More than seven in ten member indicate they support capping the annual rate payday lenders can charge at 36 percent APR.

About two in three members strongly support capping payday lending interest rates at 36 percent APR. Another eight percent somewhat support capping the rate at this level. Only eight percent of members say they would be opposed to capping the rate at this level. One in seven report they are unsure or did not answer the question.

A solid majority of Virginia AARP members say they would be more likely to vote for a state candidate who supports capping payday lending loan interests rates at 36 percent APR.

More than seven in ten members (71%) indicate they are more likely to vote for a candidate for state office who supports capping the annual interest rates for payday loans at 36 percent APR. Only three percent of members report they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supports a cap.

There are no differences in likely voting behavior based on age, income, or gender. All demographic groups are more likely to say they would vote for a state candidate who supports increased consumer protections for payday lending barrowers.
Methodology

This mail survey explores the opinions and experiences of AARP Virginia members on health care quality, long-term care, caregiving, payday lending, and transportation. AARP conducted the 2007 Virginia Member Survey between July and August 2007. Researchers at AARP randomly selected 2,000 AARP members in Virginia making sure to select members proportionate to each of three age groups: 50-59, 60-74, and 75+. Each selected member received a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey.

From the sample, 790 members returned the survey, making the response rate 40 percent. The sampling error for this survey sample is ± 3.5 percent. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of about 3.5 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every eligible AARP member household in Virginia had been surveyed. As of August 2007, there are approximately 1,036,950 AARP members in Virginia. Researchers weighted the sample by age group to represent the AARP Virginia member population.

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.

For more information about this survey please contact Anita Stowell-Ritter at: 202-434-6205 or e-mail aritter@aarp.org