



## US Senate, Arkansas

### **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.

### **Tom Cotton (R):**

Tom Cotton supports NO changes to Medicare or Social Security for those currently receiving benefits or for those nearing retirement. For younger workers, Tom Cotton favors commonsense reforms that will strengthen and preserve Medicare and Social Security for future generations. Tom was recently named a 2014 Medicare Advantage Champion by the Coalition for Medicare Choices. (Source: Cotton's Campaign Site <http://goo.gl/EAFkUp>)

### **Mark L. Pryor (D):**

"Once again, some in Washington are trying to balance the budget on the backs of Arkansas seniors, disabled veterans, and military families by reducing the cost of living adjustments and not taking the rising costs of healthcare and energy into consideration. We can't let this happen," Pryor said. "Taking earned benefits away from seniors and military families is not the answer. Instead, we need to find a balanced approach that responsibly reduces our debt and deficit while protecting middle-class families who have worked hard their entire lives to pay for these benefits and have sacrificed for our country." (Source: Pryor Senate Site, <http://ow.ly/AjPbl>)

## **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.

### **Tom Cotton (R):**

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### **Mark L. Pryor (D):**

"We've seen an irresponsible few in Washington try to balance the budget on the backs of our seniors by recklessly voting to turn Medicare into a voucher system and raise the eligibility age for benefits," Pryor said. "I refuse to let that happen. That's why I'm proud to lead the charge on the Medicare Protection Act, a responsible solution that will protect the health, safety, and financial security of nearly 600,000 seniors in our state alone." (Source: Pryor Senate Site, <http://ow.ly/AjPlu>)

## **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.

### **Tom Cotton (R):**

In Congress, I will support pro-growth policies that give the private sector the confidence and certainty to start hiring again. Job creators need a tax code that is permanent, fair, and simple with low rates. They need federal bureaucrats to get off their backs and stand by their sides. And they need a federal government that doesn't spend, borrow, and inflate its way to bankruptcy. (Source: Cotton's Congressional Site, <http://goo.gl/kgqhql>)

### **Mark L. Pryor (D):**

I remain a strong supporter of legislation to reauthorize programs under the Older Americans Act. This bill supports programs such as Meals on Wheels, community senior centers, job training, caregiver support, transportation services and health programs that ensure seniors stay healthy. [...] Job training, transportation programs and senior centers help seniors to stay involved and active in their communities. And caregiver support offers help those who take care of our seniors later in life. I've fought to lower prescription drug costs through revisions to Medicare and by closing the prescription drug donut hole [...] (Source: Pryor Senate Site, <http://ow.ly/AjQaf>)



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

VSA

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