



# **US House Alaska District 1**

#### **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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## 2014 AARP Voters' Guide | US House Alaska District 1

# **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.

### Forrest Dunbar (Dem):

It's our year for people who believe that we should have control over our own resources, it's our year for people who think we need to defend Medicare and social security and expand Medicaid. (Source: Alaska Public Media Website, http://ow.ly/zIC9k)

### Don Young (Rep):

I support efforts to protect Social Security and provide citizens young and old with the guarantee that Social Security will be preserved and protected, now and into the future. I believe we must preserve the long-term solvency of Social Security, by using 90 percent of the budget surplus, or an estimated \$1.6 trillion (according to Congressional Budget Office estimates). Congress continues to show its commitment to America's Social Security beneficiaries by the creation of the Protect Social Security Account," allowing Social Security to be preserved and protected.. (Source: Rep. Young's Congressional Website, http://ow.ly/xwDby)

## **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.

#### Forrest Dunbar (Dem):

It's our year for people who believe that we should have control over our own resources, it's our year for people who think we need to defend Medicare and social security and expand Medicaid. (Source: Alaska Public Media Website, http://ow.ly/zIC9k)

## Don Young (Rep):

We as lawmakers must reexamine falling Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates and find ways, where fiscally possible,to shift these cost cuts to areas that do not provide to irreplaceable services. Congress should strive to improve efficiency in current medical practices by reviewing all innovative solutions which show improved patient outcomes at a lower cost. (Source: Rep. Young's Congressional Website, http://ow.ly/xwDoV)

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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.

### Forrest Dunbar (Dem):

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

#### Don Young (Rep):

We must decrease use of health services later in life by improving healthcare habits and preventative health outreach earlier in life. This should involve empowering states with innovative ways to engage and educate on the importance of regular screenings and healthy lifestyle habits."It's time to encourage saving for retirement. In the past the government has made it difficult to ensure a prosperous retirement. IRAs and 401(k)s provide a important source of retirement savings for workers lacking pension coverage. We need to promote Americans to save more for retirement. (Source: Rep. Young's Congressional Website, http://ow.ly/xwDSg)



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**



