



## US House Florida District 2

### **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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## **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.

### **Gwendolyn Graham (Dem):**

Our seniors have worked hard and paid into Medicare and Social Security their entire lives – they deserve to have their benefits protected. We can't let partisan squabbles get in the way of keeping this promise our parents and grandparents have earned, and I refuse to support any budget that would jeopardize these vital programs through plans like privatization. We must protect and preserve Medicare and Social Security – both for seniors today, and for the next generation. (Source: Graham for Congress, <http://ow.ly/xxcOa>)

### **Steve Southerland II (Rep):**

We must keep our commitment to our seniors and those planning to retire soon with Social Security and Medicare benefits. While I believe there are some serious financial issues on the horizon with Social Security and Medicare – I firmly believe that benefits should be protected, the retirement age should not be raised, and taxes should not be increased ... I will support bi-partisan efforts to bring true reform to Social Security while keeping our commitment to seniors and those planning to retire soon after a lifetime of contributing to the Social Security trust fund. (Source: On the Issues, <http://ow.ly/zZeNZ>)

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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.

### **Gwendolyn Graham (Dem):**

[...] Seniors expect America to keep the promises we've made through Medicare and Social Security; seniors' families depend on Medicare and Social Security to keep their parents and loved ones healthy and secure, as well. We need to focus on the real challenges our seniors and families face: Like finding safe and affordable nursing care, creating incentives that allow aging seniors to stay in their own homes as long as they can live independently, and ensuring our seniors in North Florida's rural areas have access to doctors and specialists who accept Medicare patients. (Source: Graham for Congress, <http://ow.ly/xxcOa>)

### **Steve Southerland II (Rep):**

I voted for a House budget plan that ensures the long-term viability of Medicare... This House-approved solution offers a personalized, strengthened Medicare program for our children and grandchildren... That said, any reforms to Medicare and Social Security must honor the commitments made to our seniors. The Medicare proposal that I support ensures that there will be absolutely no disruptions in benefits for older Americans. (Source: Southland House Website, <http://ow.ly/ccrw3>)

## **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.

### **Gwendolyn Graham (Dem):**

We need leaders [...] to fight for commonsense economic policies like investing in public education, job training, balancing the budget, and making sure small businesses have an equal playing field with big corporations. I will fight for an economy that strengthens middle-class families, working North Floridians, seniors, and small businesses at home. I will also seek to incrementally raise the minimum wage with input from small businesses, working families, and economists. I will fight to pass Paycheck Fairness and ensure women receive equal pay for equal work. (Source: Graham for Congress, <http://ow.ly/xxc8r>)

### **Steve Southerland II (Rep):**

I have supported a common sense economic agenda that includes: • Reducing costly, onerous regulations on our small businesses • Streamlining our tax code to spur investment and create jobs • Making American companies more competitive in the global marketplace • Expanding access to safe, affordable American-made energy • Paying down our crushing burden of debt (Source: Southerland House Website, <http://ow.ly/ccs1f>)



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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