



## US House Texas District 11

### **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.

### **Mike Conaway (Rep):**

Social Security is sound for today's seniors and for those nearing retirement, but it needs to be fixed for younger Americans ...The government has made promises it cannot afford to pay for with the current pay-as-you-go system. I support the establishment of personal retirement accounts so that our children and grandchildren can have a Social Security system that is solvent and secure. We must act soon, because every year that we wait to fix this problem we will burden future generations with billions of dollars in debt. (Source: The Political Guide; <http://ow.ly/cjauM>)

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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.

### **Mike Conaway (Rep):**

First, it is important to recognize that entitlement programs, such as Medicare...represent promises made by the American people to certain segments of our population. In 2007, our federal government spent \$700 billion to fulfill those promises, roughly \$6,300 per household...Yet, even with these staggering annual outlays, it is estimated that we will still owe an additional \$50 trillion dollars over the next 75 years to fulfill these promises...It is time that we start caring more about the enormous deficit that we are leaving our children when spending taxpayer dollars. (Source: The Political Guide; <http://ow.ly/cj6CV>)

## **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.

### **Mike Conaway (Rep):**

I also support the campaign to replace the federal income tax system with a progressive national retail sales tax. It protects and ensures the funding of Social Security and Medicare, enables families to save more for home ownership, education, and retirement, and ensures that all Americans pay their fair share of taxes. The Fair Tax provides a "prebate" to ensure no American pays federal taxes on spending up to the poverty level. (Source: Congressman Conaway's official site; <http://ow.ly/cj5Hh>)



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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