



US House Texas District 27

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

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.

Blake Farenthold (Rep):

The national debt of the United States has surpassed \$15 trillion. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid alone did not create this debt problem, but they are key players in the ever-growing federal deficit... have spoken to hundreds of seniors throughout South Texas about Medicare and Social Security. Most seniors feel they have paid into the system and they expect the benefits they were promised. I agree. We cannot balance our budget on the backs of our seniors. (Source: Congressman Farenthold's official site; <http://ow.ly/cmGCO>)

Wesley C. Reed (Dem):

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

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.

Blake Farenthold (Rep):

On April 5, 2011, Republicans introduced our FY2012 budget or "Path to Prosperity "[...] Under our plan starting in 2022, those under 55, now who become new Medicare beneficiaries can, like Members of Congress, choose a plan that works best for them from a list of guaranteed coverage options. Medicare will subsidize premium payments to the plan chosen by the beneficiary[...] It is important to know the Medicare program would not change for those currently on the program or for those soon to be on it. No changes will be made for Americans 55 years of age and older. (Source: Congressman Farenthold's official site; <http://ow.ly/cmGCO>)

Wesley C. Reed (Dem):

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.

Blake Farenthold (Rep):

America's tax code has grown too complicated and cumbersome. We need a tax code that is flatter, fairer, and simpler to ensure that everyone pays their fair share, lessen the burden on families, generate economic expansion, and create jobs by making America more competitive. (Source: Congressman Farenthold's official site; <http://ow.ly/cmGRU>)

Wesley C. Reed (Dem):

Members of Congress have several options at their disposal to grow the economy and create jobs. Unfortunately, due to our current Representative's refusal to use any of these options available to him, we still have three people unemployed per every available job. The first step I would take is to help small businesses grow. (Source: Reed's Campaign Site <http://ow.ly/xZfkZ>)



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

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