



## US Senate, Kentucky

### **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.

### **Alison Lundergan Grimes (D):**

[I] will protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare as Kentucky's next U.S. Senator. Protecting these programs is critical to the economic well-being for the Commonwealth's women and families. Women rely more heavily on income from Social Security than men do, and the majority of Medicare recipients are women. ...I believe in keeping our promises to our nation's seniors while preserving these programs for our children and grandchildren. But rather than pushing for privatization, vouchers, or simply shifting costs to seniors, we should be looking for ways to spend smarter. (Source: Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xmDUB>)

### **Mitch McConnell (R):**

"Protecting Social Security is a top priority. By scaling down payments for the richest beneficiaries in the future—those who are not yet eligible and who won't need Social Security—we can help preserve the program for existing beneficiaries and future generations of Kentucky seniors." (Source: Lexington Herald Leader, <http://ow.ly/zG1vO>)

## **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.

### **Alison Lundergan Grimes (D):**

I am running to protect and strengthen Medicare and Social Security. I believe in keeping our promises to our nation's seniors while preserving these programs for our children and grandchildren. But rather than pushing for privatization, vouchers, or simply shifting costs to seniors, we should be looking for ways to spend smarter. We should focus on reducing waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare system, improve coordination of care between doctors, hospitals and patients, and allow Medicare to better negotiate prescription drug prices. (Source: Campaign Website <http://ow.ly/xmDUB>)

### **Mitch McConnell (R):**

"I have spent my entire career working to protect and strengthen the Medicare program for Kentucky seniors. This is one reason why I vigorously oppose Obamacare, which raids more than \$700 billion from Medicare at a time when we should be working to protect this critical program." (Source: Lexington Herald Leader, <http://ow.ly/zG1vO>)

## **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.

### **Alison Lundergan Grimes (D):**

As a Senator, my number one priority will be putting Kentuckians back to work in good-paying jobs. Kentuckians lost more than 118,000 jobs at the worst part of the recession and they are still struggling to provide for their families. [...] I will work to ensure that all Kentuckians and all Americans can earn a living wage for their work, and make sure that women get equal pay for the same work as men. [...] There are currently 854 federal regulations affecting small businesses. We must reduce this regulatory burden. Our federal government shouldn't prevent small businesses from succeeding and creating jobs in Kentucky. (Source: Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/yg8u>)

### **Mitch McConnell (R):**

"Our middle-class agenda is not built around creating massive government bureaucracies, or taking from one struggling neighbor to give to another. It's about identifying smart, common-sense fixes that can have a significant impact in the lives of the people we represent – middle-class Americans who've never felt more squeezed." (Source: Senate Floor Remarks, <http://ow.ly/zG1Cx>)



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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