



## US House New York District 26

### **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.

### **Brian M. Higgins (Dem):**

Since 1935, Social Security has ensured older citizens can retire without fear of significant financial hardship [...]. Throughout his time in Congress, Brian has fought efforts to privatize or threaten Americans' Social Security benefits. Brian has also stood up for keeping local Social Security field offices open to maintain accessibility and prevent claims backlogs. Brian has introduced H.R. 3997, the Social Security Administration Accountability Act, which would require that the Social Security Administration provide adequate justification before closing any field offices. (Source: Higgins House Website, <http://ow.ly/y6rKR>)

### **Kathleen A. Weppner (Rep):**

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.

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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.

### **Brian M. Higgins (Dem):**

Prior to its creation in 1965, only 50 percent of seniors had health insurance. Today, Medicare provides one of the most important guarantees in our society – the guarantee that if you are an older American and you get sick, you will get the care that you need without going broke. Brian is committed to protecting the Medicare guarantee, opposing plans that would force seniors to buy insurance on the open market, and making sure that the program remains affordable and continues gives seniors access to the care they deserve. (Source: Higgins House Website, <http://ow.ly/y6rKR>)

### **Kathleen A. Weppner (Rep):**

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.

## **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.

### **Brian M. Higgins (Dem):**

[...] Our region and northeastern regions like ours are in need of significant investment in our infrastructure. With federal labor formulas suggesting that for every \$1 million in public works spending there are 40 jobs created, initiatives that will fundamentally reform and improve our infrastructure in an effort to increase economic development opportunities - including, for example, reformation the Outer Harbor Parkway, or construction of the new federal courthouse - will have the added effect of creating thousands of construction jobs for men and women here in our own community. (Source: Higgins Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/y6uo9>)

### **Kathleen A. Weppner (Rep):**

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.



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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