



## US House Illinois 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.



[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.

### **John M. Shimkus (Rep):**

If we are to keep the promise of a secure retirement to the next generation, we must renegotiate expectations with younger Americans today. John is open to comprehensive reform that could include a combination of: raising the retirement age for those just starting their careers, raising or eliminating the cap on payroll taxes for higher wage earners, and creating incentives for personal retirement and health care savings. (Source: Shimkus Campaign Site <http://goo.gl/q34XSz>)

### **Eric L. Thorsland (Dem):**

Social Security is 34 percent of total spending, including unemployment and associated expenses. With a few simple changes, such as raising the income cut-off for Social Security contributions, the Social Security Trust Fund can be made completely solvent for decades. This would amount to a larger contribution to the fund from high wage earners [...]. (Source: News-Gazette, <http://ow.ly/yc9Tj>)

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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.

### **John M. Shimkus (Rep):**

"Nobody is going to take away the promises (we made) to the seniors," Shimkus said. [...] Shimkus said without reform, the Social Security and Medicare systems will continue to be underfunded. He said the Medicare system pays out \$3 for every dollar received and with the aging population increasing over the working population, the promises made to today's senior citizens may not be extended to seniors of the future. Shimkus said reforming the system could include raising the age in which a senior citizen can receive Social Security and Medicare benefits and increasing the withholding taxes of higher income earners. (Source: Suburban Journal, <http://ow.ly/yc9mY>)

### **Eric L. Thorsland (Dem):**

Strengthen Medicare to provide sustainable access to affordable options for high-quality health-care coverage. Use Medicare's substantial marketplace power to negotiate the best value and service for recipients. Guarantee specific, affordable benefits to meet a person's health care needs. Improve public health throughout people's lives to reduce Medicare costs. Restore adequate staffing to help eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse and improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of care. (Source: Thorsland for Congress, <http://ow.ly/z117B>)

## **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.

### **John M. Shimkus (Rep):**

John supports opening new markets for American-made goods across the globe through Free Trade Agreements. This not only allows American manufacturers to sell their products worldwide without anti-competitive tariffs and taxes, it keeps costs down for American families struggling to make ends meet in the Obama Recession. (Source: Shimkus Campaign Site <http://goo.gl/7YFf61>)

### **Eric L. Thorsland (Dem):**

Prohibit age discrimination in the workplace. Phase in a sliding, income-based cost scale over time while maintaining Medicare coverage for low income recipients. Offer tax credits to family home-based care providers or to seniors to hire in-home care to assist seniors who wish to stay at home. This reduces reliance on significantly more expensive institutional care. (Source: Thorsland for Congress, <http://goo.gl/gvPpmE>)



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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