



## US House California District 8

### **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.



[aarp.org/yourvote](https://aarp.org/yourvote)

## **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.

### **Robert D. Conaway (Dem):**

The combined Social Security and Disability programs are projected to remain solvent[...]through 2033, but with that said we need[...] more people paying into the system with good paying jobs[...]another long term strategy involves special-issue government securities[...] swapped out for \$2.7 trillion in surplus funds grabbed by Congress to pay for the wars[...] Although this \$2.7 trillion[...]is not counted in the total amount of debt held by the public, it represents real debt that will have to be repaid. There needs to be legislation to prevent Congress & the Treasury borrow against social security trust fund (Source: Conaway for Congress, <http://ow.ly/zhw3w>)

### **Paul J. Cook (Rep):**

The reckless spending and budget deficit at the federal level is another major problem. Politicians have wasted too much money on bailouts, welfare expansions, and other frivolous pursuits, while working and retired Americans have suffered. Reckless spending not only diverts money from infrastructure and roads, it threatens programs for seniors like Social Security and Medicare. I will seek balanced budgets and refocus on sane spending priorities. (Source: The Inyo Register, <http://ow.ly/bQsVn>)

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## **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.

### **Robert D. Conaway (Dem):**

Strength [of ACA]: It allows the Food and Drug Administration to approve more generic drugs (making for more competition in the market to drive down prices and it also increases the rebates on drugs people get through Medicare. Medicare patients with chronic illnesses must be monitored more thoroughly... Reduce costs for some Medicare spending, which in turn are put right back into Medicare to increase its solvency. Most notably, this bill (the ACA) reduces the amount that Medicare Advantage pays to be more in line with other areas of Medicare, and reduces the growth of Medicare payments in the future. (Source: Conaway for Congress, <http://ow.ly/zhw3w>)

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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.

### **Robert D. Conaway (Dem):**

We need regulations to prevent the theft of Americans' home investments, retirement plans, 401k's & IRA's. (Source: Smart voter, <http://ow.ly/xPNCR>)

### **Paul J. Cook (Rep):**

Government doesn't create jobs, the private sector does. Too often, government gets in the way of job creation. We can get this economy moving again by simplifying the tax code; lowering taxes; encouraging investment; getting wasteful spending under control; developing energy resources in America; and reducing government red tape and bureaucracy. (Source: Paul Cook Website, <http://ow.ly/bQpot>)



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](http://aarp.org/yourvote).

## Voter Information Inside

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AARP

601 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20049

