AARP Voter Engagement Campaign: Protect Voters 50+ - Key Election Takeaways

The unpredictability of this year's election may only be matched by questions about what's next. However, there is some consensus that the 2020 election featured the most motivated electorate in this country's history and older Americans were prominent in determining winners and losers at the ballot box. While AARP awaits more reliable data on older voters, here are some early takeaways.

1. **The 50+ showed up in big numbers.** Turnout was up across the board, and 50+ voters made up the majority -
   52% - of electorate at 52%, according to exit polls. In fact, Americans age 65+ were a larger share of the electorate (22%) in 2020 than were in 2016 (15%). With 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day for the next ten years, this group will continue to be a force at the ballot box.

2. **Their votes helped determine the outcome, particularly in key states.** Preliminary exit polls indicate the President Trump lost some support nationally among the 50+ compared to 2016, with more significant negative swings in states like Michigan, Arizona, and Georgia. AARP will be digging into the data over the next few weeks, once the final exit polling is available.

3. **COVID-19 and economic security top the list of their concerns.** While there are partisan differences, with 50+ Democrats/Biden voters prioritizing getting control of the virus and 50+ Republican/Trump voters emphasizing the economy, one thing the overwhelming majority of 50+ agree on is the need to protect Social Security and Medicare as the pillars for a secure retirement.