



US Senate, Illinois

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.

Dick Durbin (D):

I have opposed efforts to partially privatize Social Security because this would significantly reduce benefits and shift more of the risk to individuals. I believe we should act soon to stabilize Social Security for the long-term, but that any changes to Social Security should be made only for the purpose of providing for the long term solvency of the program – not to reduce the national debt that Social Security played no part in creating. I will continue to work for a responsible, bipartisan plan for Social Security reform which keeps sight of those people the system is designed to protect: our seniors. (Source: Durbin.senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/wToeu>)

James D. Oberweis (R):

[Social Security and Medicare] have proven their worth over decades, and we need to preserve and strengthen them. The problem we face is that too many politicians want to seek votes, rather than solutions, and, consequently, they refuse to acknowledge the demographic changes and advances in medical sciences that lead to a society with greater numbers of seniors living longer than had been anticipated. This refusal to acknowledge these simple facts threatens the long-term fiscal stability of both programs. (Source: The Daily Herald, <http://ow.ly/wTt2o>)

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.

Dick Durbin (D):

The Medicare program will be strengthened by the health reform legislation passed last year. Reform will mean better benefits and lower costs and will preserve Medicare's solvency for an additional decade. I support giving seniors the choice of joining a Medicare-run prescription drug plan to compete with the private insurance plans currently available. I recognize the importance of adequately paying doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers... I also support the push to address rising health care costs in order to ensure Medicare's solvency for generations to come. (Source: Durbin.Senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/wToYD>)

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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.

Dick Durbin (D):

While our economy is getting stronger today, we can do more to ensure that these middle class families are sharing in that success. That's why Dick supported investment in critical job training programs in Illinois to ensure our workforce is trained and prepared for jobs in growing industries. He also supports an increase in the minimum wage to \$10.10/hour, an extension of unemployment insurance to help those still struggling to get back into the labor force, and real tax reform that eliminates subsidies for big oil and ends tax breaks for companies that move American jobs overseas. (Source: DickDurbin.com, <http://ow.ly/wTreW>)

James D. Oberweis (R):

We have to eliminate failing programs and re-direct those funds to programs that truly help those in need. This way, we can make sure that taxes can go down over time and help every Illinois family live a little bit better tomorrow than they are today. It's time for a change. (Source: Oberweis Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/yccO9>)



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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