



US Senate, Hawaii

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.

Campbell Cavasso (R):

1). The federal government must not borrow or take from the social security system. It should be separate from the rest of the budget. 2) Allow part of the system to operate privately or by individual control. Individual participation like that currently available in employer 401K retirement plans is now technologically viable. (Source: On the Issues, <http://ow.ly/yoTJx>)

Brian E. Schatz (D):

[...] Seniors have earned these benefits through a lifetime of work, and he will oppose any and all attempts to cut benefits or privatize these programs, including through hidden cuts like chained CPI or raising the retirement age. [...] Senator Schatz partnered with Chairman Tom Harkin on the Strengthening Social Security Act, which would increase Social Security benefits and extend the solvency of the program by 75 years through common-sense reforms like making sure the wealthy pay the same rate into Social Security as the rest of us. (Source: Schatz Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNHuj>)

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.

Campbell Cavasso (R):

I recognize that health costs are excessive and would sponsor legislation to allow interstate shopping for insurance, and provide tort reform to reduce costs to physicians who practice defensive medicine. I would also sponsor a panel of health care professionals to deal with fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid and then work to actually implement their suggestions. I would support the idea of providing Medicare enrollees with vouchers and letting them choose a health plan of their choice. This may be the only way to protect seniors from health care rationing which will come from the health care legislation recently passed (VoteSmart, <http://ow.ly/yoUou>)

Brian E. Schatz (D):

In April 2013, Senator Schatz also joined his Senate colleagues to co-sponsor the Medicare Drug Savings Act to better protect seniors' health care, and reduce Medicare Part D drug costs for taxpayers by stopping drug companies from charging Medicare more money for prescription drugs used by some low-income or disabled seniors. The bill would save \$141.2 billion over a decade, helping to responsibly reduce the deficit and prevent reckless proposals to cut Medicare benefits. [...] Our seniors deserve to retire with dignity, and Senator Schatz will continue his fight to protect the benefits that they have earned. (Source: Schatz Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNHuj>)

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.

Campbell Cavasso (R):

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

Brian E. Schatz (D):

Senator Schatz is committed to helping build an economy where everyone has a fair shot of making it if they work hard and play by the rules. In addition to making sure that we increase the number of good jobs in Hawai'i by investing in the industries of the future, Senator Schatz believes that we must update workplace policies to account for the realities of the 21st century economy. [...] As part of the Opportunity Plan, Senator Schatz co-sponsored the FAMILY Act to create up to 12 weeks of paid family medical leave so no worker will have to choose between putting food on the table or caring for a sick child or parent. (Source: Schatz Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNjms>)



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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