



US Senate, Tennessee

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.



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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.

Lamar Alexander (R):

"It's very significant that this year, Social Security has more money going out than coming in," Alexander said. "And it's very significant that in the next 10 years, Social Security will add a half-trillion dollars to the deficit. Social Security would be a good place to start when dealing with these mandatory entitlement programs that are 57 percent of our budget." (Source: Times Free Press, <http://ow.ly/xNLH1>)

Gordon Ball (D):

Too many politicians have been using scare tactics when it comes to Social Security. The problems in Social Security funding are serious, but they are fixable. Social Security is safe for at least the next 20 years, and if we act quickly, we can make modest changes that will keep the system solvent without cutting back on benefits. We need honesty and political will to move forward.

Social Security is a promise made to our seniors, and it would be a breach of trust not to mention poor economic policy to jeopardize this program with unnecessary cuts or risky privatization schemes. (Source: Ball for Senate, <http://ow.ly/zoHHT>)

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.

Lamar Alexander (R):

"[...] ""Restructure Medicare so that it can compete with a reformed Medicare advantage,"" Alexander said. ""That would leave seniors the opportunity to continue to choose Medicare. You should increase the Medicare age by a couple of years. Warren Buffet and I could stand that, and people with lower incomes will be eligible for Obamacare."" The senator also suggested increasing premiums on those with higher incomes and offering certain Medicare waivers to states to save \$50 billion. Alexander repeatedly warned that, if changes are not enacted, the nation's Medicare program ran the risk of becoming insolvent in 11 years. (Source: Nooga.com, <http://ow.ly/xNNiu>)

Gordon Ball (D):

For too long, politicians have proposed privatizing Medicare, turning it into a voucher program, or cutting it altogether. Of course, these cuts won't keep people from getting sick and needing care. Instead, they're about shifting ever-growing health care costs onto our aging seniors. I will not support privatizing Medicare, turning it into a voucher program, or cutting benefits. (Source: Ball for Senate, <http://ow.ly/zoHHT>)

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.

Lamar Alexander (R):

On Dec. 31, 2013, Congress let expire a temporary provision that allowed Tennesseans to deduct their state and local sales tax payments from their federal tax liabilities. This amounts to a staggering tax increase – \$1.2 billion – and is unfair to our state. [...] Tennesseans shouldn't pay a greater share of federal taxes than other taxpayers, simply because we choose not to have a state income tax. Lamar has cosponsored two pieces of legislation that would make permanent the state and local sales tax deduction, cutting taxes for Tennessee families and making the tax code fairer and more certain for them. (Source: Alexander Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/xNOdI>)

Gordon Ball (D):

We have to advance a Made in Tennessee agenda that puts Tennesseans to work in the good-paying manufacturing jobs in the auto, bio-tech, and clean energy industries. We must work to ensure that our states' small businesses, which create nearly two-thirds of new jobs, have the resources they need to expand operations and hire new workers. (Source: Ball for Congress, <http://ow.ly/zoHZQ>)



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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