



US Senate, Louisiana

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 values. We are non-partisan – 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.

HOW TO USE THE AARP VOTERS' GUIDE:

AARP asked the major candidates in this race for their solutions about issues important to AARP members, Americans age 50-plus, and their families. Each candidate was allowed up to 625 characters to answer the questions. Their responses were not edited nor modified.

AARP has provided a summary of our position for each of the issues in this guide.



aarp.org/yourvote

2014 AARP Voters' Guide | **US Senate, Louisiana**
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.

Bill Cassidy (R):

"One of the reasons I'm running (for Senate) is I think we can reconstruct" the system to continue fully funding the federal retirement and health care systems for the elderly, Cassidy said. "You are members of the nation's greatest generation. We have a contract with you called Social Security and Medicare," Cassidy said. (Source: The Advocate, <http://ow.ly/yVAc9>)

Mary L. Landrieu (D):

"I agree that we must expand opportunities for retirement saving, but we must not undermine this worthy effort with a flawed privatization scheme that takes the 'security' out of 'Social Security.' 'We in Louisiana understand strong retirement security, and have about 350,000 state and municipal workers enrolled in a public pension plan that encourages savings and financial stability. I will oppose any federal proposal which changes or undermines this program, just as I intend reject any proposal which cuts Social Security benefits or adds to our already rising and troubling deficit.'" (Source: Landrieu Senate Site, <http://ow.ly/zHTm4>)

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Social Security

How would you protect Social Security for today's seniors and strengthen it for future generations?

Robert L. Maness (R):

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

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.

Bill Cassidy (R):

[...] We need common-sense solutions that will reform and protect Medicare for generations to come. It's important to note, that none of the reforms I support would impact seniors on or about to be on Medicare. [...] Get rid of the Independent Patient Advisory Board (IPAB) – The IPAB is ultimately a health care rationing board established in Obamacare that gives bureaucrats the power to decide what treatments seniors need and deserve. [...] Keep Medicare Savings in a Lockbox – Improvements can be made in Medicare to increase quality and decrease costs. (Source: Cassidy Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNb3l>)

Mary L. Landrieu (D):

“While deficit reduction is essential, balancing the budget by dismantling Medicare is both unfair to hard-working Americans and counterproductive. Seniors who are unable to afford Medicare or its equivalent will skip preventive services, not take necessary medication, and delay treatment leading to potentially undetected illnesses and more expensive care. If Medicare is turned into a voucher system and the health reform law is dismantled, millions of seniors will be left under- or uninsured.” (Source: Letter to President Obama, <http://ow.ly/zHUEE>)

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2014 AARP Voters' Guide | **US Senate, Louisiana** **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.

Bill Cassidy (R):

[...] I have developed a proposal that would allow patients access to a consumer-driven health savings account (HSA). This option would allow individuals to put the government subsidies they get into an HSA and save the money over time so they can use it when they need it. Individuals or family members could also contribute to the HSA tax-exempt. This would allow the individual to save their unused health dollars year after year and allow it to accumulate. [...] The plan would include catastrophic coverage in case the individual has a major unexpected illness that is more expensive than the money in their HSA. [...] (Source: Cassidy Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNdw4>)

Mary L. Landrieu (D):

"Mary Landrieu ...filed a bill just before the congressional recess that is aimed at boosting training and counseling efforts for entrepreneurs who are at least 50 years old. The bill would provide additional funding for workshops, conferences and mentoring programs, webinars, and free online courses for the so-called 'encore entrepreneurs.' ... Landrieu's [bill] would increase funding for more online training programs, more in-person training and counseling events, and require a report to Congress on the unique barriers and obstacles faced by encore entrepreneurs in starting or expanding businesses." (Source: The Advocate, <http://ow.ly/zHTzA>)

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Robert L. Maness (R):

The government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers. It's time to implement common sense policies that create middle-class jobs and encourage corporations not only to stay in the United States, but to likewise welcome others to do business here as well. (Source: Maness Campaign Site
<http://goo.gl/sKoNaz>)

Tired of the campaign clutter? The AARP Voters' Guide will help you find out where the candidates stand on the issues important to you and your family.



For more information, please go to www.aarp.org/yourvote.

Voter Information Inside

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