



## US House Rhode Island 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.

### **Jim R. Langevin (Dem):**

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 649, which would phase out the Social Security payroll tax cap that benefits wealthier individuals and would restore the fund to 75-year solvency. Under this proposal, future Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments, would be based on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly, which more accurately gauges the cost of living for seniors. [...] Creating private accounts would divert payroll taxes away from the trust fund, preventing Social Security from paying full benefits. [...] I have signed multiple letters to the President and Congressional Leadership stating my opposition to [Chained-CPI] [...] (Source: Langevin House Website, <http://ow.ly/xG3lh>)

### **Rhue Reis (Rep):**

I absolutely do not support cuts in Social Security. I support reforming it in a way that we stop all the leaks in Social Security. When I hear about illegal aliens and Social security checks going to the same addresses overseas, hundreds of them, I get sickened by this. [...] How come we can't even develop a computer system that guards us against these erroneous checks and overpayments going out to people who are not even entitled to them. I'm all for the people who earn their Social Security to get it and to not have it cut back. (Source: RI NPR, <http://ow.ly/xG9t8>)

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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.

### **Jim R. Langevin (Dem):**

The 2010 health reform bill begins to achieve this by closing the Medicare Part D prescription drug gap, also known as the doughnut hole, in order to make drugs more affordable for seniors. This includes a 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs as well as discounts on generics. It also eliminates co-pays for preventive care to promote wellness and ease cost burdens, gets rid of billions of dollars in fraud, waste and abuse and protects Medicare by extending trust fund solvency by eight years. (Source: Langevin House Website, <http://ow.ly/xG5ce>)

### **Rhue Reis (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.

### **Jim R. Langevin (Dem):**

As traditional, employer-funded pension plans continue to shift toward contribution plans funded by workers, retirees need to have the tools necessary to better manage their assets during the savings phase and ensure that they do not outlive their income during retirement. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that Congress ensure that Americans have the resources necessary to achieve a financially secure retirement. I will support pro-growth tax policies that encourage individuals to save for retirement. (Source: Langevin House Website, <http://ow.ly/xG3lh>)

### **Rhue Reis (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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