



US House Nebraska 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

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.

Dennis P. Crawford (Dem):

Social Security is the most successful anti-poverty program in U.S. history. ...Social Security is in a position to pay out all of the promised benefits until 2033. If the Congress does absolutely nothing, Social Security would still be able to pay out 78% of the promised benefits beginning in 2034. However, simply lifting the earnings cap on Social Security taxes would insure the financial viability of the program for the indefinite future. Similarly, Senator Kerrey's Social Security plan - which consists of a combination of modest benefit cuts and tax increases - would also enable us to keep our promises to senior citizens. (Source: NE Democrats, <http://ow.ly/x3nyB>)

Jeff L. Fortenberry (Rep):

My father died when I was young. I received Social Security benefits. They helped my family get through. Like Medicare, Social Security is important to many Americans. To secure these programs for our seniors and strengthen them for the next generation, the right type of reform will lower unsustainable costs in a way that improves outcomes and protects retirement security. (Source: Journal Star, <http://ow.ly/wTxrL>)

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.

Dennis P. Crawford (Dem):

The Affordable Care Act has extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund. I oppose any effort to completely repeal the ACA because it would put the future solvency of Medicare in jeopardy. [...] I support what I call "Medicare Plus." What that means is that Medicare would be available as a choice for a health insurance carrier in the health care exchanges. I want to make it possible for any consumer to be covered by Medicare if they paid the appropriate premium. This would strengthen the solvency of the program. I strongly oppose [...] plan[s] that would privatize Medicare and turn it into a voucher plan. (Source: Crawford Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/zjCmr2>)

Jeff L. Fortenberry (Rep):

Fortenberry said Social Security benefits helped his family to "get through" when his father died when Fortenberry was young. Like Medicare, Social Security is important to many Americans, he said. "To secure these programs for our seniors and strengthen them for the next generation, the right type of reform will lower unsustainable costs in a way that improves outcomes and protects retirement security," Fortenberry said. (Source: Norfolk Daily News, <http://ow.ly/x3i6S>)

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.

Dennis P. Crawford (Dem):

My top priority will be to work across party lines to pass legislation that will create jobs. That's why I support government investments in infrastructure. ...The infrastructure in the U.S. is ranked 14th in the world and is declining. As recently as 2008, our infrastructure was ranked 7th. In 2011, a jobs bill was introduced in the Congress that would have invested in infrastructure and cut the Social Security payroll tax. This legislation – if enacted – would have created almost 2 million jobs while reducing the unemployment rate by 1 percentage point. Unfortunately, the bill has never been granted an up or down vote. (Source: Crawford Campaign Site, <http://ow.ly/x3rFS>)

Jeff L. Fortenberry (Rep):

...Our state maintains one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and is at or near the top of many national fiscal health surveys. Nebraska's economy has been a model of resiliency in the midst of financial instability. We should promote economic opportunity and stability by encouraging small business entrepreneurship within local economies while controlling government spending. I have long promoted structural budgetary reforms, including a balanced budget requirement, the presidential line-item veto, and a biennium budgeting plan, to stop government over spending and bring discipline to the federal budgeting process. (Source: Supportfort.com, <http://ow.ly/x3kBM>)



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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