



US House New York District 23

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.

Tom W. Reed II (Rep):

Recently the Social Security Administration Inspector General uncovered a \$30 million disability insurance scheme in New York City which involved over 200 individuals. [...] Reed says cracking down on the serious fraud and abuse is a huge project that needs undertaking: "I am interested in finding ways to strengthen the programs by reducing the backlog of disability reviews and cut down on waste and fraud, such as what has been recently uncovered in New York City. Now is the time to root out that significant fraud and put millions back into the program where it belongs." (Source: Reed House Site, <http://ow.ly/ArCM2>)

Martha Robertson (Dem):

"Our seniors have earned their Social Security; they've paid into it and they deserve a secure retirement at a reasonable age. My kids are convinced Social Security won't exist for them when they need it. We can do better. "To ensure that Social Security will be there for our next generation, we need to make common sense reforms to guarantee its solvency... we can secure the future of Social Security and protect working families by asking billionaires to pay their fair share." (Source: Martha for Congress, <http://ow.ly/yRUh7>)

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.

Tom W. Reed II (Rep):

Any solution must protect those who are currently in the Medicare system and preserve a more cost-effective Medicare for the future. To do nothing will mean the end of Medicare. No one will have any form of Medicare if we allow it to continue its current course to bankruptcy. Let's be honest about the situation we face and work together to avoid bankrupting Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Doing nothing merely guarantees our financial collapse. (Source: Congressman Tom Reed; <http://ow.ly/chbyg>)

Martha Robertson (Dem):

"Health insurance is so important that people will do almost anything - such as stay in a job they hate, or postpone retirement - to keep it. Protecting Medicare is critical. Older Americans have paid for it all their working lives. I will fight to protect Medicare as we know it, to guarantee the health and well-being of our seniors who have earned it." Martha believes we can make Medicare more affordable without turning it into a voucher program, by enacting common-sense reforms like negotiating for prescription drug costs. (Source: Martha for Congress, <http://ow.ly/yRUh7>)

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.

Tom W. Reed II (Rep):

[...] Across the 23rd Congressional District, every family has felt the impact of our economic crisis as many struggle to make ends meet. [...] While the federal government cannot create private sector jobs, it must ensure barriers to growth are removed. This includes burdensome and unnecessary federal regulations that create uncertainty and raise the costs of doing business - in effect, excessive federal regulation becomes an additional tax on businesses. The federal government should work to make our economy stronger, not cripple it with out-of-control spending, excessive federal regulations, or increased taxes. (Source: Reed House Website, <http://ow.ly/y6aWa>)

Martha Robertson (Dem):

I'm proud of my service on the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency. During my tenure on the IDA, we have brought \$453 million dollars in investments and 1.5 million square feet of new construction to the local community. We've helped create more than 700 new permanent jobs, with an average wage of more than \$17/hour for non-management workers. We can create an environment that keeps our kids here when they want to start their own careers and families. With smart investments and planning, New York's 23rd District can expand the opportunities here for all. (Source: Martha for Congress, <http://ow.ly/yRVxe>)



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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AARP

601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

