



## US House Oregon 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](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.

### **Aelea Christofferson (Dem):**

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

### **Greg P. Walden (Rep):**

However, the congressman opposes the new cost-of-living formula because he believes it will hurt seniors in the long run. "It's chained to the president's consumer price index and that would be particularly hard on low-income senior citizens," he said. The proposed increases in Social Security would cost seniors a few dollars over the next few years, but in 15 years it could grow to \$50 a month. "I don't support bracket creep. I remember the '70s and '80s when one would wind up giving back any pay raise they earned because it would put them in a new tax bracket, because tax brackets were tied to inflation," he said. (Source: Walden Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xLDQT>)

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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.

### **Aelea Christofferson (Dem):**

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

### **Greg P. Walden (Rep):**

Greg Walden has repeatedly voted to protect the Medicare program from damaging cuts that would jeopardize seniors' access to health care services. He opposed Medicare premium increases and a \$500 billion cut to home health, nursing home care, rehabilitation, Medicare Advantage and hospital services that would damage benefits for Oregon's seniors. Greg Walden voted to improve how Medicare treats seniors by ensuring that doctors have the resources they need to avoid rationing or closing their doors to seniors. (Source: Walden House Website, <http://ow.ly/xlun7>)

## **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.

### **Aelea Christofferson (Dem):**

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

### **Greg P. Walden (Rep):**

...Creating a more friendly environment for job creators will provide long-term incentives for small business owners to invest, take risk and grow. Greg has been a leader in the efforts to reduce harmful regulations that stifle job creation and to keep taxes low to encourage job growth. Greg has also helped lead the effort to reduce the red tape of government that's unnecessary and costs us jobs. ...We don't need more costly and unnecessary regulations; we need commonsense reforms that reduce the size, scope, and cost of the federal government. (Source: Walden Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xlBxR>)



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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