



# **US House Texas District 35**

#### **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 Texas District 35

# **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.

### Lloyd A. Doggett II (Dem):

I have consistently fought against misguided and risky privatization schemes that would...replace the safety net of Social Security with the insecurity of the market...Social Security isn't a Ponzi scheme or a handout. It is one of our most successful initiatives, providing security for tens of millions of seniors. In seven decades, Social Security has never been a day late or a dollar short. It has never contributed a dime to the deficit and has generated a \$2.6 trillion surplus. With modest improvements to ensure its long-term solvency, Social Security will be there for our grandchildren. (Source: Congressman Doggett's official site; http://ow.ly/co75g)

#### Susan Narvaiz (Rep):

There are safety net programs that need to be retained and I do think we should put the money back in Social Security for those that we made a promise to. For people my age (54) and younger, we have to have a different option there and I believe more in a free market option. But for those that have paid and are close to receiving their Social Security, and are receiving it, we should fulfill the promises of Social Security and Medicare. (Source: San Marcos Mercury; http://ow.ly/co7QV)

## **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.

## Lloyd A. Doggett II (Dem):

In 1965, when our own Texas President Lyndon Johnson succeeded in passing Medicare, most of those over 65 had no health insurance. Today, our seniors are getting the care and peace of mind they earned by paying into Medicare for their entire working lives. Now, we are flooded every day by those who want to solve our nations' debt problems by taking from those who need the most – by cutting Medicare funding, increasing costs for seniors, or even turning management of Medicare over to private insurance companies...we should not be endangering vital safety-net programs that millions of Americans paid into and depend on. (Source: Congressman Doggett's official ste; http://ow.ly/co75g)

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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.

### Lloyd A. Doggett II (Dem):

When your family is counting on something — a home, job, or retirement plan-we should not let big government get in your way, but neither should we let other powerful forces interfere – like Wall Street banks, or insurance monopolies. I have heard from many Central Texas families about the sudden increases in their credit card interest rates, immediate drops in their credit limits, impossible-to-understand contract terms, and high and hidden fees. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act offers consumer protections that families need... this law will provide some security and peace of mind. (Source: Lloyd Doggett, U.S. Congress; http://ow.ly/co6Rt)

### Susan Narvaiz (Rep):

With over 23 years experience putting people to work as a small business owner and as a job creator herself, Susan wants to remove the barriers that exist to encourage those in the private sector to get America back to work! (Source: Susan Narvaiz for Congress; http://ow.ly/co8oJ)



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**



