



# **US House Missouri District 4**

#### **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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## 2014 AARP Voters' Guide | US House Missouri District 4

# **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.

### Vicky J. Hartzler (Rep):

Seniors have paid into Social Security for years... That is why earlier this year as part of the House budget, a discussion was started on what could be done to maintain the future solvency of this vital program. No specific recommendations were made, but the budget did direct the Social Security Board of Trustees to do a study to determine the viability of the Social Security system and to make recommendations for its solvency. This could be done fairly easily... It is vital that we honor the promises made to current retirees while preserving this important financial program for future beneficiaries. (Source: Hartzler Congressional Page, http://ow.ly/xFROb)

#### Nathaniel A. Irvin (Dem):

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

## **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.

### Vicky J. Hartzler (Rep):

Access to Medicare continues to diminish and plague the current system. The Affordable Care Act took \$500 billion away from Medicare, further weakening the program's long-term solvency. In addition, it establishes a board of unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats to make healthcare decisions over Medicare expenses... I believe this is the wrong approach and have thus co-sponsored legislation, which would repeal this onerous piece of legislation and ensure outside groups do not deny care to our seniors. (Source: Hartzler Congressional Page, http://ow.ly/xFROb)

### Nathaniel A. Irvin (Dem):

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

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## **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.

### Vicky J. Hartzler (Rep):

We must also pursue legislation that empowers small businesses to create jobs by simplifying the tax code and reducing regulatory burdens. Last congress, I supported over 30 jobs bills that the Senate simply ignored. The Path to Prosperity also contained several job-creating initiatives such as reducing the corporate tax rate and removing onerous regulations, so American businesses will stay here rather than going abroad. (Source: Hartzler Congressional Page, http://ow.ly/xFS7s)

#### Nathaniel A. Irvin (Dem):

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



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**



