



## US House Pennsylvania District 4

### **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.

### **Scott Perry (Rep):**

In order to keep the promises we made to future generations about their health and retirement security, comprehensive reforms must be enacted to protect these programs. Postponing reforms to these programs will result only in increased taxes and loss of crucial services, leaving millions of Americans uncertain as to how to plan for retirement. I support responsible and intelligent reforms that preserve Medicare and Social Security for our children and grandchildren, while ensuring that our nation's seniors continue to be protected. (Source: Perry.house.gov, <http://ow.ly/xwWSb>)

### **Linda D. Thompson (Dem):**

I will work to strengthen Social Security and protect it against inflationary forces through appropriate and meaningful cost of living adjustments. [...] Raising the retirement age to help offset the cost for sustainment is not a solution. We must (1) repeal the income cap on Social Security contributions; (2) require those making more than \$250,000 per year (adjusted for inflation) during their retirement years to either opt out or pay a higher tax rate on their Social Security benefits; (3) require that the Social Security contribution be paid on ALL income, earned or otherwise; [...] (Source: Thompson Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/z3Iou>)

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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.

### **Scott Perry (Rep):**

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### **Linda D. Thompson (Dem):**

First and foremost in protecting Seniors from rising health care costs is implementing without delay the new health reforms that were put in place through the Affordable Care Act ("ACA"). [...] The ACA maintains and secures Medicare's solvency for future generations. I will vote against any legislation that is designed to repeal the ACA. [...] Yet, keeping Medicare solvent will also require revenue increases through many of the same measures necessary to maintain the solvency of Social Security. I would not oppose an appropriate increase to the Medicare payroll deduction. (Source: Thompson Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/z3Iou>)

## **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.

### **Scott Perry (Rep):**

Our economy is stuck in neutral and wages remain flat, while health care and other costs keep skyrocketing. [...]In my discussions with constituents around the 4th Congressional District, the economy and jobs remain the top concern of most constituents, regardless of political ideology. Washington must stop spending money it doesn't have and focus its efforts on creating opportunities for job growth. [...]People still are out of work and hurting. I'll remain focused on what we can do right now, and in the long-term, to make a difference in people's lives. (Source: Perry.House.gov, <http://ow.ly/xxoSf>)

### **Linda D. Thompson (Dem):**

I support giving Seniors Property Tax rebates who own their homes. I also support the Reverse Mortgage Program that allows Seniors to "cash out" the equity in their homes without the loan having to be repaid on a monthly basis so that they have cash available for their living expenses. Finally, interest on savings accounts should not be taxed and savings of any kind, be it a TAP Account, regular savings account, or a 401k Account, should (1) be given a tax credit of up to \$2,500 each year and (2) reduce taxable income for any amount over \$2,500. [...] (Source: Thompson Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/z3lou>)



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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