



## US House West Virginia District 3

### **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.

### **Evan H. Jenkins (Rep):**

We must always keep our promises to the American people. Among those obligations is to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare for all seniors. [...] Every American worker is putting aside money for their eventual retirement, an investment we must honor and a benefit we must ensure. Because of the need to keep these obligations to workers and seniors, I have opposed privatizing Social Security or Medicare. But I haven't just said these things, I've taken action by sponsoring legislation in the WV legislature opposing the privatization of Social Security. (Source: Jenkins Campaign Site <http://goo.gl/4tR96u>)

### **Nick J. Rahall II (Dem):**

I am and have been an ardent opponent of Social Security privatization. I believe strongly that seniors deserve the benefits they are owed after a lifetime of paying into Social Security and those obligations must be honored. [...] Seniors should be able to count on their annual cost-of-living adjustment. In two of the last four years, seniors had to do without a COLA, as legislation I supported to compensate seniors was blocked in the Congress. That must not happen again and I have cosponsored legislation that would fix the flawed COLA formula to help ensure that seniors cannot be denied their annual COLA. (Source: House Website, <http://ow.ly/x4pb2>)

## **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.

### **Evan H. Jenkins (Rep):**

During my legislative career I have supported bills which would reduce the cost of prescription drugs and to lower property taxes for seniors. I also oppose [...] cuts to Medicare Advantage funding, and spoken out against ObamaCare for limiting seniors' health care choices and putting government bureaucrats between you and your doctor. [...] In the legislature I've always worked diligently to find fiscally responsible solutions to state problems, and in Congress I will offer my own ideas to cut the debt, such as addressing the \$60 billion we lose to Medicare fraud every year. (Source: Jenkins Campaign Site <http://ow.ly/A6SGU>)

### **Nick J. Rahall II (Dem):**

As well, I have been vocal and active in decrying efforts to end traditional Medicare, as well as other extreme budget proposals that would reduce health coverage and shift additional health costs to seniors. I am adamant in pressing to expand access to affordable quality health care in southern West Virginia, in pushing for lower costs for prescription drugs, and in ensuring a strong safety net so that retired seniors can live in dignity. (Source: Rahall House Site, <http://ow.ly/x4pb2>)

## **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.

### **Evan H. Jenkins (Rep):**

Growing up in the shadow of Huntington's once-proud manufacturing plants, Evan will help keep jobs here in America. He understands that stringent federal regulations on small businesses and a burdensome tax system are preventing industry from expanding operations and creating jobs. While my focus has been on growing the economy to create good-paying jobs for West Virginians, I've also voted for legislation that had the support of business and labor to raise the state minimum wage[...] to a fair level that boosts the paychecks of hard-working Americans while also protecting their jobs and the economy. (Source: Jenkins for Congress, <http://ow.ly/ygziz>)

### **Nick J. Rahall II (Dem):**

I also continue to oppose cuts [...] that would undermine our commitment to seniors in providing nutritional assistance and support services, such as meals delivered to senior centers, churches, and housing units, as well as family caregiver support to prevent exploitation and neglect. (Source: Rahall House Site, <http://ow.ly/x4qbH>)



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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