



# **US House Arkansas District 4**

### **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 4

# **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.

## **Bruce Westerman (Rep):**

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.

### James L. Witt (Dem):

Social Security is indispensable to millions of Americans, and I am firmly committed to improving and strengthening Social Security. I oppose raising the Social Security retirement age beyond 67, and I do not support means testing; however, I am open to finding creative ways to address the financial challenges of this vital program. (Source: Witt Campaign Site, http://goo.gl/HB9bZl)

# **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.

## **Bruce Westerman (Rep):**

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.

## James L. Witt (Dem):

I am committed to ensuring Medicare is solvent and remains strong; however, I will not support efforts to force middle-class seniors to pay more for health care or reduce benefits our seniors have earned. Additionally, I am opposed to privatizing Medicare. There needs to be continued emphasis on efforts to curb waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare. We must also carefully review funding formulas to ensure fair payments to physicians so that they can keep their doors open and provide a high level of care; however, we must make sure health care services remain affordable and accessible. (Source: Witt Campaign Site, http://goo.gl/HB9bZl)

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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.

## **Bruce Westerman (Rep):**

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.

### James L. Witt (Dem):

Job creation and training in Arkansas' 4th Congressional District must include further development of public-private partnerships between local four-year universities, community colleges, technical schools, and businesses with the goal of creating and retaining a competitive workforce with the knowledge and skills for high quality, sustainable Arkansas jobs. (Source: Witt Campaign Site, http://goo.gl/xzjImL)



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**



