



US Senate, Colorado

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.



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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.

Cory S. Gardner (R):

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

Mark E. Udall (D):

Last year, 88 percent of Colorado seniors received Social Security — that's over half a million folks depending on it for their economic security. We cannot afford to privatize Social Security and put seniors' retirement into risky private accounts. Social Security is a guarantee that when you work hard and play by the rules all your life, you will have a secure retirement. We must protect Social Security so it will continue to help our country's seniors and keep them out of poverty. (Source: Udall Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/y8aT8>)

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.

Cory S. Gardner (R):

While acknowledging that difficult decisions must be made to bring down our growing deficit, Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO) is leading a group of 105 members of Congress in asking Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to join them in protecting and preserving the competition that has made Medicare Part D work. [...] "When was the last time anyone heard of a government program coming in under budget year after year and generating nearly a 90 percent satisfaction rate? That's exactly what's happening right now in Part D," Gardner said. "It is a federal program coming in under projected costs." (Source: Gardner House Site, <http://ow.ly/yrY69>)

Mark E. Udall (D):

It is unfair for us not to reward Coloradans with secure health care upon retirement, especially when they have paid into the system for their entire lives. That is why I joined a bipartisan group of senators [to oppose plans] that would have privatized Medicare, reduced funding for Medicaid and force seniors to pay out of pocket for health care expenses. While I strongly disagree with proposals that seek to privatize and dismantle Medicare as we know it, I do believe we have a responsibility to continue to look at ways to improve the program and make it more affordable in the 21st century and beyond. (Source: Udall Senate Website, <http://ow.ly/y8emF>)

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.

Cory S. Gardner (R):

We've got to get this country moving again, and the best way to accomplish that is to get government out of the way. Private businesses generate wealth, not the government. By cutting government and cutting spending, we will allow the marketplace to do its job. Congress needs to eliminate red tape that increases the cost of doing business. More regulation is not the answer. American businesses have sidelined trillions of dollars because of the regulatory and tax uncertainty that they face. This is money that can be used to hire new workers and grow businesses. (Source: Gardner House Site, <http://ow.ly/yrYnp>)

Mark E. Udall (D):

Following a hearing in Pueblo that I chaired in August 2010, I continue to play an active role, through my seat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, in improving the Older Americans Act to ensure the supports and services its programs provide are accessible to the thousands of Colorado seniors who depend on them. (Source: Udall Senate Website, <http://ow.ly/y8h8B>)



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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601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

