



## Maine Senate Maine

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### **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.

### **Cynthia A. Dill (Dem):**

Strengthen both by increasing the SS income cap and reforming the tax code, and reduce costs with discipline and management of healthcare. (Source: Bangor Daily News; <http://ow.ly/cx6Df>)

### **Angus King (I):**

Social Security was put on a sound financial basis in 1986...For this reason, no major changes are needed to assure its long-term stability. Most studies recommend relatively minor changes—a gradually phased-in increase of the retirement age to 69 by 2075, for example—and an increase in the base upon which Social Security taxes are applied above the current cut-off of \$106,000 in annual income. What we don't need, and what I oppose, is any effort to privatize or means-test Social Security. The program is too important to too many people (over 300,000 in Maine) to make it subject to the ups and downs of Wall Street. (Source: Bangor Daily News. <http://ow.ly/cKKNp>)

## **Social Security**

*How would you protect Social Security for today's seniors and strengthen it for future generations?*

**Charles E. Summers Jr.**  
**(Rep):**

We have to stop robbing money from the Social Security Trust Fund, (Source: Bangor Daily News;<http://ow.ly/cx6Ma>)

## **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.

### **Cynthia A. Dill (Dem):**

Said Dill: "When it comes to Medicaid and Medicare, those are programs that need to be strengthened." (Source: Portland Press Herald; <http://ow.ly/cx6Es>)

### **Angus King (I):**

I believe the long-term answer for Medicare...is to transition away from our current fee-for-service system toward one that pays healthcare providers for keeping us well instead of only treating us when we are sick. This means more emphasis on primary care and prevention rather than only paying for procedures. In fact, a pilot program to do just this is now getting underway in the Bangor area under the leadership of Eastern Maine Health. A second change to current Medicare policy which would help substantially with its finances would be to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices... (Source: Bangor Daily News. <http://ow.ly/cKKNp>)

## **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?*

**Charles E. Summers Jr.**  
**(Rep):**

We have to stop robbing money from the Social Security Trust Fund, and Medicare must remain solvent. (Source: Bangor Daily News;<http://ow.ly/cx6Ma>)

## **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.

### **Cynthia A. Dill (Dem):**

Everyone knows we need to change the dynamic in Washington to protect the many against the privileges of the few, to unleash the middle class and create a broad-based economic recovery. But we can't keep sending millionaires and corporate-funded candidates to Congress over and over again and expect a different outcome. I support the Buffett Rule to bring the super-rich in line with average taxpayers, and the Jobs Bill to fund a broad-based prosperity. (Source: Cynthia Dill Website; <http://ow.ly/cx6Fc>)

### **Angus King (I):**

Expanding markets for fishing, forestry, and agriculture...  
Providing rural broadband...  
Creating fair trade agreements...  
Reducing Regulatory Burdens... I know that government does not create jobs, the private sector does. However, the government can be either a barrier or a partner in supporting the private sector in creating and sustaining jobs. I will work diligently to see that partnerships to grow the economy are a priority, and that onerous regulatory burdens are reduced, so that Maine's small businesses can thrive. (Source: Angus King for U.S. Senate. <http://ow.ly/cKLoS>)

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**Charles E. Summers Jr.**  
**(Rep):**

Creating jobs is my top priority and I will fight everyday to implement policies that will stimulate job creation and get our economy back on track. Investing in small businesses will create jobs and strengthen our economy. That is why I will introduce legislation that will create a national small business advocate, just like the one I successfully lobbied for in Maine who has already saved Maine businesses from undue state regulators. (Source: Summers for United States Senate. <http://ow.ly/cKLd4>)

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](http://earnedasay.org).

## Voter Information Inside