say they are not likely to vote for a candidate who supports increasing domestic spending for healthcare, Medicare and Social Security (11% *not very likely* and 7% *not at all likely*).

A greater percentage of likely voters ages 61 and older (43%) than boomer+ likely voters report they are very likely to vote for a candidate who supports increasing domestic spending for healthcare, Medicare and Social Security (35% ages 42-50 and 33% ages 51-60).

Figure 1

**** Includes only likely voters
(n=1,361)**

How Likely Are You to Vote For a Candidate Who Supports Increasing Domestic Spending For Healthcare, Medicare And Social Security?

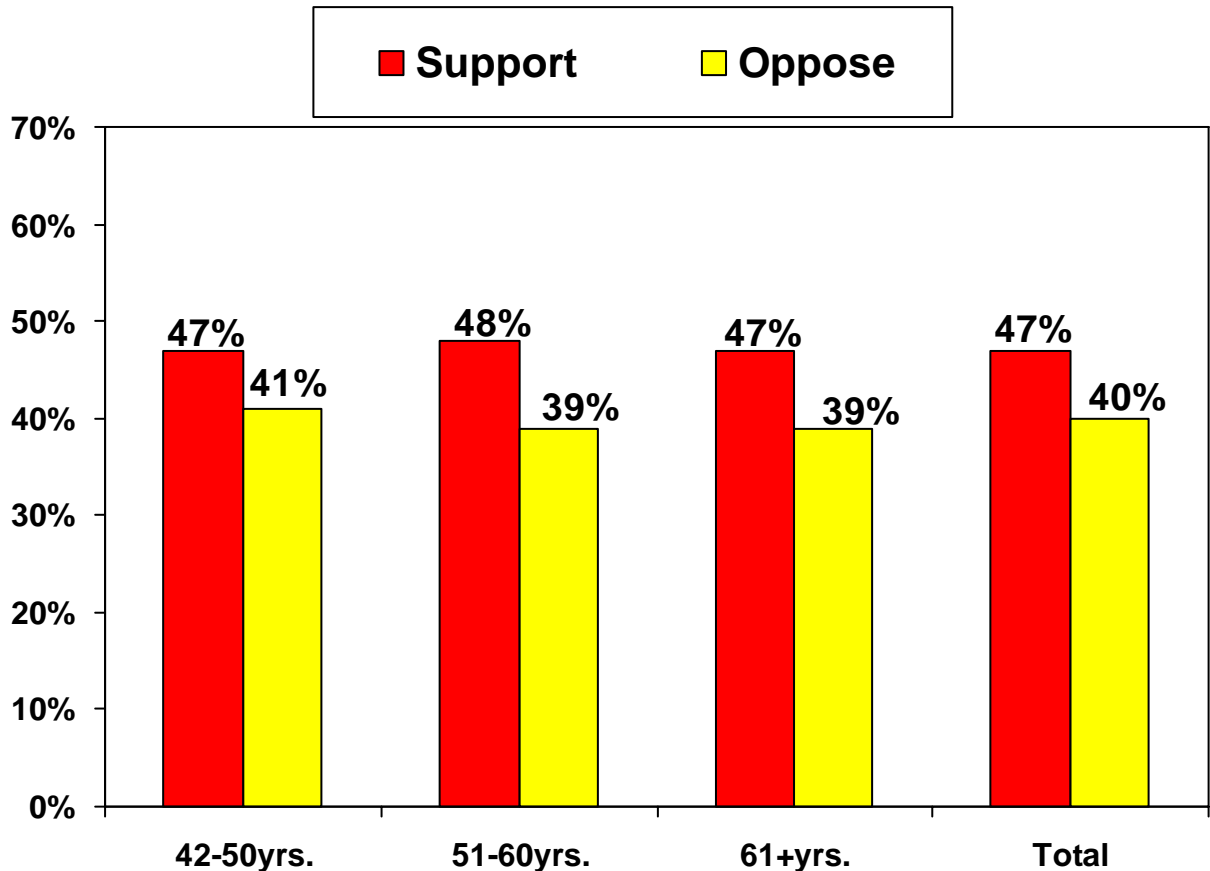


A majority of boomer+ respondents (52%) favor increasing spending on domestic issues such as healthcare, Medicare and Social Security over holding down the federal budget deficit (38%). However, both younger boomers (59% ages 42-50) and older boomers (55% ages 51-60) are more likely to favor increased spending on these domestic issues than people ages 61 and older (48%).

A total of 47 percent support creating a national sales tax between 3 percent and 5 percent dedicated to paying healthcare costs for children and the uninsured (see Figure 2). Younger boomers (24% ages 42-50) are just as likely as older boomers (26% ages 51-60) and respondents 61 and older (23%) to *strongly support* creating a national sales tax to pay for healthcare costs. Less than one-quarter of all respondents *somewhat support* this 3 to 5 percent tax dedicated to paying healthcare costs for children and the uninsured (23% ages 42-50, 22% ages 51-60, and 24% ages 61+).

Approximately one-quarter of respondents (26%) *strongly oppose* creating a national sales tax between 3 percent and 5 percent dedicated to paying healthcare costs for children and the uninsured (23% ages 42-50, 28% ages 51-60, and 26% ages 61+) (see Figure 2). A lesser percentage of respondents across all age groups (14%) *somewhat oppose* creating such a tax (18% ages 42-50, 11% ages 51-60, and 14% ages 61+).

Figure 2
(n=1,500)
Support or Oppose Creating a 3% to 5% National Sales Tax Dedicated to Paying Healthcare Costs For Children And The Uninsured



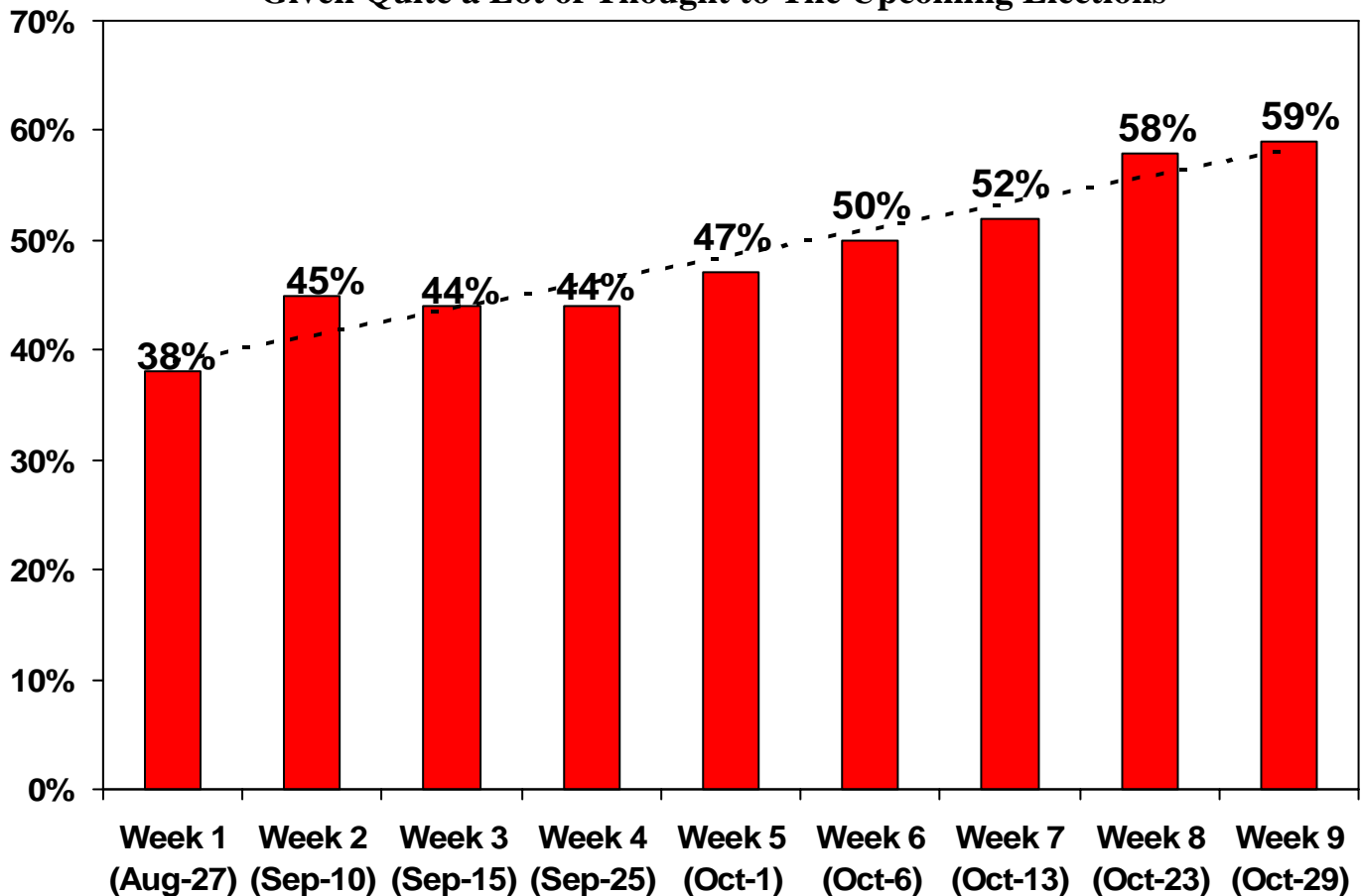
Interest in the Mid-Term Elections

There is a considerable amount of interest in the mid-term elections. Approximately 9 in 10 respondents (88%) are interested in the upcoming elections. Nearly two-thirds are *very interested* (63%) and one-quarter are *somewhat interested* (25%). Respondents ages 51 and older are more likely to say they are *very interested* in the upcoming election than younger respondents (53% ages 42-50, 65% ages 51-60, and 67% ages 61+).

Furthermore, a greater percentage of respondents report they have given *quite a lot* of thought (59%) to these upcoming elections than those who have given *only a little* thought (28%) or no thought at all yet (12%) to the elections. In fact, over the past two months the percentage of respondents who say they have given *quite a lot* of thought to the upcoming elections has risen 21 percentage points; from 38 percent in late August to 59 percent in late October (see Figure 3). In the last five weeks of polling, the percentage of respondents who have given *quite a lot* of thought to the upcoming elections has risen 12 percentage points from 47 percent to 59 percent.

Figure 3
(n=1,500)

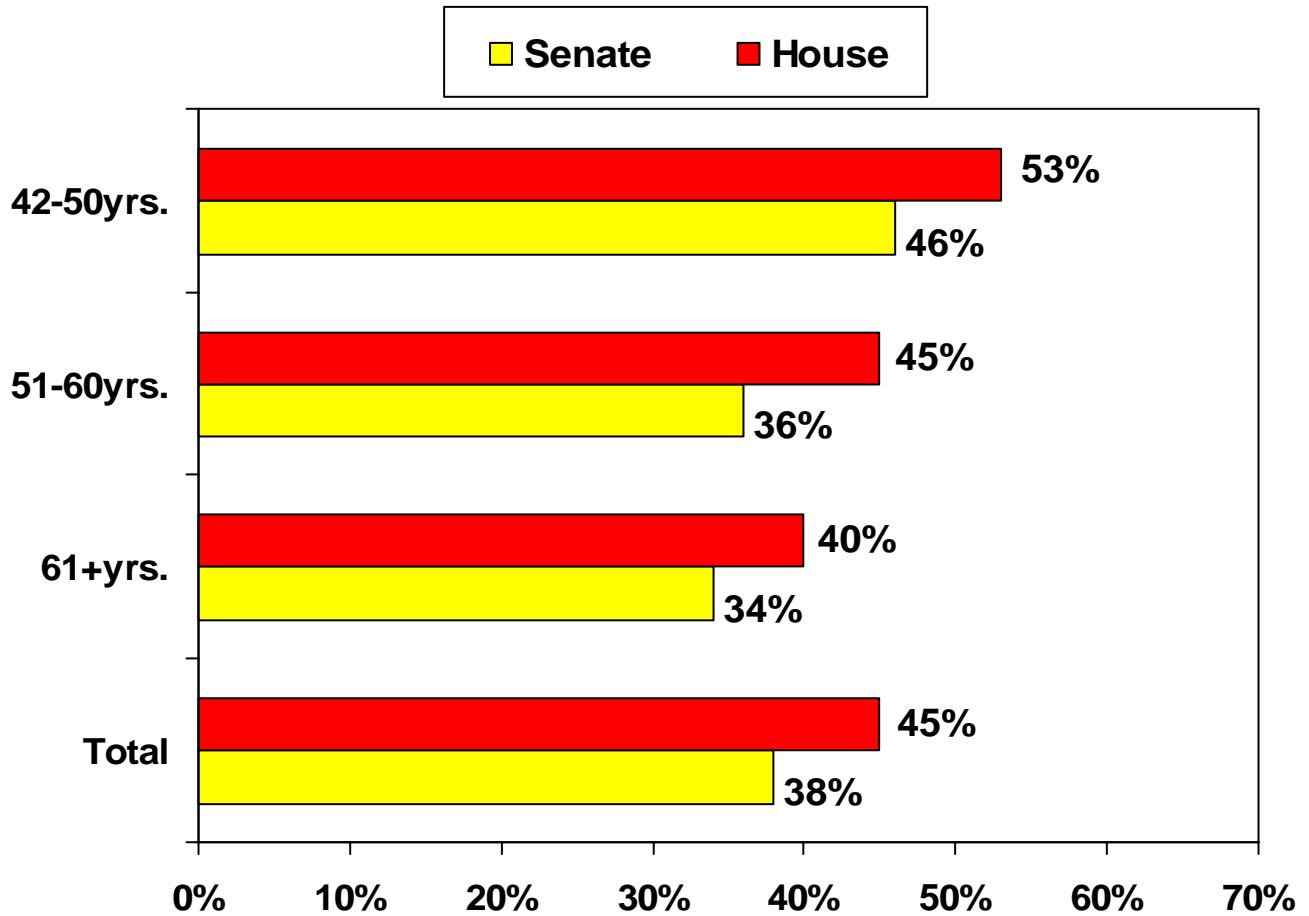
Given Quite a Lot of Thought to The Upcoming Elections



Findings suggest that a majority of likely voters have made up their minds about who they plan to vote for in the upcoming elections. Still, more than 4 in 10 respondents (45%) have not yet decided for which U.S. House candidate to vote and 38 percent have not yet settled on a U.S. Senate candidate (see Figure 4).

Younger boomers are more likely than respondents 51 and older to be undecided in their voting decisions. Fifty-three percent of younger boomers, ages 42 to 50 have not yet decided for which U.S. House candidate to vote compared to 45 percent of respondents ages 51 to 60 and 40 percent of those 61+ (see Figure 4). For U.S. Senate, 46 percent of younger boomers have not yet decided for which candidate to vote compared to 36 percent of older boomers ages 51 to 60 and one-third (34%) of respondents ages 61 and older.

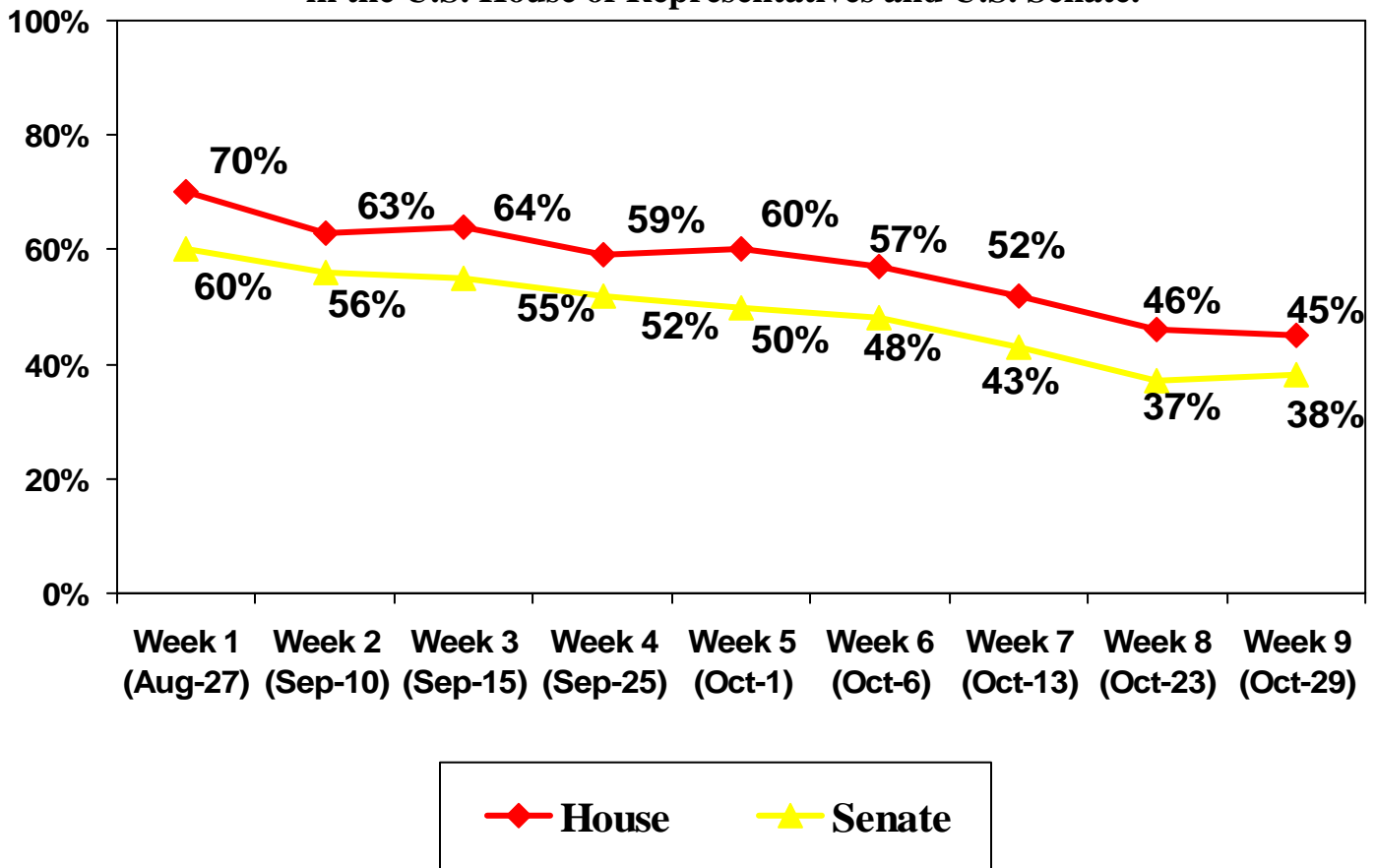
Figure 4
**** Includes only likely voters**
(Senate: n=989; House: n=1,361)
Likely Voters Who Have Not Yet Decided for Whom to Vote
in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.



Findings suggest that over the past two months of polling there has been a decrease in the percentage of voters who have not made a decision about which candidate to vote for in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate races. In late August, 70 percent of respondents had not yet decided for which U.S. House candidate to vote (see Figure 5). Currently, the percentage of respondents who have not decided for which U.S. House candidate to vote stands at 45 percent, its lowest since polling started. This is a full 25 percentage point decrease since week 1. The largest decrease in the percentage of respondents who have not made their voting decision for House candidates occurred between the first and second polling period from 70 percent in week 1 to 63 percent in week 2.

In late August 60 percent of respondents had not yet decided for which U.S. Senate candidate to vote (see Figure 5). There has been a steady decline of no more than 6 percentage points from one polling period to the next in this figure ever since. Currently, 38 percent of respondents have not decided for which U.S. Senate candidate to vote. This is a full 22 percentage point decrease since week 1. The lowest figure since polling started is 38 percent in week 8.

Figure 5
**** Includes only likely voters**
(Senate: n=989; House: n=1,361)
Likely Voters Who Have Not Yet Decided for Whom to Vote
in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.



Candidate Attributes Considered

While there are numerous things voters will consider before casting their vote in the mid-term elections, findings suggest that a key consideration will be whether or not voters agree with a candidate's position on major issues. When compared to other attributes such as a candidate's political party (10%), or even personal qualities of the candidate (35%), agreement on key issues (47%) is what matters most to a greater percentage of respondents. In fact, when compared to a more pertinent attribute such as a candidate's ability to help people in their own congressional district (41%), agreement with a candidate's position on major issues still came out slightly ahead (45%).

Conclusions

The rising budget deficit is likely to be an important election issue this year for boomers and older Americans, given that a high percentage say this is a serious consideration in their voting decision. However, findings suggest that boomers and older Americans favor increased spending on domestic issues and that these likely voters will vote for a candidate who supports increased spending for healthcare, Medicare and Social Security.

Boomer+ voters will likely play a key role in this year's elections, and are certainly worth paying attention to. They are the most likely of any age group to be registered to vote, to always vote, to be the most interested in this year's election, and to have given quite a lot of thought to the upcoming elections for Congress.

Methodology

AARP commissioned Woelfel Research, Inc., a national survey research firm, to conduct a national random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of 1,500 people ages 42 and older. Interviews were conducted between October 23rd and 29th, 2006. This survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. 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 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every person in the continental United States ages 42 and older had been surveyed.

For presentation purposes, percentage points have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. For questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total to significantly more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent. Similarly, when only selected responses are shown, percentages may total less than 100%.

**AARP Takes the Pulse of the Public:
2006 Frontrunner Election Survey
November 6, 2006
(n= 1,500)**

AARP Weekly Election “Pulse” Surveys – Waves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9

Hello, this is _____ calling from Woelfel Research, a national opinion research firm. We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We would like to find out your opinions on some important issues. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. All of your responses will be kept entirely confidential. The survey should take about 5 minutes of your time.

QSA. Are you between the ages of 18-41, or are you 42 or older?

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502	1003	1504	1500	1501	1501	1503	1006	1500
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1	18-41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	42 or older	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
3	Under 18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GENDER. [INTERVIEWER -- RECORD GENDER]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502	1003	1504	1500	1501	1501	1503	1006	1500
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
	Male	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
	Female	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54

1. These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you already registered, do you plan to register, or do you not plan to register to vote in your precinct or election district?

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Already registered	89	90	90	90	93	91	90	90	90
2	Plan to register	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4
3	Do Not Plan to register	6	5	5	6	4	5	6	6	5
4	Don't Know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

- 1A. How likely are you to vote this November?

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1417 %	953 %	1429 %	1414 %	1444 %	1407 %	1414 %	946 %	1421 %
1	Very Likely	84	87	86	85	86	87	87	88	86
2	Somewhat Likely	9	8	8	9	8	8	7	8	8
3	Not Very Likely	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	Not At All Likely	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
5	Don't Know	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
6	Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2. In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? [READ]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Republican	29	28	30	31	29	28	28	29	29
2	Democrat	32	34	34	32	33	32	34	32	31
3	Independent	30	29	28	26	29	30	29	29	30
4	Don't Know	5	6	5	6	5	6	6	6	6
5	Refused	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4

3. In general, would you describe your political views as... [READ]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Conservative	38	37	38	37	37	37	35	36	35
2	Moderate	40	42	41	38	40	40	42	39	42
3	Liberal	15	14	12	15	14	14	13	16	13
4	Don't Know	6	6	7	8	7	8	8	8	8
5	Refused	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2

4. How often would you say you vote? Is it ...[READ]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Always	54	56	57	57	56	56	59	59	59
2	Nearly Always	29	30	28	28	31	30	27	27	27
3	Some of the time	8	7	8	9	7	8	8	7	9
4	Seldom	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2
5	Never	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4
5	Don't Know	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5. This November there will be elections for Congress and other offices. Right now, how interested are you in this year's elections? Are you ...[READ]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Very Interested	53	57	56	56	57	58	61	63	63
2	Somewhat Interested	33	29	31	30	30	31	28	25	25
3	Not Very Interested	8	8	7	7	7	7	6	8	6
4	Not At All Interested	6	6	5	5	4	5	5	4	5
5	Don't Know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
6	Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

6. How much thought have you given to the upcoming elections for Congress? Is it ...[READ]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Quite a lot	38	45	44	44	47	50	52	58	59
2	Only a little	40	36	36	36	37	34	33	27	28
3	Not at all yet	22	17	18	18	14	15	13	13	12
4	Don't Know	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
5	Refused	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

7. Have you already decided for whom to vote in your House of Representatives election? [SKIP IF Q1=3, OR IF Q1A=3 or 4]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1356 %	914 %	1500 %	1358 %	1383 %	1377 %	1355 %	912 %	1361 %
1	Yes	28	36	35	39	39	41	47	53	54
2	No	70	63	64	59	60	57	52	46	45
3	Don't Know	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1

8. (If applicable) Have you already decided for whom to vote in your Senate election?
 [SKIP IF Q1=3, OR IF Q1A=3 or 4]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	960 %	643 %	976 %	946 %	1016 %	987 %	1015 %	672 %	989 %
1	Yes	39	44	44	46	48	50	55	62	61
2	No	60	56	55	52	50	48	43	37	38
3	Don't Know	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1

9. When you vote for a candidate for the House of Representatives [or Senate – if applicable], which is more important to you ... [READ]
 (ROTATE)

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	His or her ability to do things that help people in your congressional district	43	41	43	41	43	42	41	41	41
2	That you agree with his or her positions on major national issues	45	45	46	45	46	44	46	45	45
3	Don't Know	10	12	9	12	9	12	11	11	10
4	Refused	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3

10. Which of the following matters most when you vote for a candidate for a national office... [READ]

(ROTATE)

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	The candidate's political party	10	14	11	11	12	12	11	13	10
2	The candidate's position on one or two key issues	44	43	46	48	46	44	46	45	47
3	The personal qualities of the candidate	37	34	36	33	34	35	33	35	35
4	Don't Know	7	7	6	7	7	8	8	7	7
5	Refused	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1

11. Do you think elected officials in Washington care about your opinions when they make decisions or vote on legislation?

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Yes	29	28	27	30	30	26	26	29	27
2	No	62	63	64	62	62	65	65	62	65
3	Don't Know	8	8	8	7	8	9	8	8	8
4	Refused	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Government Spending

12. If you had to choose, which of the following would be more important to you -- increasing spending on domestic issues such as healthcare, Medicare and Social Security, or holding down the federal budget deficit? **[ROTATE]**

	Wave 9
Base: Total Respondents	1500 %
1. Increasing spending on domestic issues such as healthcare, Medicare and Social Security.	52
OR	
2. Holding down the budget deficit	38
3. Neither (vol.)	4
4. No opinion	6

13. How serious a consideration is the rising budget deficit to your voting decision in the upcoming election-- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	Wave 9
Base: Total Respondents	1500 %
1. Very serious	40
2. Somewhat serious	43
3. Not too serious	10
4. Not at all serious	5
5. Don't know	2
6. Refused	0

14. Would you support or oppose creating a national sales tax between 3% to 5% dedicated to paying healthcare costs for children and the uninsured? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Wave 9
Base: Total Respondents	1500 %
Strongly support	24
Somewhat support	23
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	26
(DO NOT READ)don't know	13
(DO NOT READ)refused	1

15. How clear have candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives in your district been or U.S. Senate (state) about where they stand on the issue of government spending?

	Wave 9
Base: Total Respondents	1500 %
Very clear	13
Somewhat clear	42
Not very clear	23
Not at all clear	14
(DO NOT READ) don't know	8
(DO NOT READ) refused	0

16. How likely are you to vote for a candidate who supports increasing spending on domestic issues such as healthcare, Medicare and Social Security? **[SKIP IF Q1=3 OR Q1A=3 or 4]**

	Wave 9
Base: Total Respondents	1361 %
Very likely	38
Somewhat likely	38
Not very likely	11
Not at all likely	7
(DO NOT READ) Don't know	5
(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Now, just a few questions for classification purposes only.

QD1. What is your age as of your last birthday?

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Under 50	20	19	21	19	19	20	21	18	22
2	50 – 59	26	27	27	29	29	28	28	29	27
3	60 – 74	32	32	32	31	32	32	32	31	32
4	75+	19	19	17	17	17	16	15	20	16
5	Refused	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4

QD2. What is your current marital status?

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Married	59	64	58	59	60	61	60	58	63
2	Not married, living with a partner	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3	Separated	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	1	1
4	Divorced	13	12	13	14	12	12	12	13	12
5	Widowed	16	15	17	15	17	15	16	18	14
6	Never Married	7	6	8	7	8	7	8	7	7
7	Refused	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1

QD3. Are you/Are you or your spouse a member of A-A-R-P formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons? [PROGRAMMING: DISPLAY 'Are you' OR 'Are you or your spouse' DEPENDING ON THE ANSWER FROM QD2]

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Yes	43	43	42	40	41	43	41	44	44
2	No	57	56	57	59	59	56	58	55	55
3	Don't Know	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
4	Refused	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1

QD4. What is the highest level of education that you completed?
 {READ LIST IF NEEDED}

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Less than high school	9	8	8	7	7	7	9	8	7
2	High school grad or equivalent	29	28	29	30	29	26	26	29	29
3	Some college or technical training beyond high school	20	19	18	21	20	21	19	20	20
4	College Graduate (2 year degree)	10	11	10	9	11	11	10	10	10
5	College Graduate (4 year degree)	17	17	19	17	17	20	19	16	18
6	Post- Graduate or Professional degree	14	16	15	16	15	14	17	15	16
7	Refused	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1

QD5. What is your race? {READ LIST IF NEEDED}

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	White or Caucasian	86	86	84	86	86	84	84	86	86
2	Black or African American	8	7	9	6	7	10	8	8	8
3	Asian	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
6	Other	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	0
7	Refused	2	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3

QD6. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin?

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Yes	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	4
2	No	96	95	94	94	95	94	93	94	95
3	Don't Know	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2

QD7. 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 annual household income before taxes in 2005? {READ LIST UNTIL RESPONDENT ANSWERS}

		Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7	Wave 8	Wave 9
	Base:	1502 %	1003 %	1504 %	1500 %	1501 %	1501 %	1503 %	1006 %	1500 %
1	Less than \$10,000	7	7	6	5	7	7	6	6	6
2	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	11	11	10	11	11	9	10	10	9
3	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	10	10	11	11	11	12	9	12	10
4	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	12	10	12	10	9	12	11	10	10
5	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	8	8	9	10	9	8	10	9	10
6	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	15	14	13	13	15	13	14	14	16
7	\$75,000 Or more	21	20	21	23	22	21	24	20	21
8	Don't Know	4	4	5	3	4	3	3	5	3
9	Refused	13	17	13	16	13	14	14	13	15

QD8. What is your zip code?

Thank you for participating! Your opinion counts