



## **US House Michigan District 5**

#### **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 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.

#### Allen Hardwick (Rep):

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

#### Dan T. Kildee (Dem):

Kildee said that fiscal woes can best be addressed by solving efficiency issues that go along with... Social Security, and that it is necessary to take a long-term approach to the problem. Especially with baby boomers approaching the age of Social Security benefits, he said, it is key to think about how to keep the system tenable. Kildee suggested raising the bar on maximum taxable income for social security, which he said currently sits at around \$113,000. (Source: Mlive, http://ow.ly/xMQNi)

### **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.

#### Allen Hardwick (Rep):

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

#### Dan T. Kildee (Dem):

Despite the millions of Americans who rely on Medicare every day, the majority in Congress has passed the Paul Ryan budget twice, which would end the Medicare guarantee. I know personally the value of Medicare for seniors - like millions of other retired Americans, my mom and dad, Margaret and Jack, count on it for their health care needs. In Congress, I will fight any plan that tries to eliminate or privatize Medicare. Our seniors have earned their Medicare benefits and I believe it is fundamentally wrong to take it away from them or future generations. (Source: Kildee's Campaign Site, http://ow.ly/xMRtX)

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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.

#### Allen Hardwick (Rep):

I feel that taxing the job creators to death will not bring in more revenue but cause companies to downsize or outsource to other countries to keep from hurting their bottom line. Giving tax breaks to the job creators is a win-win situation for all. This will allow them to grow and create more jobs which translate to more taxpayers. (Source: Hardwick for Congress, http://ow.ly/yInAI)

#### Dan T. Kildee (Dem):

America needs more jobs. That's why Congress' first priority should be job creation and strengthening our economy. Yet after the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, Congress has refused to pass a single jobs bill. To get more Americans working, I believe we should be giving tax incentives to companies that create jobs in Michigan, not funding those that ship our jobs overseas. We need to invest in small businesses so they can hire new workers and retain current employees. (Source: Kildee's Campaign Site, http://ow.ly/xMRtX)



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**



