



US Senate, South Dakota

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, South Dakota**
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.

Larry L. Pressler (I):

If elected, Pressler supports raising taxes, gradually increasing the retirement age for Social Security and decreasing the growth of those payouts. (Source: National Journal, <http://ow.ly/ygkYF>)

Mike Rounds (R):

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

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Richard P. Weiland (D):

Rick Weiland told voters [...] that 'protect and expand,' not, 'cut and destroy,' are the words we should be using when we talk about Social Security. [...] In the polls about 90% support requiring the super-rich to contribute to Social Security based on their entire income, just like most South Dakotans do [...] "So 9 out of 10 Americans say protect Social Security by making the wealthy pay like the rest of us, " We can take back our Congress and protect our Social Security, or we can let the big money Congress cheat us again." (Source: Press Release, August 1, 2013)

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.

Larry L. Pressler (I):

"I'm for keeping Obamacare and improving it or fixing the problems," Pressler said. "I don't think we can go back." Pressler said there's room for compromise on such issues as the 15-member board tasked with coming up with ways to contain Medicare spending. He said appointments could be limited to two years, and the panel could be more responsive to Congress if legislators are allowed to override the recommendations with a majority vote instead of super-majority. (Source: Argus Leader, <http://ow.ly/yglms>)

Mike Rounds (R):

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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?

Richard P. Weiland (D):

“Medicare Choice Act will give all Americans a choice between Medicare, private insurance, or a combination of both.” If elected, Weiland pledges to write, introduce, and fight hard to enact a new health care law that will give every American a choice between buying into Medicare, keeping his or her private insurance, or a combination of both. “The Medicare Choice Act, by simply allowing people to choose what they want, will make our entire health care delivery system cheaper, more responsive to the needs of patients and health care providers, and less responsive to the demands of either big money insurance giants [...]” (Source: Rickweiland.com, <http://ow.ly/zLHy6>)

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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.

Larry L. Pressler (I):

Pressler is confident Americans would be willing to pay more in taxes or give up some social programs to forge a budget agreement. My goals: to balance the federal budget and reduce taxes so working families can keep more of what they earn. I voted for the first balanced budget plan in more than a generation. We owe it to our kids to balance the budget and reduce the debt. Second, working families are taxed too much. By slowing growth in government programs and eliminating waste and abuse, we can achieve a balanced budget and lower taxes. (Source: On the Issues, <http://ow.ly/yglP7>)

Mike Rounds (R):

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Richard P. Weiland (D):

Rick is running so that we can take back our country and our government —so that every small business, every family farmer and rancher, and every working person in South Dakota gets a fair shake and an even playing field. Rick is running so that we can stop the waste in government, so that we can stop the sweetheart deals and the government bailouts of businesses that are 'too big to fail'. It's time for the everyday citizens to take back our country and that is what this campaign is about. (Source: Weiland Campaign Site, <http://ow.ly/ARsdw>)

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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601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049

