



US House New York District 2

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.

Pete T. King (Rep):

Social Security and Medicare are vital programs which must be strengthened and put on a sound fiscal basis. [...] To make sure that senior citizens continue to receive their benefits in the future, there must be comprehensive reform which should be done in a bipartisan manner, while ensuring that anyone who is on Social Security and Medicare, or will be joining these programs in the next 10 years, will have all their benefits maintained. This will not be easy but if we do not address the significant structural problems facing Social Security and Medicare, these programs will be irreparably damaged. (Source: King House Website, <http://ow.ly/xYkjy>)

Patricia M. Maher (Dem):

I support changing the cost of living adjustment (COLA) to a higher measure of inflation, from the current CPI-W to CPI-E. [...] This accounts for the fact that seniors spend a greater proportion of their income on healthcare, whose costs have risen greater than inflation. [...] To pay for these benefit increases while also ensuring that Social Security is fully-funded in perpetuity, I want to scrap the payroll tax cap. [...] Eliminating the cap alone would cover roughly 80% of the projected long-term shortfall in the Trust Fund. (Source: Maher Campaign Site, <http://goo.gl/ksJRXw>)

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.

Pete T. King (Rep):

Medicare is an essential program for our nation's seniors. I have a strong legislative history in support of Medicare. Specifically, I have been a strong advocate for the Medicare Advantage program, through which one million New Yorkers receive enhanced benefits such as protection against high out-of-pocket costs, vision and dental coverage, and screenings not covered by traditional Medicare. I am also working to keep durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, orthotics and prosthetics available under Medicare and to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to physical and occupational therapy services. (Source: King House Website, <http://ow.ly/xYkjy>)

Patricia M. Maher (Dem):

"If elected to Congress, I will fight on behalf of seniors to expand Social Security and will stand against privatizing Medicare and cutting other senior benefits. These earned benefit programs are financially sound, are efficient, and are effective. Unlike my opponent, I believe that retirement security is of paramount importance and must be protected," said Maher. (Source: Daily Kos, <http://ow.ly/yrcuS>)

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.

Pete T. King (Rep):

Pete also supports legislation to make elder abuse a federal crime so that we can protect the hundreds of thousands of elderly Americans who are exploited, abused or neglected each year. Pete would also require background checks for health care workers and setting up data bases for elder abuse, similar to the registries we now have for child abuse. (Source: King Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xYjwK>)

Patricia M. Maher (Dem):

I support giving federal grants and no- to low-interest loans for small businesses to revitalize our main streets and downtowns while creating decent-paying jobs. We need to give our workforce a reason to stay on Long Island, and that means building strong communities and providing jobs. It's time that we start nation-building here at home instead of overseas. (Source: Maher Campaign Site, <http://goo.gl/McBnUQ>)



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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