

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races



		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
AZ-5	Hayworth (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		As a member of the Social Security Subcommittee, I am at the center of efforts to save and strengthen this vital program. We have our work cut out for us. The annual report of the Social Security Trustees concludes that by 2040 Social Security will not be able to meet its obligations—it will essentially be insolvent. The Trustees also make clear that without reforming the program, the only way to stave off impending bankruptcy is to either reduce benefits for recipients or increase taxes on workers. My bottom line is that we must do more to protect the system without resorting to tax increases, benefit cuts, increasing the retirement age, or privatizing the system. Working together, we can find a solution.
AZ-5	Mitchell (D)		✓	✓		<i>Candidate did not offer any additional comments.</i>
AZ-5	Severin, Libertarian	✓			✓	Social security worked when the ratio of payers to payees was, in FDR's time, 16:1. Now the ratio is closer to 2:1. When SS was enacted the primary argument against it was that it would become, in time, unsustainable. That time is rapidly approaching. To make matters worse, Congress has periodically increased SS taxes to rebuild the SS Trust Fund. That fund is bankrupt. Every time the taxpayers have refilled the fund, Congress has taken the money out of it and spent it on other things. Corporate officers who raid employee pension plans go to jail. Your congressmen get re-elected. It's time to gradually transition the current form of Social Security to a system of personal retirement accounts.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

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RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
AZ-8 (open)	Giffords (D)		✓	✓		Efforts to privatize Social Security undermine the key safety net of American society and are not necessary. With Social Security providing the majority of the income that many seniors live on, it is not fair or wise to jeopardize that security by gambling with those resources. To create solvency for the next century, we should consider raising the taxable income level for those who earn high incomes and convening a bipartisan, blue-ribbon commission to adjust the financing of Social Security in order to ensure its long-term stability.
AZ-8 (open)	Graf (R)	<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>  <i>Will you support or</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>  <i>Will you support or</i>		
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		<i>oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<i>oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
CO-4	Musgrave (R)	<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>
CO-4	Paccione (D)		✓	✓		It's a blessing that America stood up and said, "No!" to the radical agenda of privatizing Social Security. Younger generations need to be confident that the promise of Social Security will be there for them. Past generations have kept their promise, now we need to keep ours.

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>	<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>	

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

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CO-7 (open)	O'Donnell (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		Social Security must be fixed because when it was started, the ratio of workers to retirees was 16:1, today is 3:1 and will soon be 2:1. Congress today is not saving our Social Security money but spending it on other programs. This is outrageous and I will fight in Congress to stop it. Any fix to Social Security must ensure that current retirees and those near retirement are guaranteed their promised benefit; that we strengthen Social Security's safety net to raise more of our elderly out of poverty; that future retirees get a benefit at least as large as today's retirees; and, that it is clear that younger workers' Social Security dollars belong to them and cannot be spent by the government for other purposes.
CO-7 (open)	Perlmutter (D)		✓	✓		<i>Candidate did not offer any additional comments.</i>

RACE	CANDIDATE	<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
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# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

CT-2	Simmons (R)		✓	✓		It is absolutely essential that we continue to guarantee the basic benefits that Social Security and Medicare provide to our seniors. That's why I support legislation that would help Connecticut's senior citizens get a fairer and more accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment from Social Security. I am also fighting to eliminate the 1993 tax on Social Security benefits, which penalizes seniors who have planned for their retirement through savings, investment, and hard work. And I believe Congress must eliminate the tax on Social Security benefits for early retirees between the ages of 62 and 64 who work. As your Congressman – and a member of AARP – my position on Social Security has been consistent: I oppose any reform plan that privatizes Social Security.
CT-2	Courtney (D)		✓	✓		I completely oppose using Social Security taxes for private accounts. My opponent, Rob Simmons, publicly supported George Bush's plans to use private accounts and told The Day that "private accounts could be a permanent fix." * I have a public record in Connecticut's Legislature of working for Social Security retirees and the disabled and understand the need to protect this essential program of social insurance. Social Security is not just a retirement program; the "reforms" that Bush and this Republican Congress are advocating would cause irreparable harm to Social Security's ability to protect retirees, the disabled, widowed spouses and dependent children. The next Congress should use a balanced approach to secure the future of Social Security, not dismantle it. *(The Day Feb 3, 2005)
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
CT-4	Shays (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		✓		Personal Social Security Savings Accounts should be added to, but not a partial replacement of, the existing Social Security program. Sustaining long-term benefits involves varying degrees of increasing revenue, improving return on investments and

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

						changing benefits. We need to consider all three options to keep Social Security solvent. I am open to finding ways to increase revenue; investing some of the trust fund in securities that yield greater rates of return; and considering whether or not to change benefits for future retirees. It seems to me, Personal Social Security Savings Accounts – like the Thrift Savings program federal employees enjoy – should be part of Americans' retirement security, but as an add on, not taken from the Social Security system.
CT-4	Farrell (D)		✓	✓		Since it was signed into law by President Roosevelt in 1935, Social Security has been one of the most important covenants between the generations, and we must ensure that it remains so. Recent calls for a massive restructuring of the way Social Security works are more of a reflection of an ideological agenda than a true crisis. Facing similar –sounding problems in the early 1980's, Congress passed a series of minor amendments which slightly increased payroll taxes, added new employees to the system, and slightly increased the retirement age. A similar strategy should be taken to preserve the program for the next generation. Unlike my opponent, I have never supported the privatization of Social Security.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
CT-5	Johnson (R)		✓	✓		It is essential that we guarantee the basic benefits which Social Security provides. I do not support privatizing Social Security, increasing Social Security taxes or reducing benefits. We must look at ways to bring the higher earnings of market investments into Social Security to strengthen it. However, voluntary accounts cannot and must not reduce the basic guarantee that seniors have been promised.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

						Social Security reform is essential to ensure benefits to future retirees and to address growing inequities in the current system. I am a cosponsor of bills that would repeal the government pension offset, the windfall elimination provision, and other unfair adjustments that reduce Social Security payments to deserving seniors.
CT-5	Murphy (D)		✓	✓		I support a plan that will ensure that Social Security benefits are guaranteed for future generations. The Social Security program is one of our nation’s great successes, and we cannot let it “wither on the vine,” as some would prefer. My opponent has stated in the past that she supports the privatization of Social Security, but I oppose the diversion of Social Security funds into privatized accounts, because such privatization would put the program at risk.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program’s guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
FL-13 (open)	Buchanan (R)	✓		✓		We must keep our promise to seniors by never cutting Social Security benefits and by making sure that Social Security is financial sound long-term. In 2004, the Social Security Trust Fund collected \$181 billion more in income than it paid out in benefits. Instead of using those surplus funds to strengthen Social Security financially, the funds were diverted to pay for other federal programs. We must stop this raid on the Social Security Trust fund and devote surplus funds to strengthening Social Security. However, I will not support any federal tax increase to created a balanced plan. I do not support the privatization of Social Security.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

						However, as long as the financial solvency of the Social Security program would not be jeopardized, I would be open to the option of creating voluntary personal retirement accounts for younger workers.
FL-13 (open)	Jennings (D)		✓	✓		Privatization puts seniors' retirement security at risk and it does nothing to fix the solvency problems Social Security may face in the future. Cutting Social Security benefits abandons the people who most likely will need Social Security in the future. In Congress, I will stand up and fight for seniors and I will never support any plan that cuts benefits for our seniors. I oppose privatization of Social Security because it does nothing to strengthen the program and will lead to benefit cuts for future beneficiaries.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
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FL-22	Shaw (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		As the immediate-past Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, I am committed to saving Social Security for all current retirees, near retirees and current workers WITHOUT: 1) Touching one dime of the Social Security Trust Fund, 2) Cutting any benefits, 3) "Privatizing" Social Security, or 4) Increasing the retirement age, or 5) Raising taxes. My Social Security Guarantee Plus Plan (H.R. 750) has been confirmed by the Social Security Administration, as well as the Clinton and Bush Administration, to save Social Security for 75 years and beyond. My plan does not dismantle the current system, but builds on it. My plan allows workers to grow their nest eggs through a voluntary, personal investment account, while guaranteeing promised benefits regardless of the account's performance.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

FL-22	Klein (D)		✓	✓		The Bush Administration and the Republican Congress have tried to destroy the Social Security program. While seniors have rejected privatization, this does not mean social security is safe for future generations. If we don't continue to stand up for this valuable program, Congress will continue to use risky privatization schemes to end Social Security as we know it. I am committed to protecting Social Security for today's retirees and for generations to come. Any Plan to deal with social security has to satisfy the following criteria: guaranteed benefits, no privatization, no to adding to the national debt and Congress must stop raiding the Social Security trust fund.I will also fight to protect seniors against privatization schemes hidden behind names like "private accounts" or "add-ons."
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
GA-12	Barrow (D)		✓	✓		Social Security is the most successful retirement program in history. Although change may be required to maintain its success, privatization is not the answer. Any changes must protect the promises made to current and future generations. I'll only support proposals that ensure that the system is protected, and guarantees that benefits to current and future retirees are not cut and that the retirement age is not raised.
GA-12	Burns (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		Social Security is a sacred obligation of the federal government which has provided retirement security for millions of Americans. The federal government must keep its promises to the nation's working families so that it remains able to pay retirement benefits for many years down the road. While no current or near retiree is facing

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

						benefit cuts at this time, we should begin to examine ways to secure overall retirement security so that the benefits of future generations aren't at risk when the number of retirees out grow workers who pay into the system. Whatever reforms are proposed, I'll work to preserve and strengthen Social Security without raising payroll taxes, reducing benefits, raising the retirement age or privatizing the system.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
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IL-6 (open)	Duckworth (D)		✓	✓		Social Security's solvency is threatened—above all—by out-of-control government spending. The federal government is borrowing billions of dollars from the Social Security Trust Fund to finance the nation's current \$9 trillion debt. That is why I have taken a tough stand on wasteful government spending, and have called for a return to "pay as you go" budgeting. This is an area in which the current Congress has failed to impose any discipline. I oppose risky privatization schemes. Payroll taxes should not be diverted from the Trust Fund to finance private accounts that would result in diminished benefits for retirees. I was proud that my stand on these issues led the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare to endorse my campaign.
IL-6 (open)	Roskam (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		Without a doubt, Social Security must be protected. At the same time, I believe Social Security must be strengthened so that it can pay retirement benefits for years and years to come. Although no current or near retiree is facing benefit cuts, the benefits for future generations are at risk simply because the number of retirees continues to grow relative to the number of available workers who pay into the system. Therefore, I believe we should

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

						look at ways to improve the overall retirement security for all of us. If I am fortunate to serve you in Washington, I will examine all the proposals that are on the table. My position is that we must find a way to strengthen and protect Social Security without raising payroll taxes, without reducing benefits, without raising the retirement age and without privatizing the system.
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i></p>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
IL-8	Bean (D)		✓	✓		I cannot support creating personal Social Security accounts, because no proposal has been offered that resolves the massive funding shortfall it would cause. The government would have to find at least one trillion dollars to cover the funding shortfall that would be created by simultaneously paying current retirees their benefits while removing hundreds of billions of dollars from the Social Security system and into private accounts. I strongly support a balanced, stable Social Security system for all current and future retirees. Any effort to address Social Security will require fair and creative strategies to ensure its long-term solvency for the Baby Boom generation, and I am committed to finding a workable solution that balances the interests of current retirees and future generations of Americans.
IL-8	McSweeney (R)	<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

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IN-9	Sodrel (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		Social Security must be protected and strengthened for future generations. We must strengthen Social Security in such a way that ensures the long-term solvency of the program and treats current and future beneficiaries fairly. At its inception, Social Security had 43 workers paying into the system for every one working receiving benefits and the payroll tax was two percent. Today, there are three workers for every retiree and the payroll tax is 12.4 percent. Any effort to strengthen Social Security must have the full faith and credit of the federal government behind it. I also believe that any plan must not reduce benefits, raise the retirement age, or increase payroll taxes. That's what Americans have come to expect from Social Security.
IN-9	Hill (D)		✓	✓		I do not support privatizing Social Security. Such a policy change would destroy the most important feature of the Social Security system- the guarantee that retired Americans will get a check every month for as long as they live. Privatizing Social Security would jeopardize the future fulfillment of the program's chief aim: ensuring that America's elderly do not have to live in poverty. Under almost any plan, Americans would be on their own to put their retirement money into stocks and bonds of other financial institutions that they hope would bring a good return. Wise investments and a strong market would produce a secure retirement. But bad financial advice, or a weak market, would not provide such needed security.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

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RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	RACE	CANDIDATE
IA-1 (open)	Braley (D)		✓	✓		I will oppose risky Social Security privatization schemes. These proposals have enormous transition costs that we cannot afford and threaten guaranteed benefits to future Social Security recipients. Social Security doesn't need such a radical change to be fixed; rather, modest, balanced adjustments can secure the promise of Social Security for generations to come.
IA-1 (open)	Whalen (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		I've spent the last several years speaking about the need for a fiscally-sound and balanced plan to reform our entitlement system. Social Security must be protected. Last year, President Bush, invited a dialogue on the issue. He, like me, believed that we should look at ways to improve overall retirement security – and we should examine all the reasonable proposals. This wasn't new – President Clinton sought reform as well. But nothing happened last year because the Democrats refused to come to the table. That was politics at its worse. We must look for ways to strengthen and protect Social Security without raising payroll taxes, without reducing benefits, and without raising the retirement age. Promises made to working people and retirees need to be kept.
		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>		

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

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<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
IA-3	Boswell (D)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		I support a Social Security plan that will continue the program’s guaranteed benefits for future generations. We must keep our promise to the American worker. I oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. Using Social Security taxes for private accounts will not only involve a huge cut in benefits for all beneficiaries but also make the financial situation worse for the Social Security system. The American worker paid into the Social Security system believing that when they retired they would receive the benefits that were promised to them. I believe we owe them those benefits and will work to ensure they receive the benefits they deserve.
IA-3	Lamberti (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		Social Security must be protected. At the same time, I believe Social Security must be strengthened so that it remains able to pay retirement benefits for years to come. Although no current or near retiree is facing benefit cuts, the benefits of future generations are at risk because the number of retirees continues to grow relative to the number of available workers who pay into the system. So I believe we should look at ways to improve overall retirement security—and we should examine all the proposals that will be put forth. Whatever reforms we adopt, we must find a way to strengthen and protect Social Security without paying payroll taxes, without reducing benefits, without raising the retirement age and without privatizing the system.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue</i>		

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

		<i>private accounts?</i>		<i>the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
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KY-4	Davis (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		As a child, my mother and I relied on Social Security survivor benefits after the death of my stepfather. I understand what it's like to live on a very limited income, and I believe we must keep our promises to our seniors. We must work to ensure that the Social Security program is strong for near-term retirees and also for the next generation. I oppose privatization of Social Security. We must take a comprehensive approach to retirement security for all Americans. We must encourage savings and work to increase the national savings rate. It is important for the health of our economy that we do this without increasing payroll taxes, without raising the retirement age, and without reducing benefits.
KY-4	Lucas (D)		✓	✓		I will support a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations, and I will oppose using Social Security Taxes to fund private accounts. Social Security is a major source of income for a vast majority of retirees, especially those below the poverty line. This is a fact that will not change in the future, and in Congress I will fight to ensure that this source of income is available for our future generations by opposing any type of Social Security privatization.
		<u><b>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</b></u>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u><b>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</b></u>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future</i>		

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

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MN-6 (open)	Bachmann (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		Social Security must be protected. At the same time, I believe Social Security must be strengthened so that it remains able to pay retirement benefits for years to come. Although no current or near retiree is facing benefit cuts, the benefits of future generations are at risk because the number of retirees continues to grow relative to the number of available workers who pay into the system. So I believe we should look at ways to improve overall retirement security – and we should examine all the proposals that will be put forth. Whatever reforms we adopt, we must find a way to strengthen and protect Social Security without raising payroll taxes, without reducing benefits, without raising the retirement age and without privatizing the system.
MN-6 (open)	Wetterling (D)		✓	✓		I have pledged to strengthen and protect the Social Security system and to keep America's promise to our seniors. I will support legislation that restores solvency, oppose efforts to privatize this program and oppose budget proposals that spend the Social Security Trust Fund dollars on other programs.

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# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

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NJ-7	Ferguson (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		Social security faces enormous financial challenges in the years ahead, not only dealing with the baby boom generation that will begin to retire in 2008 but also increasing retirement and income for younger workers. For seniors today and those nearing retirement, Social Security, structurally and financially, will have the resources to meet its commitments. For younger workers, Social Security faces looming financial challenges. Dealing with Social Security's financial challenges, both during the next few years and well into this century require a thoughtful bipartisan solution. I am hopeful that Congress will reach consensus on a course of action; after all, if nothing is done, the problem will only grow worse and more expensive to correct.
NJ-7	Stender (D)		✓	✓		I hold true to my belief that Social Security is a sacred compact with both today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees. As Congresswoman, I am looking forward to joining in the fight to stop GOP efforts to privatize Social Security. I want to ensure dignified retirement by preventing privatization of Social Security, expanding savings incentives, and ensuring pension fairness. The purpose of Social Security is to guarantee basic income. Social Security must be protected at all costs. Social Security must be strengthened – not weakened.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

NM-1	Wilson (R)		✓	✓		I oppose privatizing Social Security or allowing the government to invest Social Security taxes in the stock market. While Social Security must be protected, it must also be strengthened for future generations. There are some principles I think are important. There must be no changes in Social Security benefits for retirees or near-retirees. Social Security taxes should not increase and benefits should not be reduced. We must preserve Social Security disability and survivor's benefits. We need to develop a broad bipartisan consensus on Social Security reform. This program is too important to people to make this a partisan issue. I continue to encourage the President and my colleagues to develop bipartisan proposals and keep all options on the table.
NM-1	Madrid (D)		✓	✓		I believe that our first priority in preserving Social Security should be repealing the tax cuts for the wealthiest 1.5% of Americans which the Bush Administration and Republican Congress have passed. We cannot save for the future by squandering needed funds today. Beyond repealing irresponsible tax cuts and putting the money where it is genuinely needed, I am open to any fair plan which preserves Social Security for future generations.
		<u><b>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</b></u>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u><b>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</b></u>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

NY-20	Sweeney (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		✓		I will not support any legislation that does not maintain the benefits of retirees or near-retirees. I will continue to work to protect Social Security for future generations of American retirees. I firmly oppose raising Social Security taxes or raising the retirement age.
NY-20	Gillibrand (D)		✓	✓		I will never support the privatization of Social Security. Social Security is a contract between generations, and we must honor our commitment and never forget about our seniors or our disabled. To guarantee Social Security's solvency, I would consider lowering the payroll tax on income under \$90,000 and take 1% of all income above \$90,000. With this type of formulation, I would be advocating for a significant tax cut for the middle class and small businesses, and support social security for future generations. I will never support spending the Social Security trust fund to pay for discretionary spending.

		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
NY-24 (open)	Arcuri (D)		✓	✓		I will not support any plan to reduce benefits to working families. Absolutely

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

NY-24 (open)	Meier (R)		✓	✓		The people have made it clear they oppose privatization. I concur. Social Security is an intergenerational compact. I am absolutely committed to guaranteeing benefits now and for future generations. The future of Social Security is of such vital importance we should convene a bi-partisan blue ribbon commission to make recommendations to issue financial stability for Social Security and peace of mind for those who depend on it.
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		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
NY-25	Walsh (R)		✓	✓		Like AARP, I support a balanced Social Security plan for guaranteed benefits. I oppose using Social Security taxes for private accounts. I do support workers to voluntarily use automatic payroll deductions to their own IRAs if their employers do not already give them access to 401k or a pension plan.
NY-25	Maffei (D)		✓	✓		Attempts by my opponent and the Republican majority in Congress to demolish the foundations of Social Security represent nothing less than a betrayal of millions of

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

						Americans. Social Security, which celebrates its 71st anniversary this week, is a solemn promise made to American seniors and workers of all ages. Republican privatization schemes undermine that promise, and in fact they have vowed to return to this issue after the November elections. Privatization takes money out of the Social Security system and diverts it into the always fluctuating stock market. My opponent stood with President Bush one year ago outside of Rochester, N.Y. and supported the President's Social Security privatization package. I oppose the President's plan to gamble with our Social Security guarantee.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
NC-11	Taylor (R)	<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>
NC-11	Schuler (D)		✓	Candidate did not check a box		I strongly support efforts to ensure Social Security remains a defined benefit program for years to come and will oppose any privatization efforts. I do not, however, support a reduction in benefits. Social Security's effectiveness comes from the fact that all Americans benefit. By reducing benefits for certain segments of Americans we risk allowing Social Security to be classified as a welfare program for "others," not a right earned by all.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
OH-6 (open)	Blasdel (R)	Candidate did not check a box.		Candidate did not check a box.		Social Security must be protected. Social Security must also be strengthened so that it remains viable for future generations. While no current or near-retiree is in danger of benefits cuts, the benefits of future retirees are at risk as the number of retirees continues to grow relative to the number of workers paying into the system. I believe we should look at ways to improve overall retirement security, and we should carefully study suggested proposals. Whatever reforms we adopt, we must find a way to protect and strengthen Social Security without raising payroll taxes, without reducing benefits, without raising the retirement age and without privatizing the system.
OH-6 (open)	Wilson (D)		✓	✓		I will support a balanced Social Security plan that guarantees benefits for future generations and will oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts. We must honor the promise of Social Security to the current generation and work to preserve the fundamental purpose of Social Security – providing a guaranteed benefit to all workers – for future generations. Privatized accounts, which would not guarantee a level of benefit, are too risky. In addition, they would drain money from the Social Security Trust Fund, thus creating additional federal debt for future generations to bear.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
OH-14	LaTourette (R)		✓	✓		<i>Candidate did not offer any additional comments.</i>
OH-14	Katz (D)		✓	✓		We must preserve Social Security as we know it. Social Security is a compact between generations, and that compact cannot be broken. My parents never made more than \$10,000 dollars annually, but with Social Security and their modest savings they were able to live independently and with dignity in their final years. Privatizing Social Security is a plan for disaster that will place future generations at risk and will increase federal debt beyond its already strained limits.

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social</i>		
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# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

		<i>Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<i>Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
PA-6	Gerlach (R)		✓	✓		<i>Candidate did not offer any additional comments.</i>
PA-6	Murphy (D)		✓	✓		I believe that Social Security is a fundamental guarantee of our society. Through greater fiscal discipline, we can stop spending the Social Security surplus while it exists, and instead use it to extend the program's solvency. I will support balanced proposals that may involve modestly adjusting contributions from high-income workers to make Social Security strong for decades to come. I will never support proposals that deviate from Social Security's tradition of guaranteed benefits, or proposals that siphon money from today's contributions away from current seniors who depend on them. I oppose privatization of Social Security.

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>	<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>	

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
PA-7	Weldon (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		We must protect Social Security while strengthening the system to ensure that it can continue to provide retirement benefits for Americans for years to come. Thankfully, no current or near-term retirees are at risk of benefit cuts. But the benefits of future generations are in danger due to the growing number of retirees compared to the number of workers paying into the system. I believe we can find a way to strengthen Social Security for future generations while ensuring that we protect Social Security and the benefits of today's retirees. I believe we can develop a bipartisan plan that achieves these goals without raising the retirement age for seniors, without increasing payroll taxes, and without privatizing Social Security.
PA-7	Sestak (D)		✓	✓		<i>Candidate did not offer any additional comments.</i>

		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>	<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>			
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

PA-8	Fitzpatrick (R)		✓	✓		I support a balanced approach to strenghtening Social Security without raising payroll taxes, reducing beenfits and without raising the retirement age. I have always opposed and will continue to oppose any efforts to privatize any portion of the Social Security system. Although the system must be strenghtened and all options must be considered, at a time when our nation is fighting the Global War on Terror, facing a national health care crisis and skyrocketing energy costs I cannot support diverting resources to the creation of private accounts.
PA-8	Murphy (D)		✓	✓		Social Security is the greatest anti-poverty program ever created. Unlike my Republican opponent who favors private accounts funded by Social Security Payroll taxes, I am committed to protecting and strengthening Social Security. It is irresponsible to lead Americans of any age to believe that gambling their future on the ups and downs of the stock market is the best way to a secure future. I absolutely oppose any privatization of Social Security. I believe we will need bi-partisan cooperation to find a solution that ensures that Social Security -- and its guaranteed benefits -- are available not only for my generation, but my children and their children.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
PA-10	Sherwood (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		I am committed to protecting Social Security, because I recognize the value that Social Security has had for successive generations of Americans for income in retirement and in the face of disability or family tragedy. No current beneficiary and

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

						no one nearing retirement faces reduced benefits. However, the Social Security Trustees have indicated in successive annual reports that the program is not sustainable under the current financing arrangement. We must examine how best to solve the problem of Social Security's long-term unfunded obligation, preserving it for the future. I believe that we can and must protect Social Security without increasing payroll taxes or the retirement age even as we keep the promise of Social Security benefits.
PA-10	Carney (D)		✓	✓		We have made the promise of Social Security to our seniors and to future generations. I will always protect that promise. We should never take money from Social Security to fund separate, private accounts. I would support offering workers the opportunity to invest in addition to Social Security, but not as a replacement for it. We all depend on the security of our retirements.
		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
SC-5	Spratt (D)		✓	✓		I led the opposition to President Bush's proposal to divert payroll taxes into private accounts, depleting the Social Security Trust Fund years sooner. I also strongly opposed re-indexing the primary insurance amount to prices or wages.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

SC-5	Norman (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>	It is my firm belief that we must guard our Social Security system for our children and their children. Furthermore, we must continue to uncover ways to improve the system so that it can advance in providing working Americans with retirement benefits. With the inevitable increase of retirees in the years ahead, the benefits currently paid by the program will be at risk; this is a powerful motivator for cultivating and implementing new proposals which will sustain and strengthen the overall system. Of pivotal importance in this process is the goal of improving Social Security without having to raise payroll taxes or the retirement age. Likewise, we should give prime consideration to options that do not include privatization of the system.
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		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>	<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b>  <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>	
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RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
TX-17	Edwards (D)		✓	✓		I believe Social Security and Medicare have done more for seniors' independence, health and financial security than any other government initiative. I helped to stop the privatization of Social Security last year because I believe that privatization would cause major cuts in benefits, increase the national debt by several trillion dollars, and turn a guaranteed benefit into a guaranteed risk. Social Security faces long-term challenges, but by working in good faith, Congress and the Administration can forge a bipartisan solution to protect Social Security without privatizing it. The single best step we could take to protect Social Security for future generations is to reduce our \$8.4 trillion national debt.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

TX-17	Taylor (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<p>Social Security must be protected. At the same time, we must strengthen Social Security so it can pay retirement benefits for years to come. Although no current or near retiree is facing benefit cuts, the benefits of future generations are at risk because the number of retirees continues to grow relative to the number of available workers who pay into the system. As I go around the district, young people ask the most questions about Social Security because its future is threatened. So I believe we should look at ways to improve overall retirement security – and we should examine all the proposals that will be put forth. Whatever reforms we adopt, we must find a way to strengthen and protect Social Security without raising payroll taxes, without reducing benefits, without raising the retirement age and without privatizing the system.</p>
		<p><b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b></p> <p><i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i></p>		<p><b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b></p> <p><i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i></p>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
VT-At Large (open)	Rainville (R)		✓	✓		<p>I support a balanced Social Security plan to continue all benefits for future generations. I am opposed to privatizing social security. Over the next few years, Social Security will be called upon to meet the needs of a growing generation of seniors. I know how important Social Security is for all Americans and I am committed to helping the program remain strong for future generations. When I am elected to Congress, I will work hard to ensure that small, commonsense changes to the Social Security system now will prevent the need for drastic changes in the future.</p>

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

VT-At Large (open)	Welch (D)		✓	✓		Social Security is our most successful program to protect older Americans from poverty and insecurity. The biggest threat to the security in Social Security is the President's privatization proposal. It would be a windfall for Wall Street and a loss for America's seniors. I strongly support protecting Social Security, not privatizing it.
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RACE	CANDIDATE	<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)
		SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	
VA-2	Drake (R)	<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>
VA-2	Kellam (D)		✓	✓		I believe that Social Security must be protected, as it is a vital source of income for our nation's retirees. In Congress, I will continue the fight against privatization of any sort to ensure that Social Security's benefits are guaranteed not only for the current generation of seniors, but for their children and grandchildren as well.

# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
RACE	CANDIDATE	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
WA-8	Reichert (R)	<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>		<i>Candidate chose not to respond to questionnaire.</i>
WA-8	Burner (D)		✓	✓		Social Security provides an essential foundation for a secure retirement for all working Americans; it must be preserved for current and future generations. I strongly oppose proposals to privatize Social Security as they would result in a massively increased debt load for future generations and fail to address the real problem: the anticipated shortfall in the Social Security Trust Fund. We can and must adopt common-sense solutions to solve this problem. The ultimate solution may draw from a variety of options, including those supported by AARP. Our priority must be to fully debate real solutions, then adopt a package of program modifications that will ensure the long-term viability of Social Security for all Americans.

		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>		<u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u>		
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# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

		<i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>		<i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed benefits for future generations?</i>		
<b>RACE</b>	<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>	<b>OPPOSES</b>	<b>Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)</b>
WI-8 (open)	Gard (R)	<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		<i>Candidate did not check a box.</i>		I believe Social Security is our single most important social contract with the American people. The first action I'd like to see Congress take regarding Social Security is to stop raiding the trust fund to finance other programs. As we have worked for at the state level, I would also like to end the federal taxation of Social Security benefits. Beyond that, I oppose raising the payroll tax, increasing the retirement age, cutting benefits, and privatization. I believe there needs to be an equal bipartisan coalition of Republicans and Democrats to work to stabilize, strengthen, and preserve the future of Social Security.
WI-8 (open)	Kagen (D)		✓	✓		Social Security is our nation's sacred contract. I will never vote to privatize Social Security. If we put our money in, we must always be able to get it back. The privatization of Social Security is one of the great deceits of the Bush Administration. There has been a surplus of Social Security for years. Privatization will siphon billions of dollars back into the hands of those who need it the least – investment firms on Wall Street. Social Security is one of the great remaining social programs of our time. We must not allow it to be undermined through underhanded accounting designed to disguise the death of this vital institution.

		<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b> <i>Will you support or oppose using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts?</i>	<b><u>VOTER GUIDE QUESTION:</u></b> <i>Will you support or oppose a balanced Social Security plan to continue the program's guaranteed</i>
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# AARP Voter Guide Responses for 35 Competitive House Races

					<i>benefits for future generations?</i>		
		SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	NO CHECKED BOX	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES	NO CHECKED BOX
	<b>TOTAL RESPONDING CANDIDATES = 65</b>	2	43	20	45	1	19
	<b>TOTAL NON-RESPONDING CANDIDATES = 6</b>						