



## US House New York District 16

### **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](https://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.

### **Eliot L. Engel (Dem):**

I oppose cuts to Social Security and believe the privatization of the Social Security system would put at risk the only source of income for many seniors. I also believe raising the retirement age is simply unfair to those who have worked their entire lives, and have looked forward to retirement in their golden years. I have opposed privatization because the investment of Social Security funds in stocks and bonds would expose the funds to market risk and would provide poor protection against an economic downturn. I firmly believe the problems...can be resolved without altering the fundamental nature of the program. (Source: Congressman Eliot Engel, <http://ow.ly/bRFVG>)

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## **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.

### **Eliot L. Engel (Dem):**

I have not, and will not, waver in my support for Medicare. I am opposed to cuts to Medicare's guaranteed benefits...I recognize the need to address our national deficit in order to meet all of our obligations, but it cannot be at the expense of Medicare. Therefore, I opposed...changing Medicare and turning it into a voucher system...I will continue to oppose this approach, and will fight to ensure Medicare's survival for current and future beneficiaries...Medicare is of vital importance to millions of Americans and it is imperative we maintain and further strengthen Medicare. (Source: Congressman Eliot Engel, <http://ow.ly/bRFEF>)

## **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.

### **Eliot L. Engel (Dem):**

While I support those who have been successful...I believe everyone must pay their fair share. That is why I continue to strongly oppose the permanent extension of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans. I have also been leading the effort in Congress to repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The AMT forces thousands of middle class tax payers into higher taxes. (Source: Congressman Eliot Engel, <http://ow.ly/bRHsk>)



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](http://aarp.org/yourvote).

## Voter Information Inside

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