

# 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 values. We are non-partisan — 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.

#### **HOW TO USE THE AARP VOTERS' GUIDE:**

AARP produced this guide to help you find out what candidates are saying about important issues, including: Social Security, Medicare, and Financial Security. All candidate statements contained in this guide were taken from publicly available sources, such as media websites. We've included links to the websites and encourage you to go there to read more about their positions.

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## **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 protect benefits for people who count on them most, including surviving spouses and families, low-wage workers, and individuals who become disabled and can no longer 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.

# Jonathan T. E. Courtney (Rep):

AARP did extensive research but was unable to find any statement on this issue made by the candidate.

#### Chellie M. Pingree (Dem):

Medicare and Social Security work to keep thousands of Mainers out of poverty. But they've become targets for those who'd rather cut benefits than having the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share. We need to protect these critical benefits and make sure they are there for the next generation. (Source: Chellie Pingree Website; http://ow.ly/cx6Oi)

## **Medicare**

How would you put Medicare on stronger financial ground and protect today's seniors and future retirees from the burden of 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.

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## 2012 AARP Voters' Guide | Maine House District 01

## **Financial Security**

How would you help Americans build a financial nest egg for their retirement?

#### **AARP's Position:**

- There should be more opportunities and incentives for all Americans to save for their retirement and financial security.
- Freedom from age discrimination is a fundamental right, and all Americans should be able to keep working and contributing to society regardless of age.
- Promoting affordable home ownership and safeguarding home equity are important to maintain and improve the independence and quality of life of Americans age 50-plus.

# Jonathan T. E. Courtney (Rep):

To create jobs and opportunity, we have enacted reforms in several key areas, including health insurance, regulatory fairness, workers compensation, educational, unemployment, Department of Health and Human Services, tax, pension and welfare reforms. We have acted to help restore confidence in taxpayer-funded organizations by exposing criminal behavior and questionable spending practices at the Maine Turnpike and Maine State Housing authorities respectively. (Source: Jon Courtney for Congress. http://ow.ly/cKLkb)

### Chellie M. Pingree (Dem):

As our economy continues to struggle with the down economy, our number one priority should be getting Mainers back to work. To do that, we need investment in our state and support for small businesses. (Source: Chellie Pingree Website; http://ow.ly/cx6Oi)

Tired of the campaign clutter? The AARP Voters' Guide will help you find out where the candidates stand on the issues important to you and your family.



For more information, please go to earnedasay.org.

# **Voter Information Inside**

