



US House New York 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.

Bruce A. Blakeman (Rep):

Blakeman said he would also seek to cut entitlement programs, focusing specifically on Medicaid, which he said is "out of control." "Our fathers and grandfathers sacrificed to give us a opportunities to live a better life than they did," Blakeman said. "All we're doing is saddling our young people with debt. It's wrong." (Source: The Island Now, <http://ow.ly/yS5Fy>)

Kathleen M. Rice (Dem):

Oppose Privatization — Kathleen will fight back against all efforts to privatize Social Security and dismantle the most effective, financially healthy social insurance program we have in this country. Oppose Benefit Cuts — [...] Kathleen will fight back against wealthy special interest groups seeking to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, disabled workers, and low-wage earners. Improve Cost-of-Living Adjustments — Kathleen will work to correct cost-of-living adjustments to account for rising healthcare costs so that all seniors can live with dignity and access to high-quality medical care. (Source: Rice Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/yrjJv>)

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.

Bruce A. Blakeman (Rep):

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Kathleen M. Rice (Dem):

[...]Kathleen will work to keep it that way – by opposing efforts that would cut benefits, shift a greater share of costs onto beneficiaries, or convert Medicare to a privatized voucher system. [...] Kathleen will work with members of congress to fix the Medicare reimbursement formula so that doctors receive fair pay for the services they provide without increasing the cost-burden for Medicare beneficiaries. [...] Kathleen will work to find creative solutions to address [the physician] shortage so we can fully realize the benefits of expanded healthcare coverage for all Americans. (Source: Rice Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/yrjJv>)

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.

Bruce A. Blakeman (Rep):

We need to get America moving again and create jobs. The following are a few things that can be done to expand the economy and create jobs: Simplify the tax code and reduce the tax burden of job creators and the hard-working middle class; Repeal Obamacare. It is a jobs killer and a tax on the middle class. [...] Invest in smart jobs training for the new economy. There is too much bureaucracy and overlapping in jobs training programs. An inordinate amount of money is going to bureaucracy rather than actual training and education. [...] (Source: Blakeman Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/yrvOy>)

Kathleen M. Rice (Dem):

New York's income inequality gap is the highest in the nation, with millions of low-wage workers struggling to meet our state's skyrocketing costs of living. Kathleen believes that we must stop that gap from growing further, and that raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour is a good place to start. (Rice for Congress, <http://ow.ly/yRwEv>)



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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