



## US House California District 12

### **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.

### **John Dennis (Rep):**

Dennis does not favor privatizing social security and medicare. Rather, his position entails allowing people to opt-out of the programs while maintaining "any and all" policies "that will save them the most." For him, this means using defense cuts – including the Paulian ideal of closing overseas military bases – to help make those programs more sustainable in the long-term. To this purpose, he supports doling out medicare block grants to states. "I think there should be a robust, overlapping, powerful social safety net," he says. "I'm not sure government should be in charge of that, but it is important that we have one." (Source: SF Weekly, <http://ow.ly/xFv7s>)

### **Nancy Pelosi (Dem):**

Social Security has provided seniors with the peace of mind that comes from a secure retirement. While Congress must address the long-term funding challenges to Social Security, any reforms must be focused on ensuring its long term stability. I will oppose any effort to privatize or weaken Social Security Today's middle-class families are struggling to pay for exploding health care costs, rising college tuitions, and high energy bills. Many Americans are also facing the dismal prospect of finding their pensions increasingly at risk. These realities make saving for retirement an even greater challenge. (Source: VoteSmart.org, <http://ow.ly/bTfC5>)

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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.

### **John Dennis (Rep):**

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### **Nancy Pelosi (Dem):**

Social Security and Medicare are solemn pledges to our seniors – a promise of a safe and secure source of retirement income and health care for Americans. Protecting Social Security and Medicare is among my top priorities. (Source: Nancy Pelosi Website, <http://ow.ly/y5S6o>)

## **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.

### **John Dennis (Rep):**

Small and emerging businesses can lead us out of the current economic stagnation and high unemployment[...] (Source: John Dennis Website, <http://ow.ly/bS7vH>)

### **Nancy Pelosi (Dem):**

Social Security and Medicare are solemn pledges to our seniors – a promise of a safe and secure source of retirement income and health care for Americans. Protecting Social Security and Medicare is among my top priorities. (Source: Nancy Pelosi Website, <http://ow.ly/y5S6o>)



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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