



## US House Texas District 1

### **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.

### **Louie B. Gohmert Jr. (Rep):**

...And I, along with many others, am committed to making sure that Social Security and Medicare are there for all of those people over 55 that want it... Some of us are working on proposals we could easily call the under-55 program. Since both Social Security and Medicare are going broke, we must make some major changes for those under 55 to have a viable system of retirement and healthcare programs for them when they are seniors...we do have the ability to provide those under 55 with more choices, more control and a cheaper price to taxpayers than what exists right now. (Source: Gohmert Youtube Video; <http://ow.ly/c4nob>)

### **Shirley J. McKellar (Dem):**

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

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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.

### **Louie B. Gohmert Jr. (Rep):**

...And I, along with many others, am committed to making sure that Social Security and Medicare are there for all of those people over 55 that want it...I'm not a real strong supporter of the proposal offered by Paul Ryan on healthcare. But it is a starting point. And it contains some interesting points. But rest assured, I will not support any plan that adversely affects the retirement system for people over 55. And I will not support any plan that lessens the quality and control seniors have over their own healthcare. (Source: Gohmert Youtube Video; <http://ow.ly/c4nob>)

### **Shirley J. McKellar (Dem):**

We have the greatest health care system in the world. However, we must reform our health care system to make it more affordable and provide individuals access to quality medical services, regardless of race, age or medical condition. And our Senior Citizens must have a great Quality of Life (QoL) in their retirement years. (Source: Vote McKellar; <http://ow.ly/c4ot9>)

## **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.

### **Louie B. Gohmert Jr. (Rep):**

We've got to stop fussing about the now and look towards the future by simplifying taxes, cutting government spending, protecting American security through healthy defense funding, repealing government health care and leaving our children and grandchild with a better life. (Source: Gohmert Campaign Website; <http://ow.ly/c4o1c>)

### **Shirley J. McKellar (Dem):**

The role of the government is not to create wealth, but to foster an environment where America's entrepreneurial spirit can thrive and achieve great things. Texas and America is not broke therefore, we must get our teachers back to work. Our government is run on taxes imposed by the federal and all state governments. This includes Social Security and Medicare. The corporations must bring the tax base back to Texas and the country. We all must help the economy grow. (Source: Vote McKellar; <http://ow.ly/c4ot9>)



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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AARP

601 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20049

