



US House New Jersey 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.



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.

Ruben M. Scolavino (Dem):

If elected I would focus my efforts to protect the Social Security program for those who are currently in the program and to ensure that generations to come will be able to retire without having to fear poverty. I will oppose any effort to privatize Social Security. We should not have to expose the benefits of those who have worked so hard during their lives to the fluctuations of the stock market [...] there will be no further cuts to those benefits. By increasing the tax burden on the top 1% percent we will be able to maintain this system [...] without increasing government deficits. (Source: Town-hall, Ocean, NJ March 10)

Chris H. Smith (Rep):

Congressman Smith signed the AARP's Divided We Fail Congressional Pledge that stated: "I pledge to work across party lines to sponsor or support legislation that seeks to [...] Strengthen Social Security in a manner that treats all generations fairly." (Source: AARP, <http://ow.ly/CyWBU>)

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.

Ruben M. Scolavino (Dem):

According to statistics nearly 50 million Americans rely on the Medicare program to help them with medical expenses. It is imperative that these benefits be protected at all costs, especially from proponents of the "Ryan Budget". I will continue my fight to prevent privatization and to finally eliminate the "doughnut hole" that costs seniors so much of their hard earned income. By fighting health care fraud aggressively, millions of dollars will be saved that can be used to fund the Medicare. (Source: Town-hall, Ocean, NJ March 10)

Chris H. Smith (Rep):

He won needed federal funding for a NJ Civil Support Team to deploy rapidly and assist local first responders, and successfully fought for a change in Medicare policy to bring much-needed funding to our state's hospitals in danger of closing. Working closely with the federal officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Chris succeeded in bringing the first ever federally supported Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to the State of New Jersey. (Source: Smith Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/BwWWa>)

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.

Ruben M. Scolavino (Dem):

I will work hard to ensure that our economy becomes second to none. Providing benefits to companies who keep jobs in this country and establishing relationships with other economies that will benefit our citizens. I will work toward a resolution of this housing crisis, which continues to tie up so much of American's retirement equity. I believe the old adage that "to whom much is given, much is expected from". Those in the top 1% should not have less of a tax burden because of poorly written tax laws and lax oversight. (Source: Town-hall, Ocean, NJ March 10)

Chris H. Smith (Rep):

Working closely with the federal officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Chris succeeded in bringing the first ever federally supported Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to the State of New Jersey. The Living Independently for Elders (LIFE) program, run by St. Francis Medical Center, now enables nursing-home eligible seniors to obtain all inclusive, customized, quality medical services, nutritional and pharmaceutical assistance and other care they desperately need without having to move to a nursing home. (Source: Smith Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/BwWWa>)



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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