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 Florida District 6

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.

David Cox (Dem):
Americans deserve to have a feeling of security, knowing that we as a Nation will support them in retirement. We have a core responsibility of ensuring that a sound quality of life is retained for those who represent the most vulnerable populations. (Source: Cox for Congress, http://ow.ly/y6ioJ)

Ron D. DeSantis (Rep):
Individuals already pay taxes to support Social Security, so there is no reason why these earned benefits should be taxed on the back end. (Source: The blaze, http://ow.ly/xxdqp)

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.

David Cox (Dem):
Rather than continuing to place everyone’s retirements into such an obviously unstable situation, we should pay out all benefits to those who have paid in and return the responsibility of retirement planning to individuals and employers. This secures the elderly who are already dependent on Social Security and Medicare but gives others the opportunity to pursue more sustainable opportunities. (Source: Cox for Congress, http://goo.gl/VZxYSU)

Ron D. DeSantis (Rep):
I would not do any changes for people who are on Medicare or close to retirement. But for guys like me, we need to look at the structure of the program, look at how the finances are, and see what the obligations will be 40 years in the future. It simply cannot stand the way it is. (Source: Palm Coast Observer, http://ow.ly/xxecR)
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.

David Cox (Dem):
We must invest in our communities. We must work to improve their physical, economic, cultural, and social conditions. Investing in small businesses, clinics, and farms are important steps needed to strengthen rural communities. Investing in affordable housing, smart growth, and infrastructure are important steps needed to strengthen urban communities. We must streamline and improve federal programs serving our communities and increase the flow of capital which support start-ups. Access to health care, educational health programs, and support for mental illness must be a part of a comprehensive agenda. (Source: Cox for Congress, http://ow.ly/xxgji)

Ron D. DeSantis (Rep):
AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.
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.