



## **US House Oregon District 5**

#### **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

#### 2014 AARP Voters' Guide | US House Oregon District 5

## **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.

#### Kurt Schrader (Dem):

Kurt Schrader "I'm saying you're going to have Social Security when you get older." Schrader says Congress must keep the program solvent, since so many seniors rely on it as a sole source of income. "I think we repay the Social Security fund. That's one simple answer. I don't understand why that's not a good answer" (Radio Interview OPB, http://ow.ly/xmofj) "[Chained-CPI proposal] is the least egregious change that can help make sure these programs are here for a long, long time," (Source: The Oregonian, http://ow.ly/xmoxD)

#### **Tootie Smith (Rep):**

...Social Security provides critical benefits to more than 50 million Americans, including widows and those with disabilities. Social Security must be preserved and protected for current and near retirees. This demographic problem should be above politics. We need a bipartisan solution to preserve Social Security for current and future generations. Benefits should be protected. The best way to ensure Social Security and Medicare is to create more jobs through less regulation, roll back Obamacare, implement truly fair trade agreements, and for our government to stop deficit financing. (Source: Campaign Facebook, http://ow.ly/xmw8x)

### **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.

#### **Kurt Schrader (Dem):**

As representative of a state with the second highest enrollment in Medicare Advantage, I have seen the successes that stem from allowing our seniors greater access to health insurance plans that fit their specific needs. [I support legislation that | would restore the open enrollment period, change the way we deliver Medicare Advantage to our beneficiaries and grant our seniors nationwide greater access in choosing a health insurance plan that best fits their situation. (Source: Schrader.house.gov, http://ow.ly/xwDGz)

#### **Tootie Smith (Rep):**

The best way to ensure Social Security and Medicare is to create more jobs through less regulation, roll back Obamacare, implement truly fair trade agreements, and for our government to stop deficit financing. (Source: Campaign Facebook, http://ow.ly/xmw8x)

#### 2014 AARP Voters' Guide | US House Oregon District 5

## **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.

#### Kurt Schrader (Dem):

As a former small business owner and current member of the House Small Business Committee, I understand that small businesses are America's economic backbone. I am dedicated to helping Oregon's small businesses cut through the bureaucratic red tape of the federal government and provide them with the economic certainty they need to confidently invest, expand and create good, lasting jobs for Oregonians. (Source: Rep. Schrader's Congressional Website, http://ow.ly/yciaD)

#### **Tootie Smith (Rep):**

Oregon needs jobs now. Let's return our Timberland back to the people for economic sustainability. Local control of our timber lands is vital to our future. (Source: Tootiesmithoregon.com, http://ow.ly/xmB8o)



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**



