



## US House Colorado District 6

### **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.

### **Mike Coffman (Rep):**

Mandatory spending programs consist primarily of three major entitlements: Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Together these programs, along with the interest on our \$14 trillion debt, which also falls under the mandatory category, constitute 62 cents out of every dollar spent by the federal government. Without needed reforms, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office's "Long-Term Budget Outlook," by 2040 mandatory spending will grow to 76 percent of total spending, leaving only 24 percent to cover the rest of the entire budget. (Source: Coffman House Website, <http://ow.ly/c2AJ0>)

### **Andrew Romanoff (Dem):**

I oppose the privatization of Social Security taxing Social Security wages above \$100,000 should be one of the solutions to the huge trust fund's looming crisis. (Source: Denver Post, <http://ow.ly/xwYyQ>)

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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.

### **Mike Coffman (Rep):**

The hard truth is that we need to look at things like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Right now, nearly 60 percent of federal spending goes to these programs. Due to the aging of our population and retirement of the baby boomers, that number will grow. We are not too far from a date when every single dollar we take in will go to these programs. [...] Practically, that will mean massive tax increases or massive benefit reductions. Obviously, this is unacceptable. Our seniors and retirees need assurances that they will get what was promised[...] The longer we wait, the harder the choices get. (Source: Coffman House Website, <http://ow.ly/c2Biz>)

### **Andrew Romanoff (Dem):**

I will pursue common-sense solutions to strengthen Medicare: by allowing the Department of Health and Human Services, for example, to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. (Source: Andrew Romanoff for Congress, <http://ow.ly/xwZ4I>)

## **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.

### **Mike Coffman (Rep):**

I support efforts to simplify our tax code and lessen the ever increasing burden placed upon our citizens by the government. I have co-sponsored House Resolution 982, the Tax Code Termination Act. This bill terminates the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. It declares that a new federal tax system should be simple and fair and apply a low tax rate to all Americans. (Source: Coffman House Website, <http://ow.ly/c2Cc3>)

### **Andrew Romanoff (Dem):**

I'm determined to fulfill the promise our country made to seniors: the chance to live in dignity and to retire without fear of poverty or abuse. I began in the Colorado House: helping seniors get the home and community-based care they need to live longer, healthier and more independent lives. As a state legislator, I supported measures to:

- Shield seniors from abuse and neglect.
- Improve conditions in nursing homes.
- Enhance services for those affected by Alzheimer's
- Train more health-care providers to treat senior patients.
- Help family members care for elderly relatives.

(Andrew Romanoff for Congress, <http://ow.ly/xwZ4I>)



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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