

**AARP SURVEY:
OPINIONS OF LIKELY AND REGISTERED VOTERS IN IOWA
ON ADVANCE RATEMAKING LEGISLATION**



MAY 2011

AARP's Iowa State office commissioned Selzer & Company, Inc. to explore the views likely voters ages 50 and older views about House File 561, a bill that would allow utility companies to raise customer rates for a nuclear power plant in the state *before* it is built. These results are based on a phone survey fielded May 23 - 25, 2011. The sample of registered voters was adjusted by age and sex to reflect a cross-section of active registered voters ages 50 and over in the Iowa Secretary of State's Voter Registration database. A subsample of 400 voters likely to vote in the 2012 general election was identified from this larger sample. This summary is based on the responses of likely voters only. The subsample of likely voters ages 50+ yielded a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent. Annotated survey is attached.

SURVEY-IN-BRIEF

- ❖ **Most (72%) likely voters ages 50+ in Iowa oppose, with over half (52%) saying they *strongly oppose*, the current legislation to allow energy companies to raise rates and collect from customers in advance of building a new nuclear power plant in the state.**
- ❖ **Nearly six in ten (57%) likely voters ages 50+ in Iowa say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate for state office that supported this legislation.**
- ❖ **Three-quarters or more of likely voters ages 50+ in Iowa indicate that House File 561 could be improved if it:**
 - **allowed customers refunds if the project were cancelled or not finished (*a lot better: 40%; a little better: 39%*);**
 - **required cost-comparisons of electric options for increasing energy service before building a nuclear power plant (*a lot better: 25%; a little better: 50%*);**
 - **set a limit on how much the utility could charge customers (*a lot better: 21%; a little better: 53%*)**

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a membership that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 35.1 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's millions of members and Americans 50+; AARP VIVA, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For more information about this survey, please contact Anthony Carroll, Associate State Director for Advocacy, 515.697.1015, acarroll@aarp.org