



# **US House Tennessee District 7**

### **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.



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## 2014 AARP Voters' Guide | US House Tennessee District 7

# **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.

## Marsha Blackburn (Rep):

This is one of the reasons we have had the discussion over and over for our younger earners of having accounts that have their Social Security number and their information on that — personal accounts. (Source: Think progress, http://goo.gl/Ig4Gw1)

### Daniel N. Cramer (Dem):

Changes to benefits for anyone who has already paid into the system for those benefits should not be changed. Doing so is basically the country breaking its word to its citizens. This basic tenant applies to Social Security, Veteran's benefits, or Medicare. Every time congress passes laws that renege on the obligations the government has to beneficiaries who have already paid in, with either service or taxes, they made every American a party to that betrayal. If benefits must be cut then they it should only affect those entering the system from that point forward, not retroactively. (Source: Kramer's Camapign Site, http://ow.ly/xYlsy)

# **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.

## Marsha Blackburn (Rep):

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

## Daniel N. Cramer (Dem):

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# **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.

## Marsha Blackburn (Rep):

Marsha Blackburn believes that free markets are the best markets. She knows that the Federal Government cannot intervene in the market without fault. The surest path to American economic growth is through small, limited government that controls spending, promotes growth, and does not overburden its citizens with taxes. (Source: Blackburn Congressional Site, http://goo.gl/k87VBF)

### Daniel N. Cramer (Dem):

The economy, the workplace, and government all need to be working to restore the middle class in this country. (Source: Cramer campaign site, http://goo.gl/gessDn)



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**



