

**Common Ground
for America's Future:
The Opinions of AARP
Members in Tennessee
About National Election
Issues in 2006**



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Future: The Opinions of AARP
Members in Tennessee About National
Election Issues in 2006**

**Data Collected by Woelfel Research, Inc.
Report Prepared by Terri Guengerich**

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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 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.

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Background

Every candidate for elected office in the United States knows that the older population is a powerful voting force. Older Americans are the group most likely to read newspapers, stay apprised of issues, register to vote, and actually turn out on Election Day.

In Tennessee, the race to replace retiring Majority Leader Bill Frist in the U.S. Senate is broadly viewed by analysts and pundits as an extremely close match and critical to both major parties' efforts to win control of Congress' upper chamber.¹ Among other issues, the future of Social Security has already become an important discussion point in the contest.²

More than one of every four of the 5.6 million people in Tennessee counted in the 2000 Census are 50 years of age and older.³ In 2002, forty-four percent of Tennesseans 18+ voted in the November election.⁴ In a recent survey of AARP members in Tennessee, conducted in the fall of 2005,⁵ over nine in ten AARP members said they voted all or most of the time in state elections for Governor or State Legislators.

AARP members represent a sizable voting segment of more than 36 million members. In Tennessee, there are more than 643,000 AARP members. People 50 years and older have higher voter registration percentages and voter turnout than younger persons, and they are also the segment of the population most likely to turn out for a midterm election.

In June 2006, AARP commissioned a national telephone survey of a representative sample of 1,000 AARP members. In addition, four hundred AARP members were sampled in Tennessee. This report is based on the responses of these Tennessee members and describes their opinions about five national election issues:

- Social Security
- Medicare
- Health Care
- Long-Term Care
- Retirement Security

¹Cliffhanger in Tennessee Senate Race. Zogby International. Retrieved July 19, 2006, from: <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.dbm?ID=1125>

²Sher, Andy (2006). AARP, Candidates' View on Social Security Clash. Chattanooga Times Free Press, TFP Online.com. Retrieved July 19, 2006 from:

<http://www.tfponline.com/QuickHeadlines.asp?sec=l&URL=http%3A%2F%2Fpaper%2Ewehco%2Ecom%2FWebChannel%2FShowStory%2Easp%3FPath%3DChatTFPress%2F2006%2F07%2F11%26ID%3DAR00104>

³U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Matrices P13 and PCT12.

⁴U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 2002. Internet Release date: July 28, 2004

⁵Binette, Joanne (2006). Long-Term Care in Tennessee: A Survey of Registered Voters Age 35+. AARP Knowledge Management.

The results of this survey demonstrate AARP members' level of concern about these upcoming election issues.

The survey methodology is described at the end of this report, and annotated questionnaires of AARP members in Tennessee as well as AARP members nationally are also found there.

AARP is a non-partisan organization. It does not contribute to political campaigns nor does it endorse or oppose any candidates for public office.

Highlights

- ▶ Majorities of AARP members in Tennessee across the political parties support the policy positions AARP considers important in the upcoming November election (see Table 1, next page).
- ▶ Over three in four AARP members in Tennessee oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents oppose using Social Security taxes this way.
- ▶ Over seven in ten AARP members in Tennessee say they are less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate that supports using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents say they would be less likely to vote for such a candidate.
- ▶ Two in three AARP members in Tennessee would support a Social Security plan that provides guaranteed benefits to future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents would support this type of plan.
- ▶ Nine in ten AARP members in Tennessee support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. Nearly nine in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents share this support.
- ▶ Over six in ten AARP members in Tennessee oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all oppose this change.
- ▶ Three in four AARP members in Tennessee support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone. At least six in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support this shared approach.
- ▶ Nearly seven in ten AARP members in Tennessee support a shared approach whereby both government and individuals pay for long-term care. At least two in three Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support this approach.

- ▶ Nine in ten AARP members in Tennessee support allowing funds currently used only for nursing home care to also be used for long-term care services that help people stay in their own homes and communities. About nine in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents share this support.
- ▶ Over six in ten AARP members in Tennessee support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal IRAs. The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support this requirement.

Table 1: AARP Members in Tennessee: Support* for AARP Policy Positions (n=400)

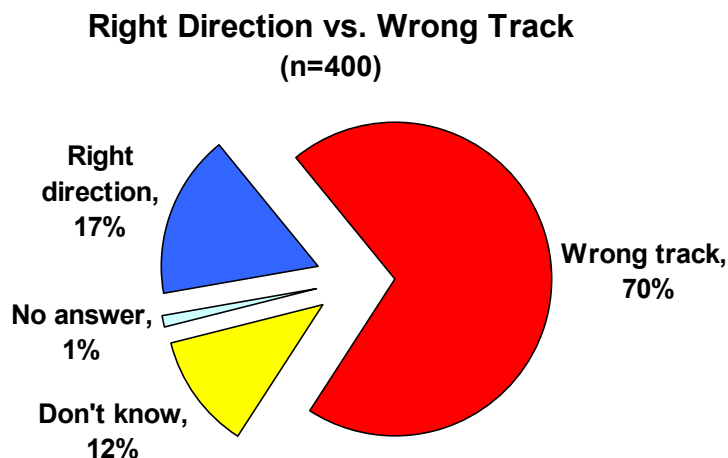
National Policy Issues	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts	79%	68%	88%	77%
Support a Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits	66%	59%	72%	66%
Support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs	89%	91%	92%	85%
Oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending	61%	53%	69%	62%
Support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone	74%	60%	82%	74%
Support a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care	69%	70%	67%	72%
Support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)	63%	71%	56%	66%

* Strongly or Somewhat Support

Findings

Seven in ten AARP members in Tennessee feel that things in this country have gotten off on the wrong track.

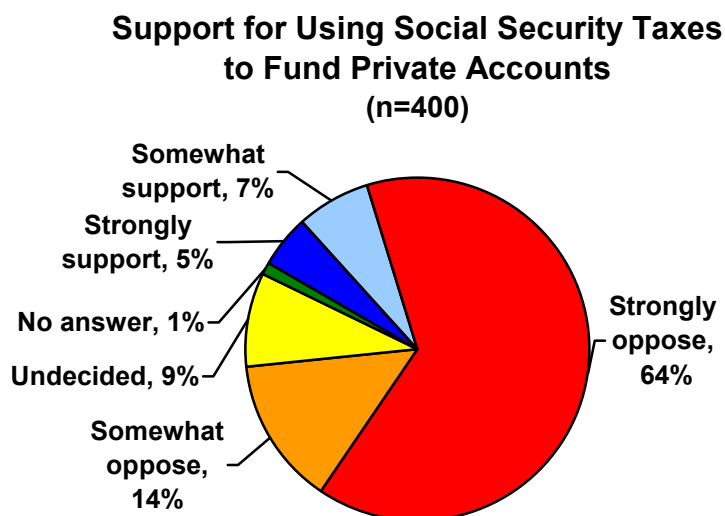
AARP members were asked whether they feel things in this country are going in the right direction or have gotten off on the wrong track. Across all political parties, a plurality of AARP members feel that things are on the wrong track (Republicans—47%, Democrats—89%, and Independents—65%).



SOCIAL SECURITY

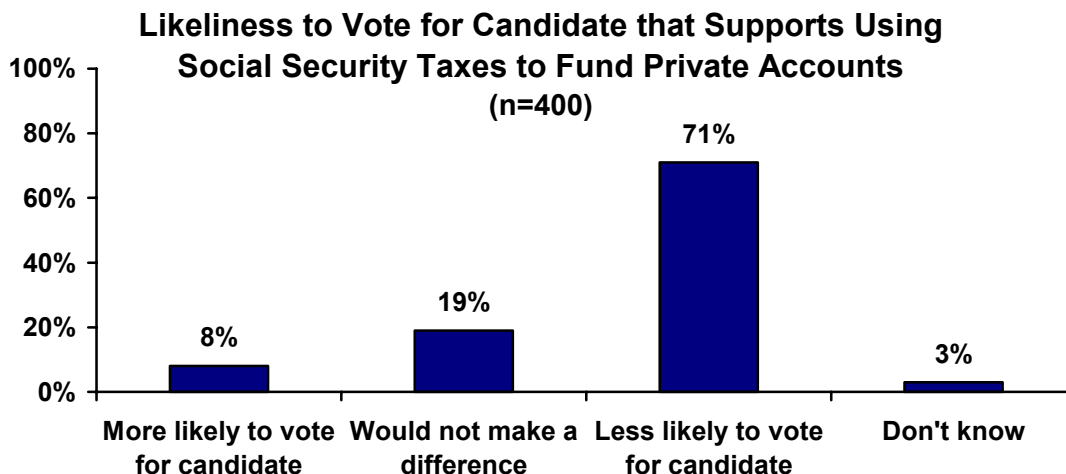
Over three in four AARP members in Tennessee oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts.

Across all political parties, at least two in three members oppose using Social Security taxes this way (Republicans—68%, Democrats—88%, and Independents—77%).



Preventing Social Security funds from being used to fund private accounts is very important in AARP members' decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November (nearly eight in ten say that it is). Additionally, over seven in ten AARP members say they are less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate that supports using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. As before, this likelihood crosses political party boundaries; well over the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents say they

would be less likely to vote for a candidate that supports using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts (Republicans—58%, Democrats—75%, and Independents—76%).

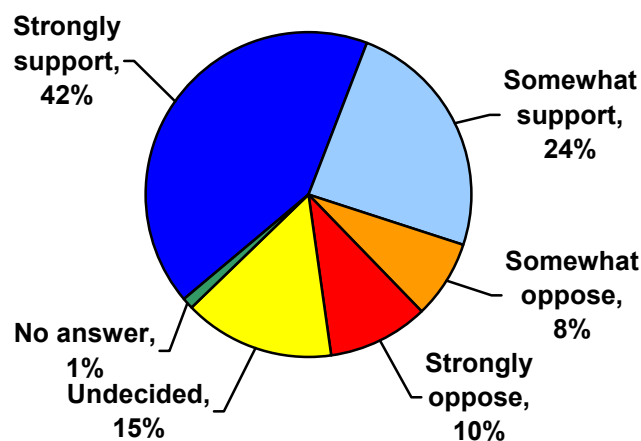


Two in three AARP members in Tennessee would support a Social Security plan that provides guaranteed benefits to future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits.

The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike would strongly or somewhat support such a Social Security plan (Republicans—59%, Democrats—72%, and Independents—66%).

Over eight in ten AARP members in Tennessee also say that ensuring a balanced Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November. Well over the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents agree that this issue is very important in their vote for a candidate this November (Republicans—71%, Democrats—86%, and Independents—84%).

Support for Guaranteed Social Security Benefits for Future Generations by Balancing Contributions
(n=400)

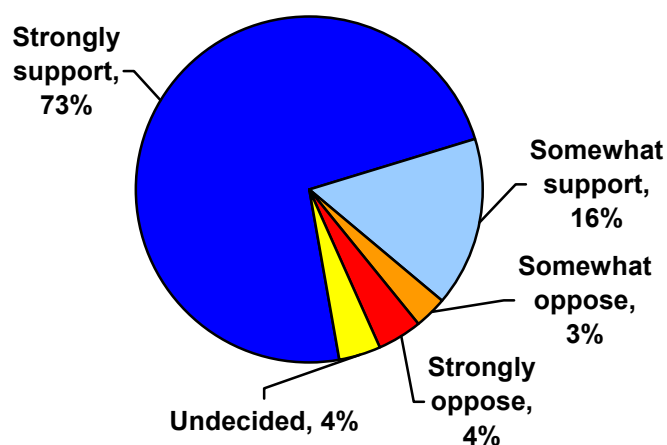


MEDICARE

Nine in ten AARP members in Tennessee support allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs.

This issue resonates with all AARP members in Tennessee regardless of their political party affiliation. Nearly nine in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices (Republicans—91%, Democrats—92%, and Independents—85%).

Support for Medicare Using Its Bargaining Power to Negotiate for Lower Prices on Prescription Drugs
(n=400)



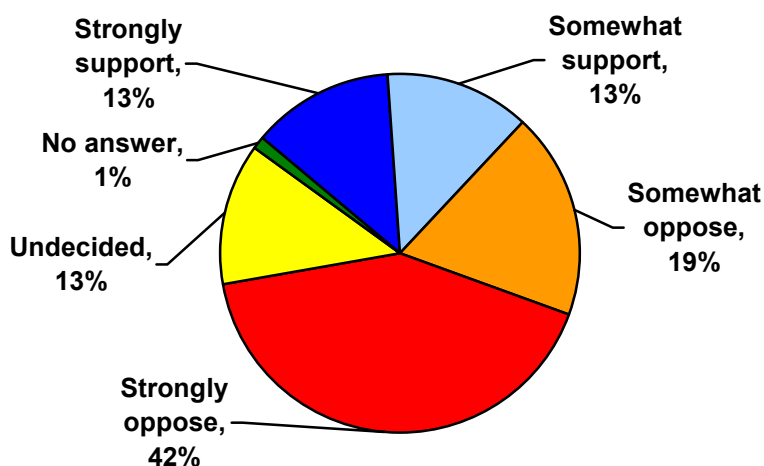
Over eight in ten AARP members in Tennessee (83%) say that making prescription drugs more affordable is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November.

Over six in ten AARP members in Tennessee oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending.

The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also oppose this change to the Medicare program (Republicans—53%, Democrats—69%, and Independents—62%).

In fact, over eight in ten AARP members in Tennessee (86%) say that ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November.

Support for Imposing an Annual Limit on Federal Medicare Spending
(n=400)



HEALTH CARE

Three in four AARP members in Tennessee support a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone.

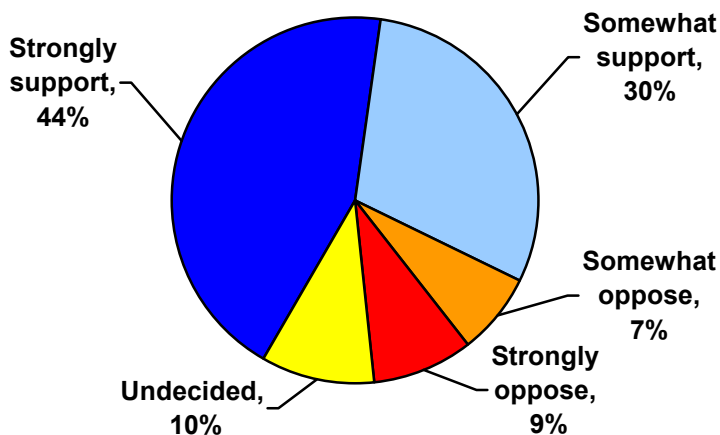
This issue resonates with all AARP members in Tennessee regardless of their political party affiliation. At least six in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents support this shared approach to health care coverage (Republicans—60%, Democrats—82%, and Independents—74%).

Nearly eight in ten AARP members in Tennessee (78%) say that guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November.

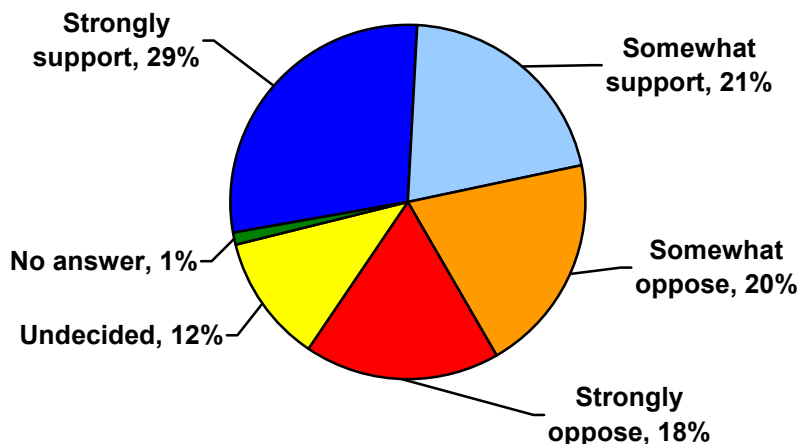
Half of AARP members would support requiring individuals to purchase health insurance.

Half of Republicans and Democrats would also support this requirement (Republicans—54%, Democrats—50%, and Independents—48%).

Support for a Shared Approach for Providing Health Care Coverage for Everyone
(n=400)



Support for Requiring Individuals to Purchase Health Insurance
(n=400)



LONG-TERM CARE

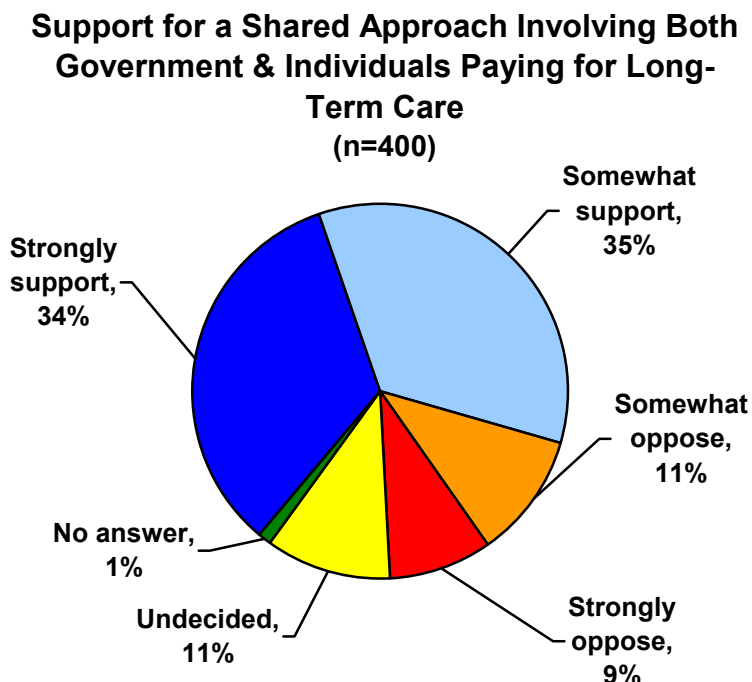
Nearly seven in ten AARP members in Tennessee support a shared approach whereby both government and individuals pay for long-term care.

At least two in three Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also support this approach (Republicans—70%, Democrats—67%, and Independents—72%).

Seven in ten AARP members in Tennessee (72%) say that providing quality long-term care services to all who need them is very important in their decision about which U.S. Congressional or Senatorial candidate to vote for this November.

The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents likewise believe this issue is very important in their voting decisions (Republicans—57%, Democrats—81%, and Independents—72%)

Over half of AARP members in Tennessee oppose requiring individuals to purchase long-term care insurance.



Nine in ten AARP members in Tennessee support allowing funds currently used only for nursing home care to also be used for long-term care services that help people stay in their own homes and communities.

The State of Tennessee spends about 95 percent of its long-term care funds on nursing homes and about 5 percent on long-term care services that allow people to stay in their homes and communities.

Table 2: AARP Members in Tennessee: Support for Allowing Funds Currently Used Only for Nursing Home Care to Also Be Used for Long-Term Care Services in Homes and in Communities (n=400)

AARP Members	
Strongly support	75%
Somewhat support	15%
Somewhat oppose	2%
Strongly oppose	2%
Undecided	5%

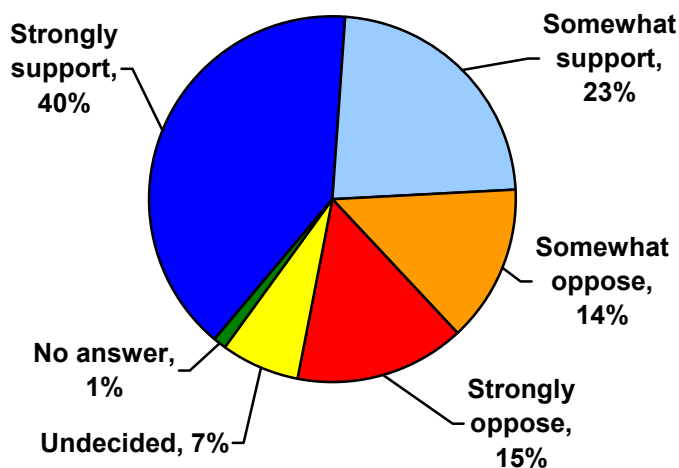
About nine in ten Republicans, Democrats, and Independents share this support (Republicans—89%, Democrats—90%, and Independents—91%).

RETIREMENT SECURITY

Over six in ten AARP members in Tennessee support requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal IRAs.

The majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents also support this requirement (Republicans—71%, Democrats—56%, and Independents—66%).

Support for Requiring Employers to Provide Employees with Automatic Payroll Deductions (n=400)



Conclusion

AARP members in Tennessee have strong opinions about issues facing the upcoming elections in November. In this survey, AARP members in Tennessee have shared their opinions on these critical issues: Social Security, Medicare, Health Care, Long-Term Care, and Retirement Security.

AARP members are pessimistic about where things are headed in this country. Seven in ten of them feel that things in this country have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track. This sentiment is shared by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

AARP members are opposed to using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. Over seven in ten say they are less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate that supports using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. This sentiment is shared by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

AARP members would support a Social Security plan that provides guaranteed benefits to future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits. Two in three AARP members and the majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents would support such a Social Security plan.

Near universal support is given by AARP members to allow Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents would also support this. The majority of AARP members in Tennessee also oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending.

Most AARP members in Tennessee feel that the federal government, employers, and individuals should all pay for providing health care coverage for everyone. And most members also feel that both the government and individuals should pay for long-term care. AARP members feel that nursing home funds should also be used to help people stay in their own homes and communities.

AARP members support strengthening retirement security by requiring employers to provide their employees with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal IRAs.

In summary, AARP members in Tennessee across the political parties support the policy positions AARP considers important in the upcoming November election.

Methodology

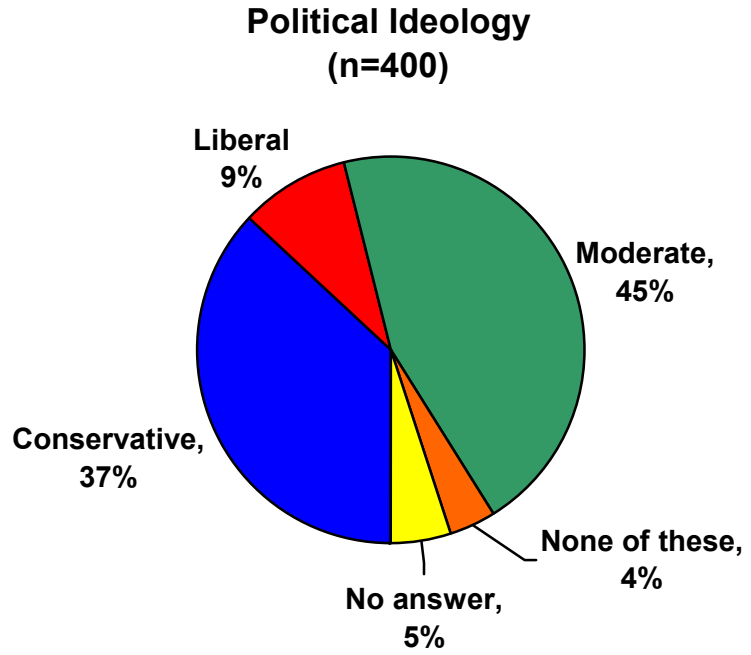
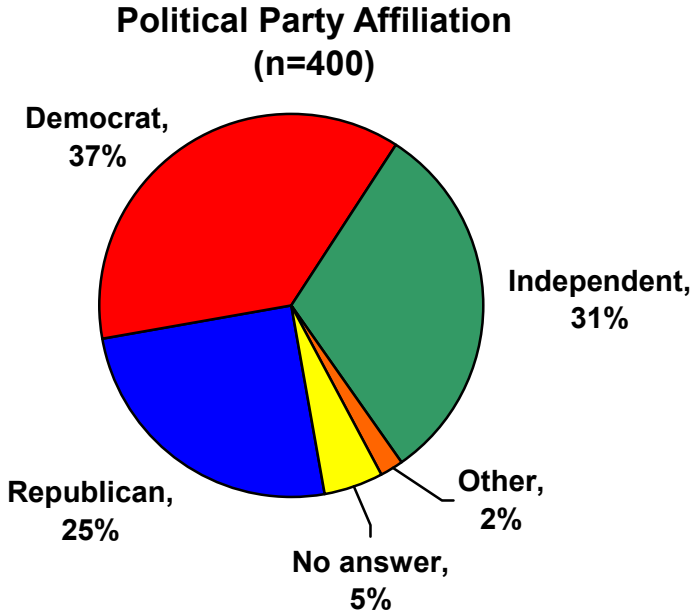
In June 2006, AARP commissioned Woelfel Research, Inc., a national survey research firm, to conduct a list-assisted, telephone survey of 1,000 randomly selected AARP members nationally and 400 randomly selected AARP members in Tennessee. The response rate for the national survey is 15 percent, and has a sampling error of ± 3 percent.⁶ The response rate for the Tennessee survey is 15 percent and has a sampling error of ± 4.9 percent.⁷ In the Tennessee data, survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of age for the population of AARP members in Tennessee. The national data was not weighted.

For presentation purposes, percentage points have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages may total slightly higher or lower than 100 percent. For questions that permit multiple responses, percentages may total to more than 100 percent, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

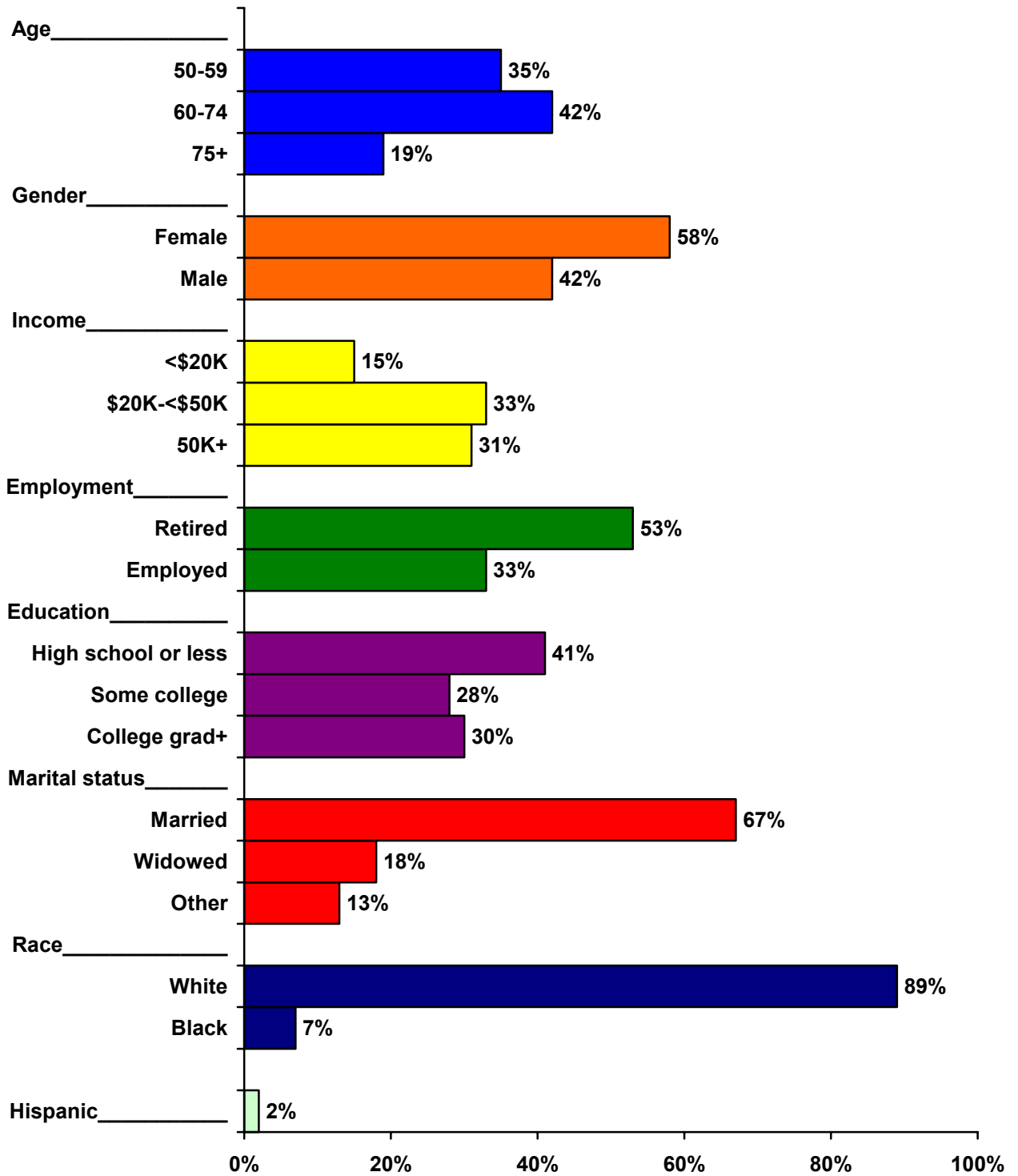
⁶National sample: The response rate is 15 percent, and the cooperation rate is 88 percent. The response rate is Response Rate 3, the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 (AAPOR, 2004).

⁷Tennessee sample: The response rate is 15 percent, and the cooperation rate is 89 percent. The response rate is Response Rate 3, and the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 (AAPOR, 2004).

Demographic Profile of AARP Members in Tennessee



Demographic Profile of AARP Members in Tennessee (n=400)



Annotated Questionnaires

2006 TENNESSEE ELECTION SURVEY

Weighted n=400; Response Rate=15%; Sampling Error=±4.9%
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses

[ASK TO SPEAK TO NAME ON SAMPLE]

[MAY SPEAK TO SPOUSE IF THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES A MEMBER OF AARP]

Hello, this is _____ calling from Woelfel Research, Inc., a national opinion research firm. I am calling on behalf of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We would like to find out your opinions on various topics of interest. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. This survey should take 5-10 minutes of your time.

{IF ASKED, "Where did you get my name?" SAY "AARP provided a list of members for us to call."}

1. Do you feel things in this country are going in the right direction today, or do you feel that things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Right direction	17
2.	Wrong track	70
3.	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	12
4.	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

2. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?

Code List

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq)		27
Health Care		9
Terrorism/Terrorist attacks/Homeland Security		7
Immigration		5
Economy (unspecified)		5
Gas prices		4
The Federal Deficit		3
Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality		3
Going away from God		3
Medicare		2
Crime/Drugs		2
Bush/George Bush/President Bush		2
Foreign policy		2
Social Security		1
Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)		1

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
Taxes/Tax cuts	1
Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing	1
Education	1
Environment	1
Other domestic issues	1
All/Everything	1
Elderly/Seniors	1
Government	1
Greed	1
Health insurance	1
Jobs	1
Lack of morals/Morality	1
Leadership	1
Spending	1
Taking care of our own	1
Unity	1
Youth	1
Value of Family	1
National Security/Other foreign affairs issues	<.05
Economy	<.05
National debt	<.05
Same sex marriage/Gay marriage	<.05
Other	3
Nothing	0
Not sure	7

3. I am going to read you a list of domestic issues that affect people ages 50 and older and for each I would like you to tell me how important that issue in your decision about which U.S. Congressional/Senate candidates to vote for this November. Let's start with (INSERT FIRST ITEM)...would you say it is 'Very Important', 'Somewhat Important', 'Not Very Important' or 'Not At All Important' in your decision about which candidates to vote for? (INSERT NEXT ITEM)? (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

(ROTATE ITEMS)

Preventing Social Security funds being used to fund private accounts

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	78
2 Somewhat important	10
3 Not very important	6
4 Not at all important	3
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

Ensuring a balanced Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	81
2 Somewhat important	16
3 Not very important	1
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Making prescription drugs more affordable

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	83
2 Somewhat important	14
3 Not very important	2
4 Not at all important	<.05
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	78
2 Somewhat important	16
3 Not very important	3
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

Providing quality long-term care services to all who need them

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	72
2 Somewhat important	23
3 Not very important	3
4 Not at all important	2
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	<.05
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

Ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	86
2 Somewhat important	13
3 Not very important	<.05
4 Not at all important	<.05
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	72
2 Somewhat important	22
3 Not very important	5
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	<.05
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Gas prices

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	74
2 Somewhat important	22
3 Not very important	2
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

The Federal Deficit

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	68
2 Somewhat important	24
3 Not very important	4
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Taxes/Tax Cuts

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	62
2 Somewhat important	30
3 Not very important	6
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Economy/Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	76
2 Somewhat important	20
3 Not very important	2
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Education

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	84
2 Somewhat important	13
3 Not very important	2
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	<.05
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Environment

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	60
2 Somewhat important	32
3 Not very important	6
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Crime/Drugs

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	84
2 Somewhat important	14
3 Not very important	<.05
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Immigration

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	61
2 Somewhat important	29
3 Not very important	5
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	<.05

Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1 Very important	91
2 Somewhat important	7
3 Not very important	1
4 Not at all important	1
D (DO NOT READ) Don't know	0
R (DO NOT READ) Refused	0

NATIONAL ISSUES

4. Do you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	5
2.	Somewhat support	7
3.	Somewhat oppose	14
4.	Strongly oppose	64
5.	Undecided/don't know	9
6.	No answer/refused	1

5. Do you support or oppose a Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	42
2.	Somewhat support	24
3.	Somewhat oppose	8
4.	Strongly oppose	10
5.	Undecided/don't know	15
6.	No answer/refused	1

6. Do you support or oppose a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	44
2.	Somewhat support	30
3.	Somewhat oppose	7
4.	Strongly oppose	9
5.	Undecided/don't know	10
6.	No answer/refused	<.05

7. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase health insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	29
2.	Somewhat support	21
3.	Somewhat oppose	20
4.	Strongly oppose	18
5.	Undecided/don't know	12
6.	No answer/refused	1

8. Do you support or oppose allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	73
2.	Somewhat support	16
3.	Somewhat oppose	3
4.	Strongly oppose	4
5.	Undecided/don't know	4
6.	No answer/refused	0

9. There have never been limits placed on federal Medicare spending. Proposals have now been made in Congress to limit the amount of money the federal government spends on the Medicare program. Do you support or oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	13
2.	Somewhat support	13
3.	Somewhat oppose	19
4.	Strongly oppose	42
5.	Undecided/don't know	13
6.	No answer/refused	1

10. Do you support or oppose a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	34
2.	Somewhat support	35
3.	Somewhat oppose	11
4.	Strongly oppose	9
5.	Undecided/don't know	11
6.	No answer/refused	1

11. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase long-term care insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	15
2.	Somewhat support	22
3.	Somewhat oppose	27
4.	Strongly oppose	27
5.	Undecided/don't know	9
6.	No answer/refused	<.05

12. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	40
2.	Somewhat support	23
3.	Somewhat oppose	14
4.	Strongly oppose	15
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	1

13. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	More Likely	8
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	19
3.	Less Likely	71
4.	Don't know	3
5.	Refused	<.05

14. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	More Likely	30
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	19
3.	Less Likely	46
4.	Don't know	4
5.	Refused	1

15. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed a shared approach by the federal government, employers, and individuals, to provide health care coverage for everyone, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	More Likely	34
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	22
3.	Less Likely	35
4.	Don't know	8
5.	Refused	1

STATE ISSUES

- 15a. Tennessee spends about 95 percent of its long-term care funds on nursing homes and about 5 percent on long-term care services that allow people to stay in their homes and communities. Do you support or oppose allowing funds now used only for nursing home care to also be used for long-term care services that help people stay in their own homes or communities? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Strongly support	75
2.	Somewhat support	15
3.	Somewhat oppose	2
4.	Strongly oppose	2
5.	Undecided/don't know	5
6.	No answer/refused	1

16. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1. A Republican	25
2. A Democrat	37
3. An Independent	31
4. (DO NOT READ) Other	2
5. (DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
6. (DO NOT READ) Refused	3

(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)

17. Generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1. Conservative	37
2. Moderate	45
3. Liberal	9
4. (DO NOT READ) None of the Above	4
5. (DO NOT READ) Don't know	5
6. (DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Demographic questions:

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

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	50-59	35
2.	60-74	42
3.	75+	19
4.	Refused	4

D2. What is your marital status? Are you currently....

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Married,	67
2	Divorced,	9
3	Separated,	1
4	Widowed,	18
5	Or have you never been married?	3
6	Living with partner [DO NOT READ]	<.05
7	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	0
8	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Less than high school	10
2	High school graduate or equivalent	31
3	Some college or technical training beyond high school	28
4	College graduate	15
5	Or, Post-graduate or professional degree	15
6	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	<.05
7	Refused [DO NOT READ]	<.05

D4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Are you currently....[READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1	Employed full-time	24
2	Employed part-time	9
3	Self-employed	1
4	Retired and not working	53
5	Unemployed and looking for work	2
6	Homemaker	5
7	Disabled	7
8	Student	<.05
9	Or something else [Specify: _____]	0
10	Don't Know [DO NOT READ]	0
11	Refused [DO NOT READ]	<.05

D5. Would you say that you always vote in presidential elections, usually vote, sometimes vote, rarely vote, or never vote)

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Always	73
2.	Usually	14
3.	Sometimes	6
4.	Rarely	3
5.	Never	3
6.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	0

D6. For statistical purposes only, please stop me when I get to the category That includes your household's income before taxes in 2004. Was it... [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Less than \$10,000	3
2.	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	12
3.	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	15
4.	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	11
5.	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	7
6.	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	14
7.	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	6
8.	\$100,000 or more	11
9.	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	2
10.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	18

D7. Are you Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic?

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	Yes	2
2.	No	98
3.	Don't know	<.05
4.	Refused	<.05

D8. Which of the following groups best describes your race? [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1.	White	89
2.	Black or African-American	7
3.	Asian	0
4.	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
5.	American Indian or Alaska Native	0
6.	Other	<.05
7.	Mixed	1
8.	Don't know	<.05
9.	Refused	3

D9. [RECORD STATE]

D10. What is your gender?

Base: Total Respondents	400 %
1. Male	42
2. Female	58

D11. Finally, what is your 5-digit zip code?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

**Annotated Questionnaire
AARP National Member Survey
About 2006 Election Issues
June 8-11, 2006
(n= 1,000)**

[ASK TO SPEAK TO NAME ON SAMPLE]

[MAY SPEAK TO SPOUSE IF THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES A MEMBER OF AARP]

Hello, this is ____ calling from Woelfel Research, Inc., a national opinion research firm. I am calling on behalf of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). We are not telemarketers and are not trying to sell you anything. We would like to find out your opinions on various topics of interest. Your views are important and we would greatly appreciate your participation. All your responses will be kept entirely confidential. This survey should take 5-10 minutes of your time.

{IF ASKED, "Where did you get my name?" SAY "AARP provided a list of members for us to call."}

1. Do you feel things in this country are going in the right direction today, or do you feel that things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Right direction	17
2.	Wrong track	73
3.	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	10
4.	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

2. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?

Code List

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq)	28
2.	Terrorism/Terrorist attacks/Homeland Security	6
3.	National Security/Other foreign affairs issues	1
4.	Health Care	10
5.	Medicare	1
6.	Social Security	1
7.	Immigration	7
8.	Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)	1
9.	Gas prices	3
10.	The Federal Deficit	2
11.	Taxes/Tax Cuts	1

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
12.	Economy (unspecified)	7
13.	Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing	2
14.	Education	1
15.	Environment	0
16.	Crime/Drugs	2
17.	Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality	3
18.	Other domestic issues	1
19.	Other	20
20.	Nothing	0
21.	Not sure	5

3. I am going to read you a list of domestic issues that affect people ages 50 and older and for each I would like you to tell me how important that issue in your decision about which U.S. Congressional/Senate candidates to vote for this November. Let's start with (INSERT FIRST ITEM)...would you say it is 'Very Important', 'Somewhat Important', 'Not Very Important' or 'Not At All Important' in your decision about which candidates to vote for? (INSERT NEXT ITEM)? (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

(ROTATE ITEMS)

Preventing Social Security funds being used to fund private accounts

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	76
2	Somewhat important	11
3	Not very important	6
4	Not at all important	3
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	4
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Ensuring a balanced Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	80
2	Somewhat important	17
3	Not very important	1
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Making prescription drugs more affordable

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	79
2	Somewhat important	17
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Guaranteeing affordable health care coverage for all

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	76
2	Somewhat important	18
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	1

Providing quality long-term care services to all who need them

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	68
2	Somewhat important	24
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Ensuring the long-term strength and availability of Medicare

Base: Total Respondents		1000 %
1	Very important	84
2	Somewhat important	13
3	Not very important	1
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Energy prices (electricity, home heating fuel, etc.)

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	68
2	Somewhat important	26
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Gas prices

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	65
2	Somewhat important	27
3	Not very important	5
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

The Federal Deficit

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	67
2	Somewhat important	25
3	Not very important	4
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Taxes/Tax Cuts

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	56
2	Somewhat important	33
3	Not very important	8
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	2
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Economy/Unemployment/Jobs/Outsourcing

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	72
2	Somewhat important	23
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Education

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	79
2	Somewhat important	17
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Environment

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	59
2	Somewhat important	34
3	Not very important	6
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Crime/Drugs

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	75
2	Somewhat important	20
3	Not very important	3
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Immigration

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	57
2	Somewhat important	31
3	Not very important	7
4	Not at all important	2
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	3
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

Honesty/Corruption in Government/Morality

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Very important	89
2	Somewhat important	8
3	Not very important	2
4	Not at all important	1
D	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1
R	(DO NOT READ) Refused	0

NATIONAL ISSUES

4. Do you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	6
2.	Somewhat support	5
3.	Somewhat oppose	15
4.	Strongly oppose	66
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	0

5. Do you support or oppose a Social Security plan to provide guaranteed benefits for future generations by balancing additional contributions from higher income workers with modest reductions in future benefits? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	43
2.	Somewhat support	28
3.	Somewhat oppose	9
4.	Strongly oppose	8

5.	Undecided/don't know	11
6.	No answer/refused	1

6. Do you support or oppose a shared approach whereby the federal government, employers, and individuals together pay for providing health care coverage for everyone? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	43
2.	Somewhat support	29
3.	Somewhat oppose	11
4.	Strongly oppose	9
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	1

7. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase health insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	26
2.	Somewhat support	28
3.	Somewhat oppose	20
4.	Strongly oppose	18
5.	Undecided/don't know	8
6.	No answer/refused	1

8. Do you support or oppose allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	73
2.	Somewhat support	17
3.	Somewhat oppose	5
4.	Strongly oppose	3
5.	Undecided/don't know	3
6.	No answer/refused	0

9. There have never been limits placed on federal Medicare spending. Proposals have now been made in Congress to limit the amount of money the federal government spends on the Medicare program. Do you support or oppose changing the traditional Medicare program by imposing an annual limit on federal Medicare spending? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	9
2.	Somewhat support	14
3.	Somewhat oppose	18
4.	Strongly oppose	47
5.	Undecided/don't know	11
6.	No answer/refused	1

10. Do you support or oppose a shared approach that involves both government and individuals paying for long-term care? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	30
2.	Somewhat support	39
3.	Somewhat oppose	10
4.	Strongly oppose	12
5.	Undecided/don't know	9
6.	No answer/refused	0

11. Do you support or oppose requiring individuals to purchase long-term care insurance? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	15
2.	Somewhat support	20
3.	Somewhat oppose	28
4.	Strongly oppose	30
5.	Undecided/don't know	7
6.	No answer/refused	0

12. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide workers with automatic payroll deductions so that they can open personal Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Strongly support	41
2.	Somewhat support	26
3.	Somewhat oppose	10
4.	Strongly oppose	15
5.	Undecided/don't know	8
6.	No answer/refused	1

13. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate supported using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	More Likely	7
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	17
3.	Less Likely	71
4.	Don't know	4
5.	Refused	1

14. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed allowing Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	More Likely	33
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	18
3.	Less Likely	45
4.	Don't know	4
5.	Refused	0

15. If a candidate for Congress or the U.S. Senate opposed a shared approach by the federal government, employers, and individuals, to provide health care coverage for everyone, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make a difference in your vote?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	More Likely	34
2.	Would Not Make a Difference	25
3.	Less Likely	33
4.	Don't know	7
5.	Refused	1

16. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	A Republican	27
2.	A Democrat	35
3.	An Independent	32
4. (DO NOT READ)	Other	2
5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	2
6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	2

(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)

17. Generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Conservative	37
2.	Moderate	43
3.	Liberal	14
4. (DO NOT READ)	None of the Above	2
5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know	3
6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused	1

Demographic Questions:

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

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	50-59	25
2.	60-64	16
3.	65+	56
4.	Refused	2

D2. What is your marital status? Are you currently....

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Married,	63
2	Divorced,	11
3	Separated,	1
4	Widowed,	20
5	Or have you never been married?	5
6	Living with partner [DO NOT READ]	0
7	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	0
8	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

D3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Less than high school	6
2	High school graduate or equivalent	31
3	Some college or technical training beyond high school	26
4	College graduate	20
5	Or, Post-graduate or professional degree	17
6	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	0
7	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

- D4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Are you currently....[READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1	Employed full-time	23
2	Employed part-time	9
3	Retired and not working	55
4	Unemployed and looking for work	2
5	Homemaker	4
6	Disabled	4
7	Student	0
8	Or something else [Specify: _____]	3
9	Don't Know [DO NOT READ]	0
10	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

- D5. Would you say that you always vote in presidential elections, usually vote, sometimes vote, rarely vote, or never vote)

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Always	81
2.	Usually	10
3.	Sometimes	5
4.	Rarely	2
5.	Never	2
6.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	1

- D6. For statistical purposes only, please stop me when I get to the category That includes your household's income before taxes in 2004. Was it...
[READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Less than \$10,000	5
2.	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000	10
3.	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	10
4.	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	13
5.	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	9
6.	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	15
7.	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	9
8.	\$100,000 or more	9
9.	Don't know [DO NOT READ]	3
10.	Refused [DO NOT READ]	17

D7. Are you Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic?

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	Yes	1
2.	No	97
3.	Don't know	0
4.	Refused	2

D8. Which of the following groups best describes your race? [READ LIST]

	Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1.	White	86
2.	Black or African-American	7
3.	Asian	0
4.	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
5.	American Indian or Alaska Native	1
6.	Other	3
7.	Don't know	0
8.	Refused	2

D9. [RECORD STATE]

D10. What is your gender?

Base: Total Respondents	1000 %
1. Male	45
2. Female	55

D11. Finally, what is your 5-digit zip code?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING! YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

AARP
Knowledge Management
For more information contact Terri Guengerich (202) 434-6306