



## US House Texas District 3

### **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.

### **Sam Johnson (Rep):**

For the first time since 1983, Social Security will be paying out more in benefits than it will be collecting in taxes — the clearest sign yet of the need to take action. As Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, I believe that we need to fairly and responsibly fix Social Security. Make no mistake — those currently retired or near retirement must get their full promised benefits. But at the same time we owe it to the younger generations to make sure that they can also count on Social Security. (Source: Sam Johnson for Congress; <http://ow.ly/c7oiE>)

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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.

### **Sam Johnson (Rep):**

Medicare straitjackets seniors into a government-run health program even if they don't want it and thwarts their freedom to take control over their own health care decisions...Medicare even forces well-off seniors...who want to opt out of Medicare into the government-run program... Earlier this year, I reintroduced the Medicare Beneficiary Freedom to Choose Act, H.R. 3356. It would produce real taxpayer savings by allowing seniors to opt out of Medicare Part A when they become eligible, usually at age 65, if they don't want to receive the taxpayer-funded benefit. (Source: Washington Times Op-Ed; <http://ow.ly/c7Cdu>)

## **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.

### **Sam Johnson (Rep):**

A few years ago I helped draft the Pension Protection Act, which passed with strong bipartisan support in the U.S. House and was signed into law by President Bush. This bill reformed outdated worker pension laws and protects the retirement benefits of American workers and retirees. Workers and retirees deserve pension laws that protect their interests, and the Pension Protection Act represents a package of balanced reforms that safeguard the retirement security of millions of Americans and protects taxpayers from a potential multibillion-dollar bailout of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. (Source: Johnson's House Website; <http://ow.ly/c7ubL>)



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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601 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20049

