



# **US House Florida District 15**

### **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.

## Alan M. Cohn (Dem):

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.

## Dennis A. Ross (Rep):

Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security are leaading us to financial ruin and must be reformed. Some, like Social Security, require minor changes and greater market involvement. (Source: Congressman Dennis Ross, http://ow.ly/cocbo)

# **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.

## Alan M. Cohn (Dem):

Taking care of seniors isn't an "issue" it's part of my life every day. I have a wonderful 87-year old mother living at an assisted living residence in our area. She has always taken care of us and now it's time to take care of her. Like so many families, we're struggling with the frustrating and mind-numbing bureaucracy involved in making sure my Mom gets the benefits she's earned. I will fight against the GOP's efforts to end Medicare, or to increase cost burdens on Medicare recipients. (Source: Cohn for Congress, http://ow.ly/xxlhE)

## Dennis A. Ross (Rep):

Congressman Ross has co-sponsored legislation to reform Medicare through a "Premium Support" system of payments. This system would provide seniors with the same medical plan Members of Congress and federal employees receive, while vastly reducing the costs of the program to taxpayers. Instead of the cumbersome and fraud riddled system of fee-for-service, the "Premium Support" system would offer seniors a variety of private health plan choices, similar to Medicare Advantage, and the government would pay the premium. (Source: Congressman Dennis Ross, http://ow.ly/cobYl)

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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.

## Alan M. Cohn (Dem):

It is essential that... we emphasize the creation of opportunity for individuals to succeed in developing productive, rewarding lives, and thereby building our human capital and community capacity for growth and progress. This calls for strong support for quality education, effective health and human services; the implementation of science-based prevention and early intervention services; and the enhancement of individual and community factors that help prevent problems from developing. Women are still not paid equal wages for equal work. This is discriminatory and unfair. (Source: Cohn for Congress, http://ow.ly/xxlri)

## Dennis A. Ross (Rep):

With our national debt topping \$15 trillion, Washington needs to show real leadership by passing a BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT to our Constitution. This is the only effective way to make politicians cut spending and rein in government waste...We must reform our tax code to make it simpler, fairer, and put an end to the corporate loopholes...We need to stop the constant over-regulation of nearly every industry in America and make the necessary regulations more efficient and business-friendly. Finally, we must tackle our debt problem and show leadership out of Washington to give confidence to our markets and businesses. (Source: Dennis Ross for Congress, http://ow.ly/zLAov)



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**



