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.

Nan A. Hayworth (Rep):
Social Security is a binding contract the government holds with working Americans. For years now, Congress has raided the Social Security trust fund, and replaced the money with IOUs it can’t pay back. In the meantime, we must take steps to ensure that Social Security remains solvent and stable, and that Americans preparing for retirement have other investment and savings options open to them so that they’re not forced to depend on Social Security alone for their well-being. (Source: On the Issues, http://ow.ly/yRQZl)

Sean P. Maloney (Dem):
[...] I believe that it’s just wrong that some in Congress want to balance our budget on their backs. I know that cutting Medicare benefits, or privatizing social security, will hurt our senior citizens. Instead we should make our current programs more sustainable for future generations. Social Security and Medicare are the foundation of our retirement security, and it should be a guarantee – not a gamble. Together, we can work to improve the programs while saving billions by combating abuse and fraud. I will stand up for Hudson Valley seniors and fight to protect their Social Security and Medicare benefits. (Source: Maloney House Website, http://ow.ly/y5DW6)

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.

Nan A. Hayworth (Rep):
In March 2012, Hayworth voiced her support for an “overhaul” of Medicare. “An argument for a sounder, more sensible future for Medicare is one that we can very comfortably make,” Hayworth said. “Changes to Medicare will be made for those ages 54 and younger and be converted to premium support—the trust fund for Medicare is quickly running out. Many who receive it get four times more than what they actually paid into the program, as with Social Security. (Source: Mediatracker.org, http://ow.ly/yRRJ3)

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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.

Nan A. Hayworth (Rep):
Let’s make our tax code simpler and fairer for small businesses and middle class families. Let’s close the loopholes that reward the favored few. Let’s make it easier to build American plants and create American jobs. It’s time to lift the crushing burdens from the backs of our workers, our businesses, our employers, and our taxpayers. It’s time to get our economy moving again, by allowing our small businesses to thrive, and do what they do best: create new jobs. (Source: Nan for Congress, http://ow.ly/yRQH3)

Sean P. Maloney (Dem):
Sean was part of the team in President Bill Clinton’s White House that ran a budget surplus, helped grow the economy and created millions of jobs - and he would take that same approach to budget priorities in Congress. Instead of balancing the budget on the backs of seniors - as Congresswoman Hayworth proposes - Sean believes we should stop giving massive tax cuts to millionaires, oil companies, and corporations that ship jobs overseas. (Source: Maloney Campaign Website, http://ow.ly/y5Ki6)
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.