



## US House Illinois District 3

### **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.

### **Sharon M. Brannigan (Rep):**

Entitlements need to be reigned in and waste, fraud and abuse need to end for the sake of all of us and our children/grandchildren. I will work tirelessly to see to it that all of it is exposed and stopped in its tracks. (Source: Brannigan Campaign Site <http://ow.ly/xmrto>)

### **Daniel W. Lipinski (Dem):**

Instead of a complicated cap-and-trade scheme, the "Raise Wages, Cut Carbon Act of 2009" would simply put a user fee on carbon polluters and require that all the money collected be returned to working Americans and retirees in the form of tax cuts and increases in Social Security benefits. (Source: Chicago Tribune, <http://ow.ly/xmpdg>)

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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.

### **Sharon M. Brannigan (Rep):**

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### **Daniel W. Lipinski (Dem):**

Clearly, Medicare, and the health care system in general, must be reformed in order to cut the deficit. I will continue seeking ways to reduce spending and cut budget deficits while maintaining essential services and investments for the middle class. (Source: Chicago Tribune, <http://ow.ly/xmpdg>)

## **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.

### **Sharon M. Brannigan (Rep):**

Brannigan's proposal, is a new "self-employment program" that assists laid-off workers, former small business owners and new entrepreneurs. Instead of filling out job applications over and over, citizens can get assistance with finding their dream job – working for themselves. "A program such as this," Brannigan said "is currently being used in 5 other states – Delaware, Maine, New Jersey and New York." She continues, "States such as these offer innovative self-employment programs, in addition to traditional unemployment programs, that help laid-off workers start their own businesses." (Source: Brannigan Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xmuN1>)

### **Daniel W. Lipinski (Dem):**

Dan Lipinski's Five-Point Plan to Get Americans Back to Work: 1. Strengthen manufacturing 2. Level the international playing field 3. Modernize our infrastructure 4. Educate the workforce 5. Invest in innovation (Source: Congressman Dan Lipinski's Website; <http://ow.ly/cvbtbX>)



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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AARP

601 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20049

