



US House Oregon District 3

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.

Earl Blumenauer (Dem):

...Americans will have to make smart choices to ensure that the program continues to keep its promises, while avoiding future budget shortfalls and paying down the national debt. Blumenauer has been closely monitoring the Social Security Administration's plan for reducing its substantial backlog of unprocessed disability claims. The agency has continued to make progress, but the substantial increase in new applications due to the economic downturn poses significant future challenges for the agency. Blumenauer has strongly supported finding additional resources to help applicants navigate the complex... appeals process. (Source: Blumenauer Congress Site, <http://ow.ly/xlVmh>)

James L. Buchal (Rep):

Ultimately, the ever-closer insolvency of the federal government will produce drastic changes and severe hardship, and the sooner we recognize that, the sooner the political will for such changes will be found. Social Security is going to have to evolve into a means-based system that trims checks for people that don't really need them. And the festering fraud of disability payments has got to come to an end. ...And the most important way to fund Social Security is to abandon "no more growth" policies that cripple business and constitute actuarial suicide. (Source: Buchal Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xlZcm>)

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.

Earl Blumenauer (Dem):

Congressman Blumenauer is a strong supporter of Medicare and has continually opposed ...legislation that would diminish or "voucherize" Medicare benefits...Congressman Blumenauer has been working to reform how Medicare operates to improve the quality and value of health care. Currently, the Medicare payment system rewards doctors for the volume of procedures and services, not the value or quality of care or investments that improve care coordination. We need to tackle these perverse incentives so that seniors and people with disabilities are getting the right care in the right place at the right time. (Source: Blumenauer Congress Site, <http://ow.ly/x2Wj1>)

James L. Buchal (Rep):

Ultimately, the ever-closer insolvency of the federal government will produce drastic changes and severe hardship... The most important way to reduce Medicare costs is to stop the federal government from raising those costs by severe limitations on the supply of doctors, nurses, hospitals and drugs. If the government hadn't been crippling innovation in the medical business for decades, you'd be able to go to the local strip mall, climb into a machine, and have scans, fluid analyses and computer diagnostics that nipped most problems in the bud. (Source: Buchal Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xmoky>)

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.

Earl Blumenauer (Dem):

In recent years, the percentage of Americans able to find good jobs has decreased, incomes have stagnated for all by the richest Americans, and Americans are feeling less secure in their economic well-being. Congressman Blumenauer believes we need to do more to create good jobs, promote a society that grows together, and help ensure that economic shocks, like losing one's job or a major illness, don't become economic catastrophes. Congressman Blumenauer also strongly supports the rights of workers to organize and believes that a vibrant union movement is key to the continued strength of the middle class. (Source: Blumenauer Congress Site, <http://ow.ly/xlYj1>)

James L. Buchal (Rep):

For all these reasons, the most important way to restore the economy and get more good jobs is to prune back the parts of government that are destroying the jobs. A Member of Congress who wants more jobs should work to restore Constitutional government, and prune back those areas where the federal government has added a duplicative layer over state regulation, trying to control the states and people in areas never intended under the Constitution. Each state has different economic problems, and the federal one-size-fits-all approach is doomed to failure. (Source: Buchal Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xm24C>)



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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601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

