



US House Vermont 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

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.

Mark Donka (Rep):

Donka says he believes programs like Social Security and Medicare pose a particular threat to U.S. solvency. [...] "I'm not looking to cut benefits to people who paid into it, but right now people only pay Social Security tax on the first \$110,000," Donka says. "So let's take the cap off. If you make \$200,000 or \$300,000 or \$5 million, you continue to pay that tax. That will bring a huge influx of money into the system, and it's not like the people paying it are going to miss it." (Source: Rutland Herald, <http://ow.ly/yon9p>)

Peter F. Welch (Dem):

Welch says he is opposed to cuts in the chained Consumer Price Index because "it is a cut in Social Security." He stresses the fact that Social Security is not the reason the country is in debt. (Source: Welch Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xTFbC>)

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.

Mark Donka (Rep):

Donka says he believes programs like Social Security and Medicare pose a particular threat to U.S. solvency. [...] "I'm not looking to cut benefits to people who paid into it, but right now people only pay Social Security tax on the first \$110,000," Donka says. "So let's take the cap off. If you make \$200,000 or \$300,000 or \$5 million, you continue to pay that tax. That will bring a huge influx of money into the system, and it's not like the people paying it are going to miss it." (Source: Rutland Herald, <http://ow.ly/yon9p>)

Peter F. Welch (Dem):

The Better Care, Lower Cost Act would improve care coordination for beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, the most-expensive and fastest-growing portion of the Medicare population. The legislation would expand the use of multidisciplinary health teams to keep patients as healthy as possible in their homes and communities. It is sponsored in the House by Welch and Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN), and in the Senate by incoming Senate Finance Committee Chair Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA). (Source: Welch Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xTFtS>)

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.

Mark Donka (Rep):

[...] Our continued high tax rates create a disincentive for economic investment, success and growth. We need to reject recent legislative efforts to increase taxes on the building blocks of our economy; gasoline, diesel, home heating fuel, property transfers, trucks and family vehicles. We need to work to lower gas and fuel prices that are stifling our economic growth. In Vermont, most of us don't have the option to take public transportation, and - being a rural state - many of us drive considerable distances to get to our jobs or go shopping. Rising gas prices are creating a hardship for Americans. (Source: Donka Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/zQfGf>)

Peter F. Welch (Dem):

[...] With 50 cents of every gallon of gas sold going to line the pockets of energy speculators, we need to put a federal cop on the beat and rein in casino-style energy gambling on Wall Street. Congressman Welch: Is leading the fight in the House to crack down on energy market speculators who drive up gasoline and fuel prices; wrote legislation to fully fund the federal agency responsible for policing energy markets; strongly supports releasing federal oil reserves to provide immediate relief for consumers at the gas pump; and fighting to fully fund low-income heating assistance. (Source: Welch Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/yokMV>)



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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AARP

601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

