US House Kansas District 2

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.

Lynn M. Jenkins (Rep):
By 2037 seniors could see a 22 percent cut in their social security checks or workers could see their payroll tax increase by 30 percent. There is no simple solution to solving the financial problems facing Social Security, but any serious plan must protect current benefits for people 55 and older, preserve the safety net for those who need social security the most, and provide certainty to future generations. This solution will require bipartisan cooperation that keeps our promises to today's retirees and workers and strengthens Social Security for future generations. (Source: Jenkin’s Congressional Site, http://ow.ly/xxiAn)

Margie Wakefield (Dem):
...any efforts to privatize Social Security are unacceptable. Generations of Americans have paid into this program and we must honor that commitment and keep the trust fund stable. We must stop using the trust fund for other purposes. Keeping the fund healthy may require changes; however, I do not support raising the retirement age for those who have already paid into the system. (Source: Wakefield Campaign Site, http://ow.ly/xxkBB)

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.

Lynn M. Jenkins (Rep):
Medicare is important program for our seniors. The President’s $716 billion cut to Medicare as part of Obamacare must be reversed. While we need to reform to our nation’s health care system, I will work to ensure that health care reform measures are paid for without making cuts to programs that are vital to so many seniors. (Source: Jenkins Campaign Site, http://ow.ly/xxhY2)

Margie Wakefield (Dem):
Having Medicare negotiate prescription drug costs is one idea that may help significantly reduce costs... Other proposals to turn Medicare into a voucher program, which would not guarantee quality care for our seniors, and could force seniors to pay thousands more every year for lifesaving medicines and treatments, must be thwarted. (Source: Wakefield Campaign Site, http://ow.ly/xxkBB)
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.

Lynn M. Jenkins (Rep):
This will mark the third straight year that the federal budget deficit will exceed $1 trillion... That is why I have joined my House colleagues in voting to cut billions of dollars in spending for the remainder of the current fiscal year, as well as a 2012 budget proposal that will cut $6.2 trillion in spending over the next decade compared to the President’s budget. Americans and economist alike believe that cutting government spending will encourage economic growth and job creation, and I will continue to stand up for hard-working American taxpayers by opposing wasteful and irresponsible government spending. (Source: Jenkin’s Congressional Site http://ow.ly/xxjuj)

Margie Wakefield (Dem):
We need to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit that built our country, businesses that create jobs here at home. In order to encourage small businesses we need to provide incentives, and that requires a fair tax system that rewards small businesses, not large corporations. We need to strengthen and expand our business incubators, which is a long-term approach to building a better and stronger economy, with good paying jobs. Finally, we must work to expand the policy of minimum wage to a livable wage. (Source: Wakefield Campaign Site, http://ow.ly/xxkBb)
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.