



US Senate, Oregon

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.

Jeff A. Merkley (D):

Jeff is adamantly opposed to proposals that would fundamentally alter Social Security's make-up by privatizing the program or diverting Social Security revenues into risky Wall Street private accounts. Jeff [...] will work [...] to further strengthen the Social Security system and ensure that future generations of Americans can receive all of the benefits that they are promised. Jeff also supports boosting the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Social Security so it accurately reflects real living costs for our seniors and gives them a modest raise. He opposes "chained CPI," which would cut the COLA. (Source: Merkley.Senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/xiYoh>)

Monica Wehby (R):

Monica Wehby believes that Social Security and Medicare must be preserved and protected. Our seniors spent their entire lives paying into those systems and Monica will oppose any change to the benefits that have already been promised to seniors who are at or near retirement. However, these programs are on track to become insolvent, leaving the next generation of seniors to face the possibility that they will face serious cuts to their benefits. In order to make sure that doesn't happen, we need to enact legislation that puts them on a path to being financially secure. (Source: Wehby Campaign Site, <http://ow.ly/zLijF>)

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.

Jeff A. Merkley (D):

Jeff takes seriously the promise to working Americans that Medicare will be there when they retire, and will fight any efforts to weaken it or take it away. He has also been a proponent of strengthening the Medicare Advantage program, in which Medicare beneficiaries choose to be covered through private insurance companies, without asking taxpayers to subsidize the health insurance companies. He strongly supports improving Medicare reimbursement rates for Oregon and creating incentives to reward health care providers for the quality of care they deliver... He would fight any efforts to raise the Medicare eligibility age. (Source: Merkley.senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/xiYoh>)

Monica Wehby (R):

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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.

Jeff A. Merkley (D):

Jeff believes it is important to ensure that family members who care for elderly relatives receive the requisite support and services needed to provide quality care for their loved ones.

Jeff supports full funding of the Lifespan Respite Care Act to provide grants to fund respite care for family care givers. Respite care provides temporary relief from continuous care giving of family members with disabilities or chronic conditions. This service provides family care givers with needed rest and relief time to maintain their own health, employment, and finances. (Source: Merkley.senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/xiYoh>)

Monica Wehby (R):

From ranchers, to loggers, to coffee shop and hair salons owners, [Monica] hears the same thing over and over again – that uncertainty about what the federal government is doing in healthcare, in the regulatory fields, and the changing tax climate is forcing small business to hunker down. Government should be encouraging growth, not squeezing small businesses out. As a U.S. Senator, Dr. Wehby will fight for the small businesses of Oregon so that our kids can have good middle class jobs available to them. (Source: Wehby Campaign Site, <http://ow.ly/xj4YJ>)



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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