



## US House Michigan District 1

### **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 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 J. Benishek (Rep):**

"I tend to agree with Congressman Paul Ryan's Road Map of America's Future. He addresses Social Security and Medicare. It's sort of a gradual phasing out of the Medicare and Social Security plan. Those in the plan now would have the same benefits and as you become younger, it becomes more and more of a personal savings and health insurance plan. This allows you to keep the money, and not have the money be in your name, so if you die it goes to your heirs. Now the money you pay to Social Security — the money is gone. So, I'm all in favor of privatizing it." (Source: Petosky News, <http://ow.ly/xIBWJ>)

### **Jerry Cannon (Dem):**

Northern Michigan seniors depend on the promise of Social Security and Medicare. Most seniors have spent their lives working hard, paying in on the guarantee that Social Security and Medicare would be there when they retired. We must keep that promise. I will always protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare for current beneficiaries and future generations. I'll steadfastly oppose any plans to privatize Social Security and Medicare or plans to turn Medicare into a voucher system, costing seniors thousands more each year and forcing them to negotiate with insurance companies for coverage. (Source: Cannon Campaign Site:<http://ow.ly/xIF9H>)

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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.

### **Dan J. Benishek (Rep):**

"I tend to agree with (Wisconsin Republican) Congressman Paul Ryan's Road Map of America's Future. He addresses Social Security and Medicare. It's sort of a gradual phasing out of the Medicare and Social Security plan. Those in the plan now would have the same benefits and as you become younger, it becomes more and more of a personal savings and health insurance plan. This allows you to keep the money, and not have the money be in your name, so if you die it goes to your heirs. Now the money you pay to Social Security — the money is gone. So, I'm all in favor of privatizing it." (Source: Petosky News, <http://ow.ly/xIBWJ>)

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## **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 J. Benishek (Rep):**

Dr. Benishek's main focus in Congress is to create jobs and grow the economy in Northern Michigan. There's no doubt that many families in Northern Michigan are struggling in this tough economy. Dr. Benishek knows that moms and dads throughout our area are finding it difficult to pay for their bills and put food on the table. And while paychecks are not increasing, the cost of food, gas and utilities continues to rise. (Source: Benishek's Congressional Site, <http://ow.ly/xICMw>)

### **Jerry Cannon (Dem):**

In Congress, I'll work to make it easier for small and medium-sized businesses to get access to loans, credit, and capital, while eliminating unnecessary regulations that hold these businesses back. I also believe we should raise the minimum wage and will push for this in Congress. People working full-time should not have to live in poverty. That has to change. It doesn't solve all the problems but it does help. (Source: Cannon Campaign Site: <http://ow.ly/xIF9H>)



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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