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.

Alanna K. Hartzok (Dem):
The Franklin County resident said she is in favor of conserving environmental resources, education opportunities, Social Security and Medicare, while wanting to progressively address wealth inequality, health care and taxation. “I think that’s a good description of my views,” said Hartzok. (Source: Tribune-Democrat, http://ow.ly/xxJJ0)

Bill F. Shuster (Rep):
The Social Security Board of Trustees estimates that by approximately 2042 the Social Security Trust Fund will be depleted. Extending the life of Social Security indefinitely should be a forefront issue for every public policy maker. I believe it is irresponsible not to take action to prevent these alarming estimates from becoming intolerable facts. I welcome this debate and look forward to an honest discussion of ideas about how we may strengthen and improve this vital program for the future so it is there for our children and grandchildren. (Source: Shuster Official Website, http://ow.ly/xxFhM)

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.

Alanna K. Hartzok (Dem):
The Franklin County resident said she is in favor of conserving environmental resources, education opportunities, Social Security and Medicare, while wanting to progressively address wealth inequality, health care and taxation. “I think that’s a good description of my views,” said Hartzok. (Source: Tribune-Democrat, http://ow.ly/xxJJ0)

Bill F. Shuster (Rep):
I think it’s extremely important people know the fact is if you’re 55 years or older, Medicare is not going to change a dime’s worth for you [...] People 54 and under need to know it’s going to change, it needs to change, it has to change [...] It’s going to become bankrupt, and it’s going to bankrupt the country...if we would zero out [...] all those discretionary things we vote on every year [...] we’d still be running a deficit on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. It makes up two-thirds of our budget, and we have to reform it so that it’s there for future generations. (Source: Interview; http://ow.ly/cmoVt)
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.

Alanna K. Hartzok (Dem):
AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any public statement on this issue by July 11, 2014.

Bill F. Shuster (Rep):
From the time I entered Congress in 2001, I have firmly believed that no nation has ever taxed itself to prosperity and Congress must set policies that keep our economy competitive. Hard working Americans know how to manage, save, and spend their money better than faceless bureaucrats continually spending and wasting those dollars. I am focused on keeping more money in the pockets of working Americans instead of sending those hard-earned dollars to Washington. [...]The tax burden on the American citizen MUST be lowered if we are serious about growing the economy. (Source: Shuster.house.gov, http://ow.ly/xxHzr)
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.

Voter Information Inside