US House Indiana District 4

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 Indiana District 4

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.

**John Dale (Dem):**
John Dale supports our current Social Security Program and is committed to keeping the program adequately funded so that it can continue to provide much needed benefits to all Americans[...].

The 2013 Social Security Board of Trustees’ report shows that the program does not face an immediate budget crisis—but it does face a future funding shortfall (starting in 2033). The President and members of Congress should work together now to address this future shortfall so that the program can fully meet its promises to working Americans. (Source: Dale Campaign Site, http://goo.gl/zwcKN7)

**Todd E. Rokita (Rep):**
We must also address our nation’s looming entitlement crisis. The latest report from the Social Security and Medicare Trustees showed that both programs have serious cash flow problems. They estimated that the Social Security program’s costs would exceed revenues in 2010 for the first time since the early 1980s, and will permanently exceed tax revenues beginning in 2015. Medicare has been operating with a cash shortfall since 2008. These programs are not sustainable. The longer we wait to address the insolvency of our entitlement programs, the harder it is going to be to find the right solutions. (Source: Rokita Congressional Site, http://goo.gl/aLj6Wg)

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.

**John Dale (Dem):**
[...]

Medicare serves an important role for seniors, providing much needed medical coverage during a time when their health care needs are increasing while their income is often static or declining. Prior to the creation of Medicare, only 50% of seniors had private health insurance—and those private insurance plans were often not very good. Today, 99.9% of Americans over the age of 65 have health insurance through Medicare. [...]

The programs housed under Social Security, including Medicare, are on stable financial footing for the short term and, with minor tweaks, will be available for all Americans for decades to come. (Source: Dale Campaign Website, http://ow.ly/ydGtfI)

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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.

John Dale (Dem):
Our government needs to explore the growing industries that will be able to keep up with potential job growth and that will help solidify America’s place as a leader in sustainability and innovation, John believes that working towards such growth will help to bring long-lasting and well-paying jobs to Indiana. (Source: Dale Campaign Website, http://ow.ly/ydHTZ)

Todd E. Rokita (Rep):
The key to growing the economy and creating jobs is to create a climate in which businesses are comfortable taking risks. Private job creation is the key to economic prosperity. Every dollar taken from the financial markets, in the form of taxes or borrowing, results in less money being available to entrepreneurs looking to hire Hoosier workers. We must encourage, not penalize, private companies to take risks and grow the economy. (Source: Rokita Congressional Site, http://goo.gl/GK1iWs)
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.