



## US Senate, Alaska

### **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.

### **Mark Begich (D):**

I strongly oppose efforts to privatize Social Security. [...] We need to find ways to extend the longevity of the program without taking money out of the pockets of our seniors. [...] I opposed attempt[s] to link Social Security to a Chained CPI — a move which would have cut benefits. I have a plan to extend the life of Social Security without making our seniors pay for it. I want to scrap the income cap — asking those who earn the most to pay into Social Security on all of their income, just like most Alaskan families do. It's a common sense plan that would extend the solvency of Social Security by about 75 years. (Source: Begich Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNjox>)

### **Dan Sullivan (R):**

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

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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.

### **Mark Begich (D):**

[...] I am also closely tracking efforts to shore up Medicare by targeting waste, fraud and abuse. I supported increases to the Health and Human Services Department to adopt new measures to stop Medicare fraud. These efforts have stopped more than \$2 billion in fraudulent billings since 2009. I also support efforts to improve Medicare coverage for prevention and wellness, mental health, and dental services. [...] We need to fix the Medicare reimbursement rates long term to ensure Alaska has enough primary care doctors to meet our growing senior population. [...] (Source: Begich Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNjox>)

### **Dan Sullivan (R):**

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

## **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 Begich (D):**

I am also working to ensure seniors have access to affordable housing, lower energy costs, and job training and placement for older workers. I strongly support the Low Income Home Energy Program which helps more than 11,000 Alaskans heat their homes. I also supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which added \$18 million to Alaska's weatherization program. (Source: Begich Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNjox>)

### **Dan Sullivan (R):**

[...] He continues the time-honored activities of his wife Julie's family at their fish camp on the Yukon River. And through his work as Attorney General and Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, Dan has had the opportunity to focus on many challenges and opportunities facing rural Alaska. As your U.S. Senator, Dan will continue to work to improve the lives and opportunities for rural Alaskans by reducing the high costs of energy, increasing economic opportunities, providing better access to healthcare, and protecting families through improved law enforcement and other measures. (Source: Sullivan Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNlxd>)



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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601 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20049

