



US House Connecticut 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.



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 protect benefits for people who count on them most, including surviving spouses and families, low-wage workers, and individuals who become disabled and can no longer 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.

Dan Debicella (Rep):

When it comes to Social Security and Medicare, Debicella said that he is in favor of reform, but not privatization. He stressed that they need different kind of reforms, with Social Security being the easier of the two. If you look at Social Security you'll see that minor adjustments to the program now will keep it from going bankrupt in 2037 and we can save it," Debicella said. (Source: Shelton Herald, <http://ow.ly/xx2KN>)

Jim A. Himes (Dem):

The changes necessary to provide for every future recipient are not drastic. But we will need to negotiate modest, bipartisan changes for future recipients like President Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill worked out. I will firmly oppose efforts to privatize Social Security. It is imperative that Social Security never be subject to the whims of the financial markets. When seniors watched retirement accounts drop precipitously, Social Security remained as sound and dependable as ever. You don't wager the security of citizens on a roll of the dice. (Source: Himes for Congress website, <http://ow.ly/cv6C9>)

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.

Dan Debicella (Rep):

Medicare will be a more complex fix, Debicella said, due to the "exploding costs" that he claims healthcare reform has exacerbated. This has resulted in a system where doctors have an incentive to run expensive and unneeded tests. He said Medicare and Medicaid will need to change the way they operate to move from the fee-for-service model to one that is more outcome-based, where physicians are not paid per test or service but to "actually solve the problem." (Source: Shelton Herald, <http://ow.ly/xx2UQ>)

Jim A. Himes (Dem):

When LBJ signed Medicare into law, we extended that promise. For decades, older Americans have enjoyed universal, quality health care. These programs, while facing challenges, work. I am fully committed to defending them from radical restructuring and reckless revision. While changing demographics and rising costs mean we must work to make Medicare sustainable for future generations, there is no immediate danger. I will work to put Medicare and Social Security on a path to long-term stability[...and you will get the benefits you earned. (Source: Himes for Congress website, <http://ow.ly/cv6C9>)

Financial Security

How would you help Americans build a financial nest egg for their retirement?

AARP's Position:

There should be more opportunities and incentives for all Americans to save for their retirement and financial security. Freedom from age discrimination is a fundamental right, and all Americans should be able to keep working and contributing to society regardless of age. Promoting affordable homeownership and safeguarding home equity are important to maintain and improve the independence and quality of life of Americans age 50-plus.

Dan Debicella (Rep):

Create favorable environment for small business and entrepreneurs through:

- Simplifying the tax code
- Eliminating red tape and government bureaucracy
- Repealing ObamaCare
- Expanding free trade

Enable certainty for business, rather than the annual games on budget and regulatory issues
(Source: Dan Debicella's Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/y6dkz>)

Jim A. Himes (Dem):

I have taken an aggressive and multi-faceted approach to fixing the economy and creating jobs for America's families[...]extending tax cuts to help drive demand for goods and services...extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts that were set to expire; cutting taxes for small businesses; expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit for moderate-income families. I'm especially proud of cutting the payroll tax to put more money in the pockets of every working American. I supported housing, transportation and energy efficiency projects. (Source: Himes for Congress website, <http://goo.gl/4Gllug>)



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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