



## US Senate, Rhode Island

### **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.

### **Jack F. Reed (D):**

Senator Reed is committed to ensuring that Social Security remains strong and viable for millions of Americans. Today, about 200,000 Rhode Islanders receive Social Security benefits. Throughout his career, Reed has repeatedly voted to keep Social Security on sound financial footing and strongly opposes efforts to privatize the program or use it to pay for new tax breaks. Given its structure and design, Social Security cannot contribute to the federal deficit. Senator Reed has worked to protect the Social Security Trust Fund from being diverted to other programs or used for government spending. (Source: reed.senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/zI5fR>)

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## **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.

### **Jack F. Reed (D):**

Senator Reed is steadfastly committed to strengthening Medicare and Medicaid, improving the health of Rhode Islanders and the quality of the care they receive, and lowering costs without slashing benefits. Senator Reed has fought to protect and strengthen Medicare and Medicaid. He vigorously opposes [...plans] to dismantle Medicare. Ending Medicare as we know it would destroy people's ability to pay their bills, save for retirement, college tuition, or anything other than the medical insurance they will need as they get older. (Source: reed.senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/xINtu>)

## **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.

### **Jack F. Reed (D):**

Senator Reed is working hard to help stabilize the real estate market for homeowners, renters, and businesses so our economy can recover. Reed has long championed efforts to make affordable rental housing options available to more Americans, and wrote the law creating an affordable housing trust fund to build, preserve, and rehabilitate affordable rental homes. (Source: reed.senate.gov, <http://ow.ly/xIQpQ>)



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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