



US House Missouri District 8

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 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.

Jason T. Smith (Rep):

"My parents are both on Social Security. Can you imagine if I did something to dismantle Social Security? I would not be invited to Thanksgiving dinner, I can tell you that," Smith said. "But I believe we have promises made to our seniors. People fifty years and above, let's say that example, they've paid into this system their entire life. Government should not dismantle and take it away." Smith added younger Americans will have to do something differently because, he says, Social Security will not be there as they reach retirement age if changes are not made. (Source: KRCU, <http://ow.ly/xG4eb>)

Barbara H. Stocker (Dem):

Social Security has made the lives of millions of senior citizens better. Seniors have paid into the Social Security System their entire working careers. They are due their pre-paid benefits after they retire. Yet, this Congress calls them "takers" and proposes CUTS to Social Security. The system only needs Congress to pay back what they have taken from the Social Security Trust, put more young people to work so they can have a secure retirement as well, and close the "millionaire loophole" and require them to pay on all their income like the rest of us. (Source: Stocker Campaign Site <http://ow.ly/xG6dR>)

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.

Jason T. Smith (Rep):

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

Barbara H. Stocker (Dem):

Medicare is the most effective and least expensive Healthcare Insurer that we have today. This Congress is trying to make cuts to the Medicare Program, endangering the livelihood of millions of Senior Citizens! I will be a champion for Medicare! We simply need to have more people working and paying IN to Medicare NOT cut benefits to our Senior citizens! (Source: Stocker Campaign Site <http://ow.ly/xG6dR>)

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.

Jason T. Smith (Rep):

We must focus on reforming our tax code. By simplifying the thousands of pages of IRS regulations, small business owners can focus on building their business instead of filling out complicated tax forms. Red tape is strangling our small businesses and money spent on regulations detracts from budgets that could be spent on growing businesses and hiring more employees. (Source: Congressional Site, <http://ow.ly/xG4Su>)

Barbara H. Stocker (Dem):

In a statement, Stocker proposed "bringing jobs to Southeast Missouri through improvements to infrastructure, increase access to quality education, protect and defend Social Security and Medicare and pass a long-term farm bill." (Source: the Southeast Missourian <http://ow.ly/xG6rv>)



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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