



## **US House Arkansas District 3**

#### HOW TO USE THE AARP VOTERS' GUIDE:

AARP produced this guide to help you find out what candidates are saying about health and financial security in their own words.

#### HAVING TROUBLE CUTTING THROUGH THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN CLUTTER?

AARP is committed to helping you get the facts you need to choose candidates who reflect your views and values. We are nonpartisan – we don't support or oppose any political candidates or contribute any money to campaigns or political action committees. Our priority is ensuring you know where the candidates stand before you cast your vote.



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#### 2014 AARP Voters' Guide | US House Arkansas District 3

### **Social Security**

*How would you protect Social Security for today's seniors and strengthen it for future generations?* 

#### **AARP's Position:**

Social Security should continue to guarantee that Americans who work and pay into the system receive benefits based on what they earn and contribute. Benefits should keep up with inflation and last for as long as an individual lives. We must strengthen Social Security for the future and protect benefits for people who count on them most, including surviving spouses and families, lower-wage workers, and disabled individuals who no longer can work. Social Security must be put on stable financial ground, but any adjustments should be implemented gradually so changes do not impact those in or near retirement.

#### Steve Womack (Rep):

For too long, Washington has failed to address the problems presented by entitlement programs which are the driving force behind our debt. When I was elected, I made a promise to represent the people of the Third District, and I refuse to stand by and continue to allow these programs to run inefficiently. Social Security has long been considered a political "don't." However, I believe it is time for this Congress to come to the table and have a conversation about reforming Social Security. If we act now, we can save benefits for current recipients and fix it so it's around for future generations. (Source: Womack House Website, http://ow.ly/czYWx)

### Medicare

# How would you put Medicare on stronger financial ground and protect today's seniors and future retirees from rising health costs?

#### **AARP's Position:**

Medicare should be strengthened and improved so both current and future generations can count on having access to high-quality, affordable coverage. Medicare should continue to guarantee a specific set of benefits that are affordable and meet a person's health care needs. Medicare should offer choices that ensure access to high-quality health care. Medicare should improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of care by emphasizing value and cracking down on fraud, waste, and abuse.

#### **Steve Womack (Rep):**

It is essential that we understand what Medicare reform means. First of all, those 55 years and older will NOT be affected by Chairman Ryan's proposed reform to Medicare. Secondly, my Republican colleagues and I are not trying to 'end' Medicare. That couldn't be further from the truth. Our goal is to preserve Medicare by reforming it into a viable program for not only this generation but for generations to come. Medicare will go bankrupt by 2020 if nothing is done to fix it. (Source: Womack House Website, http://ow.ly/xwPJo)

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## **Financial Security**

## How would you help Americans save so they can secure their future and live independently as they age?

#### **AARP's Position:**

More opportunities and incentives should be available for all Americans to plan and save so they can have a more secure future. Freedom from age discrimination is a fundamental right and critical to Americans' ability to have a secure retirement. Every worker should be treated fairly, regardless of age. We need to support family caregivers who make it possible for more seniors to live in their homes and communities, where they want, rather than taxpayers and struggling families paying for costlier care.

#### Steve Womack (Rep):

According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses in America employ more than half of the employees in the private sector and pay over 40% of the total private payroll in the United States. What's more small businesses are also responsible for over 60% of the new jobs created in the past 15 years. Those are some of the many reasons why I believe it is important to put in place pro-growth policies and ease regulatory burdens on small businesses so they can expand their business and create jobs. (Source: Womack House Website, http://ow.ly/cO2Rn)



After years of working hard and paying into the system, AARP believes you've earned the right to know where the candidates stand on the issues that matter to you and your family. This Voters' Guide will help you find out where the candidates stand on health and financial security in their own words, so you can decide which candidate best reflects your views and values.

To find out more about these issues and voting information, please visit **aarp.org/yourvote**.

## **Voter Information Inside**



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