US House New Jersey 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.

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2014 AARP Voters’ Guide | US House New Jersey District 2

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.

William J. Hughes Jr. (Dem):
I will... Oppose every effort by D.C. politicians to privatize Medicare or cut guaranteed Social Security benefits. Work to ensure that the Social Security and Medicare programs have stable and consistent funding and are protected for our future. Make sure that the Medicare Part D “Donut Hole” remains closed. Ensure that our seniors continue to have access to quality affordable health care.
(Source: Hughes Campaign Site http://ow.ly/xCUfc)

Frank A. LoBiondo (Rep):
“We are all hoping that there can be something comprehensive [...] that helps to keep Social Security solvent far into the future. I think the idea of increasing that [the Social Security payroll tax cap] is a possibility. [...] One thing that’s clear, Social Security is a critically important program that must be saved no matter what, too many people depend on it. It’s going to take a lot of hard work to find a consensus. Ronald Reagan and Tip O’Neil found a consensus a lot of years ago that gave us a lot of time, and I think it’s going to have to take that kind of bipartisan cooperation [...]” (Source: AARP House Call, http://ow.ly/zk2on)

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.

William J. Hughes Jr. (Dem):
I will... Oppose every effort by D.C. politicians to privatize Medicare or cut guaranteed Social Security benefits. Work to ensure that the Social Security and Medicare programs have stable and consistent funding and are protected for our future. Make sure that the Medicare Part D “Donut Hole” remains closed. Ensure that our seniors continue to have access to quality affordable health care.
(Source: Hughes Campaign Site http://ow.ly/xCUfc)

Frank A. LoBiondo (Rep):
“Social Security and Medicare have to be protected and we’re desperately finding ways to strengthen them. Just as important is to make sure we don’t do anything stupid and damaging like privatizing Social Security that came up a few years ago that probably would have meant devastation for a whole lot of people.” (Source: AARP House Call, http://ow.ly/zk2on)
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.

**William J. Hughes Jr. (Dem):**
In South Jersey the recession hasn’t ended. It’s not our neighbors who have failed, it’s our leadership in Washington. We need real projects and real ideas that produce solutions and jobs. South Jersey needs an advocate for jobs and a stronger economy – someone who will actually reach across the aisle and achieve bipartisan results instead of just talking about them. (Source: Hughes Campaign Site http://ow.ly/xCUfc)

**Frank A. LoBiondo (Rep):**
I don’t know if there is a vote scheduled [for unemployment benefits extension]. There currently should be. I was one of only a very small handful of Republicans that signed a letter publicly stating that this is something we should do and I believe it is something that is overdue. [...] There have been a number of proposals that have been put forth. The leadership of the House and the leadership of the Senate up to this point has not come up with a plan that they’ve been able to present that can get to the President’s desk. [...] I’m one of the ones that has publicly stated that we should fix it. (Source: AARP House Call, http://ow.ly/zk2on)
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.