



US Senate, West Virginia

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.

Shelley Moore Capito (R):

Our seniors have earned Social Security [...] through a lifetime of hard work, and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito has worked to protect and shore up [this] important safety net program for West Virginia's seniors. Shelley steadfastly opposed [...] former President George W. Bush's proposal to privatize Social Security. Shelley strongly believes that strengthening Social Security [...] for future generations is an important part of providing economic security both for our nation and for future seniors. [...] Shelley will work to protect current seniors from any reduction in benefits. (Source: Capito House Site, <http://ow.ly/wSKdr>)

Natalie E. Tennant (D):

Social Security is an important income security program for Americans, and I oppose any effort to privatize the program. [...] For many of our seniors, including my father, Social Security is a sole source of stable income after retirement. I oppose any attempt to privatize or cut Social Security benefits for any reason. I support the annual cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security and I oppose efforts to change the formula, especially formula adjustments that do not take into account the significantly higher health-care and drug costs our seniors pay. (Source: Tennant Campaign Website, <http://ow.ly/wSwli>)

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.

Shelley Moore Capito (R):

Capito has worked to protect and shore up [Medicare] for West Virginia's seniors. Shelley has steadfastly opposed President Obama's cuts to the Medicare Advantage program. [...] We must address the shaky fiscal footing of [this] crucial program. Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be bankrupt by 2024 and will only have incoming funds to pay for less than 75 percent of promised benefits. [...] Shelley strongly believes that strengthening [...] Medicare for future generations is an important part of providing economic security. [...] Shelley will work to protect current seniors from any reduction in benefits. (Source: Capito House Site, <http://ow.ly/wSKdr>)

Natalie E. Tennant (D):

"I oppose efforts to turn Medicare into a voucher system, as this would result in fewer benefits, higher out-of-pocket costs to recipients and would force seniors to negotiate directly with insurance companies." "West Virginians work hard all their lives to earn these benefits, and I will work hard to strengthen Medicare and Social Security for West Virginia." (Source: Tennant Campaign Site <http://goo.gl/493s7k> & <http://ow.ly/wSyuH>)

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.

Shelley Moore Capito (R):

From standing up for our state's energy sector to supporting job training programs for West Virginia workers, Shelley is working to improve employment opportunities. [...] A [tax] system that spurs greater investment, innovation and job creation will make West Virginia workers and businesses more competitive[...] (Source: Capito House Site, <http://goo.gl/aOGynd>) Caring for dependent children and ailing family members is a 24-7 job, yet the costs associated with caring for loved ones often require both parents to work in order to make ends meet. With the rising cost of care, families should be able to set aside additional pre-tax money to cover these expenses. (Source: WHSV.com, <http://ow.ly/wSTcm>)

Natalie E. Tennant (D):

As Secretary of State, I have a record of making it easier to start businesses and create jobs in West Virginia. My top priority in the Senate will be helping retain and create even more good-paying jobs for West Virginians. [...] Our State has enormous capacity for diversification in energy, engineering, tourism, manufacturing and sciences. From coal, to chemicals, to biometrics, to biotech, to advanced materials, to aerospace, I will put West Virginia first and invest in our state to attract companies to locate here. (Source: Tennant Campaign Site, <http://goo.gl/P3gmwW>)



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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