



US Senate, New Mexico

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.

Tom S. Udall (D):

One in six New Mexico residents receive Social Security. Nearly 330,000 residents rely on Medicare. America made a promise to our seniors — if you work hard throughout your life, if you pay into the system, then you will be able to rely on Social Security benefits in retirement. Our dignity as a nation is defined not only by the country we build for our children, but also by how well we fulfill our obligations to the generations that came before. (Source: Udall Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xF5Bc>)

Allen E. Weh (R):

Weh said he would prioritize cuts, and they'd include "entitlements overall." Examples include the food stamp program and Social Security disability, which have grown at a fast pace in recent years. (Source: Las Cruces Sun-News, <http://ow.ly/xFcZM>)

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.

Tom S. Udall (D):

Tom believes that retirement security must be preserved. We need to protect Medicare for our seniors and Medicaid for the most vulnerable among us. Whether it's reimbursement rates through Medicare or closing the "doughnut hole" that made it harder for seniors to afford life-saving prescriptions, Tom always fights for New Mexico's seniors. Seniors shouldn't be forced to choose between buying their groceries and buying their medication. They shouldn't have to worry about affording their mortgage payments and affording their health care. (Source: Udall Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xF5Bc>)

Allen E. Weh (R):

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

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.

Tom S. Udall (D):

Ensuring that every American has a good paying job needs to be Congress' top priority. We need to create and save jobs while investing in the long-term growth of our economy. Tom is working to help middle class families weather the storm of the economic downturn. He's also working to restart both consumer credit and commercial credit, like loans for small and medium businesses. In creating good paying jobs, we need to make sure that those jobs are available for all American workers. That's why Tom's fought hard to end discrimination in the workplace. (Source: Udall Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xFa7s>)

Allen E. Weh (R):

As an entrepreneur and a business owner, I understand what it takes to create jobs, cover a payroll, and balance a budget. I also understand what bad government policies will do to hamper or destroy business growth. If America is to regain a growing, healthy economy with good-paying jobs, we need to do three simple things: pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, work toward making government spend less than it takes in, and reduce irrational, over burdensome regulations that handicap our businesses and industries that create jobs. (Source: Weh Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xFeRN>)



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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