



## US House Washington District 7

### **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.

### **Craig Keller (Rep):**

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

### **Jim A. McDermott (Dem):**

Social Security dramatically reduces senior hardship and uncertainty. Given that two-thirds of older Americans rely on Social Security for at least half of their income, Jim has worked to ensure that benefits are adequate and that the program remains financially sound, and he has strongly opposed attempts to cut or privatize this vital program. He co-sponsored legislation that would eliminate the "earnings cap" on payroll taxes (H.R. 539) so that high-income earners pay their fair share to keep Social Security on solid financial footing for the next 75 years. (Source: McDermott's Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xVImT>)

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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.

### **Craig Keller (Rep):**

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

### **Jim A. McDermott (Dem):**

Jim strongly supported the 2010 health care reform law, which includes numerous provisions to strengthen Medicare so that it continues to guarantee affordable and high quality health care to seniors and other beneficiaries. He adamantly opposed recent attempts to end this guaranteed coverage and reduce Medicare to a voucher program that would cover only a fraction of health care costs and leave it up to seniors to pay far more out-of-pocket. (Source: McDermott's Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xVImT>)

## **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.

### **Craig Keller (Rep):**

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

### **Jim A. McDermott (Dem):**

Americans are still feeling the brunt of economic downturn. Government must intervene forcefully to counteract some of these economic shockwaves. With so many unemployed and so much in our country that needs repair and rebuilding, Jim firmly supports substantial federal investment in infrastructure restoration and expansion, research and development, and educational improvement. He believes that such investments will put thousands of people to work, which, in turn, will get our economy moving again. Putting people to work is the best solution, even if it requires funding from the federal government – it's also good economics. (Source: McDermott's Congressional Site <http://ow.ly/xVJli>)



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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