



US House Washington District 8

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.

Dave G. Reichert (Rep):

I am on the record as saying, many times over, that I support preserving the current Social Security system, AS IS. That is, there are some problems that must be addressed, and I am open to exploring them, so long as it: -Does NOT privatize the system -Does NOT reduce benefits in any way -Does NOT raise the retirement age -Does NOT raise taxes This is fundamental and foundational to any reform in the Social Security system. (Source: Seattle Times, <http://ow.ly/xVMCd>)

Jason Ritchie (Dem):

Social Security and Medicare are some of the most successful government programs in this nation's history. We have a commitment to each other and our senior citizens to maintain and reinforce these programs... Generations of our fellow citizens have paid into these programs and earned their benefits. They are not to be played with for political gain. Maintaining Social Security and Medicare for the current beneficiaries and for future generations will be my goal as your representative. (Source: Ritchie Campaign Site, <http://ow.ly/xVOva>)

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.

Dave G. Reichert (Rep):

Without a permanent repeal of the SGR, seniors are in perpetual danger of losing access to their doctors. [...] Medicare physicians could experience a nearly 24 percent cut to their reimbursement which could lead some providers to drop out of the Medicare program [...]. HR 4015 would keep that from happening now and in the future – offering seniors stability and providing certainty to doctors [...]. It is important that we take this step to strengthen and improve the Medicare program. The bill ensures Medicare is focused on the quality of care and senior's health outcomes, not the number of appointments on their calendar. (Source: Reichert House Website, <http://ow.ly/yIcPF>)

Jason Ritchie (Dem):

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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.

Dave G. Reichert (Rep):

Creating jobs and revitalizing our economy is my top priority. As I travel throughout the district, I consistently hear from business owners, employees, and those looking for work about how America's economy needs to get back on track. Expanding trade, keeping taxes low, and encouraging innovation and investment can create long-term, private-sector jobs. (Source: Reichert Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/yIcli>)

Jason Ritchie (Dem):

Job creation is central to the American economy, and always has been. However, this must come through support of small business and the middle class, not large corporations and the super wealthy who do not need government support. I hope to create real living wage jobs that will expand the middle class and improve the lives of all those in the 8th district and across the country. (Source: Ritchie Campaign Site, <http://ow.ly/xVP94>)



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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