



US House Michigan District 7

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

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.

Pam Byrnes (Dem):

Our older generations spent their lives working under the promise of a safe, secure retirement and they deserve that. Pam believes Social Security and Medicare are our seniors' safety net. She will protect Social Security and stand up to any efforts to turn Medicare into a voucher system or end Medicare's guaranteed benefit for Michigan seniors. (Source: Byrne's Campaign Site <http://ow.ly/xO7Sj>)

Tim L. Walberg (Rep):

I do not support cuts to current benefits paid to our seniors which have worked a lifetime to earn. I also believe we need to allow our younger workforce to have the ability to create individual savings accounts that can be inherited by family members. In order to sustain a fiscally strong Social Security for all retiring Americans, we need to implement 21st century solutions to a 20th century program. (Source: Walberg's Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xO7yyj>)

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.

Pam Byrnes (Dem):

Medicare is key to providing our seniors with affordable, quality healthcare coverage. In Congress, I will work to reform the Affordable Care Act to require Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices to ensure this program remains solvent. I did this in the Michigan State Legislature and I will do it again in Congress. I will also oppose the Ryan Budget cuts, which would increase seniors' costs by \$6400 per year. (UAW Retiree Meeting, Adrian, MI, 6/30/14)

Tim L. Walberg (Rep):

And finally, I have worked to save and secure Medicare for both now and the future. My Republican colleagues and I have put together a plan that gives consumers choice in their health care decisions and puts Medicare on a pathway of long-term sustainability; the other side has done nothing and is content to allow Medicare to continue down its unsustainable path of bankruptcy by 2021, ultimately causing benefits to disappear for millions. (Source: Walberg's Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xO7in>)

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.

Pam Byrnes (Dem):

My top priority in Congress will be giving every Michigander the economic and educational opportunities to support a family. Programs like Social Security and Medicare are crucial to a stable retirement, but we must also make sure our families aren't living from paycheck to paycheck and build their own egg nest; but they need a good job to do that. I will work to build a K-12 Jobs pipeline that prepares our children for the good jobs of the future, public-private partnerships that keep good-paying advanced manufacturing jobs here in Michigan, and increased college affordability. (Frenchtown Senior Center Annual Picnic, 6/17/14)

Tim L. Walberg (Rep):

While some government regulations are important, excessive federal regulation stifles our nations' job creators by creating an uncertain business climate. Eliminating these burdensome regulations will encourage increased investment and new hiring. The first step Congress can take in fighting harmful regulations is to identify and eliminate current and pending regulations that hinder economic growth, while requiring Congressional review of any new regulations that will significantly impact our economy. (Source: Walberg's Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xO7Js>)



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

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