



## US Senate, Oklahoma, Special Election

### **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.

### **Constance N. Johnson (D):**

As our U.S. Senator, Connie will strengthen Social Security and Medicare by spending smarter and reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in the system. She'll work to improve coordination between patients, doctors, and hospitals, and she'll also work to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices. We don't privatize our country's promises to our workers and our seniors. We must protect and preserve these pivotal programs for our children and grandchildren. (Source: Johnson Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/z8mha>)

### **James P. Lankford (R):**

We must protect Social Security for those in and near retirement. We must also prosecute those who defraud the Social Security system and take funds from seniors and the disabled through Social Security fraud. The challenge lies in how to make Social Security solvent for younger generations. My recommendation is to form a bipartisan panel to get every option on the table and determine the best solution. Social Security is slowly bleeding, and ignoring the problem will result in a generation that has to bear the crushing national debt and a failing Social Security system. (Source: News OK, <http://ow.ly/cqYoG>)

## **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.

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### **James P. Lankford (R):**

I hear people saying to me 'fix Medicare'. Senior adults look at me and they get it, there's a problem, they want us to fix it, they want us to stabilize it [...] we are not ending Medicare as we know it. We are protecting it for the future because it is instable, it is going insolvent. It is time for us to repair it and protect it and put it on a path that can be sustained for the days to come. All the people from my district want is a reasonable right plan that actually deals with the drivers of our debt; that actually deals with the tough issues. (Source: House Floor Speech, <http://ow.ly/cqFgb>)

## **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.

### **Constance N. Johnson (D):**

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

### **James P. Lankford (R):**

Our governing agenda focused on job creation and economic growth. It will address our economic challenges, foster innovation and investment, and help job creators without raising taxes on working families and small business owners. (Source: Lankford Congressional Site, <http://goo.gl/lZ1W8C>)



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

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