



AARP Voter Guide Responses for 10 Competitive Senate 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) |
| MD (open) | Cardin (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | Congress can fix Social Security's long-term solvency problems by making minor adjustments and without cutting benefits or undermining a system that has worked well for the past 70 years. I oppose privatization schemes, which would weaken the system and threaten promised benefits. |
| MD (open) | Steele (R) | Candidate did not check a box. | | Candidate did not check a box. | | First and foremost we need to make sure our seniors are taken care of and no efforts to modernize and update our Social Security system will in any way jeopardize their benefits. Then we need to make sure we have a program that works for younger workers so they are not paying into a system that won't be there for them in their retirement. Sadly, Washington continues to fail our seniors and generations of young workers by politicizing this issue instead of securing and modernizing the program. I am interested in the idea of an individual having ownership over their own retirement and savings. |

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| RACE | CANDIDATE | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | (Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)) |
| MN (open) | Kennedy (R) | | ✓ | ✓ | | We must honor the promise of Social Security to those who worked hard, played by the rules and now, like my parents, rely on Social Security. Seniors have my guarantee that no one will touch their benefits. That's why I will oppose any efforts to: 1) Cut benefits for seniors or allow future benefits to fall below current levels, 2) Cut disability or survivor benefits, or3) Increase payroll tax rates. We need a bipartisan plan to end the practice of spending Social Security money on other programs and look at new options to strengthen Social Security for younger workers. I continue to oppose mandatory private accounts as a replacement for the guarantee of Social Security. |
| MN (open) | Klobuchar (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | For generations, Social Security has been a stable retirement guarantee for all Americans. It is our most successful domestic program, providing an essential safety net and ensuring a decent retirement for Americans who've worked hard their whole lives. I will oppose the current administration's risky scheme to privatize Social Security because it would turn the guarantee of a secure retirement into a gamble. The president's proposal would divert billions of dollars out of Social Security and put it at risk in the stock market and would require trillions of dollars of borrowing for transition costs. I will fight to make sure our nation plans ahead and works toward a bipartisan solution to make Social Security more secure for the long term. |

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| RACE | CANDIDATE | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | (Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)) |
| MO | Talent (R) | <i>Candidate did not respond by the printing deadline.</i> | | <i>Candidate did not respond by the printing deadline.</i> | | <i>Candidate did not respond by the printing deadline.</i> |
| MO | McCaskill (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | Support. Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has served as a crucial safety net for our nation's seniors, allowing them to retire with dignity and security. Unfortunately, in recent years, Social Security has come under attack from the Bush Administration and Republicans in Washington. I oppose any changes to Social Security that increase our national debt, reduce benefits, or remove the promised guarantee. Social Security is a covenant with those who pay into the system, and we have an obligation to ensure that retirees continue to receive the benefits that they were promised, while also guaranteeing that the program will be there for future generations. Oppose. I am against any attempt to privatize Social Security, and "private accounts" are just another attempt to do just that. Social Security is a guaranteed benefit for Americans, and diverting the tax revenue to private accounts would eliminate that guarantee. Our seniors' retirement should not be left in the hands of Wall Street. |

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| MT | Burns (R) | <i>Candidate did not check a box.</i> | | <i>Candidate did not check a box.</i> | | We all want the same thing. We want social security to be there when we need it. I will not support any proposal that alters benefits for people 55 and older. It's important that we look at options. We should work in a bi-partisan manner to find a way that guarantees the benefit for those currently using social security. I have yet to see a plan that makes sense. I voted against giving illegal aliens social security in the immigration bill. I do not believe that extending benefits to non-citizens makes any sense. The question is not whether social security needs fixed, but how to do it. I will continue to look at solutions. |
| MT | Tester (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | There is no more important or successful social program in our nation's history than Social Security. Without Social Security, more than half of seniors would live in poverty. In the 2005 Montana legislature, I voted for a resolution urging Congress to prevent privatization and provide sound, long-term funding for Social Security. I support a secure, long-term funding plan for Social Security that guarantees benefits. I support the continued dedication of Social Security reserves to Social Security, as well as using future budget surpluses to bolster Social Security. I will not support any attempts to privatize Social Security, including creating private savings accounts within Social Security. Such efforts would only end in massive debt, higher taxes, or deep cuts in benefits for America's seniors. |

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| RACE | CANDIDATE | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | (Additional Candidate Comments (125 word max)) |
| NJ | Menendez (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | New Jersey's seniors built our state from the ground up. I believe that the sacrifice, dedication and hard work of America's "greatest generation" set an example for all generations that followed. As such, I believe that we should honor our parents by making sure they have the opportunity to retire with dignity, prosperity, and security. I hold true to my belief that Social Security is a sacred compact with both today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees. And, I am proud to have been at the forefront of the fight to stop President Bush's scheme to privatize Social Security. Today, I am standing up to protect the pensions of hard-working New Jerseyans, and I am creating new incentives to encourage retirement savings. |
| NJ | Kean, Jr. (R) | | ✓ | ✓ | | I am committed to keeping the promise of Social Security for current recipients and those nearing retirement. At the same time, changes will be required to keep the program solvent for future generations. This problem can only be solved through bipartisan cooperation. In the U.S. Senate, I will work with Republicans and Democrats to find bipartisan solutions to the long-term challenges facing Social Security, so that this important program can continue to provide retirement security for Americans far into the future. Lastly, I do not support Social Security benefits for illegal aliens. |

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| | | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | |
| OH | DeWine (R) | | ✓ | | ✓ | Reforming Social Security to extend the solvency of the program is essential, but it is clear that reform won't happen unless (1) there is a bipartisan reform effort, which has not yet occurred;(2) the reform is a combination of the numerous variables already suggested by the various Social Security reform commissions; and (3) the reform consists of an entire package that fixes the system for a significant period of time into the future. I would not take any one fix off the table at this time, but will not consider the different approaches outside of an entire package. |
| OH | Brown (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | Because earnings above a specified "contribution cap" (\$94,200 in 2006) are exempt from Social Security taxes, millionaire CEOs may actually pay less into Social Security -- as a share of total earnings -- than do their middle-income and lower-income employees. Reforming this contribution cap policy would go a long way toward strengthening the program's finances. Private account proposals advanced by the Bush Administration would actually undermine Social Security's finances. By creating multiple and self-reinforcing incentives to move contributions from the Social Security Trust Fund to risky commercial markets, they would also compromise retirement security. Private accounts should supplement, not replace, the Social Security Trust Fund. |

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| | | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | |
| PA | Santorum (R) | ✓ | | ✓ | | I only support using Social Security taxes to fund private accounts if such an option is voluntary. Social Security has been an extremely successful program. I remain deeply committed to preserving benefits for current beneficiaries. I believe that Social Security must remain a program that our children and grandchildren can depend on—we owe it to them to provide for their retirement security as they have provided for current and previous generations. As proposals for strengthening and improving this valuable system for future retirees are considered, I believe that all options should remain on the table. I take seriously my responsibility of working to protect current and near retirees, while ensuring sustainable financial security and peace of mind for future generations. |
| PA | Casey (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | I oppose Social Security privatization that drains away money from the Social Security system and would cut Social Security's guaranteed benefits. The first step to protecting Social Security is to stop the assaults launched against Social Security by the privatization advocates. The next step is to get our fiscal house back in order and grow the economy. These two steps are necessary before considering any kind of changes in Social Security. |

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| | | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | |
| RI | Chaffee (R) | | ✓ | ✓ | | It is estimated that to deliver the full promised Social Security benefits for the next 75 years will cost roughly \$4 trillion above what the system currently takes in. This is a significant challenge, and it is prudent to tackle this problem now, rather than putting it off for future generations. The Social Security program has served this country well for six decades, and has helped keep seniors, disabled people, and families out of poverty. I am committed to ensuring that we maintain those standards as we go forward, and in particular, to not putting Social Security benefits at risk. |
| RI | Whitehouse (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | Social Security has been the foundation of our country's promise that no American will have to face an impoverished retirement. The Republican leadership in Washington is committed to undermining this promise through a risky scheme to put Social Security funds in the stock market as part of new private accounts. We should never again put seniors' livelihoods at risk from a catastrophic stock market crash. I am opposed to President Bush's proposal to cut Social Security benefits to middle-income workers through progressive indexing, and am disappointed that Senator Chafee has expressed support for this plan. As Washington Republicans work to dismantle the foundation of Social Security, it is critical that Rhode Island sends a steady, reliable voice to Washington to strengthen, not weaken Social Security. |

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| TN (open) | Corker (R) | Candidate did not check a box. | | Candidate did not check a box. | | I believe that Social Security provides an essential safety net and that it should be preserved for future generations. For those individuals anywhere near retirement age, their benefits should be delivered exactly as they have been promised. The current Social Security surplus must be preserved for providing benefits for the millions of workers entering retirement age. |
| TN (open) | Ford, Jr. (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | Social Security is a contract with the American people. Protecting the solvency of Social Security should, therefore, be one of our highest priorities to assure a balanced Social Security plan for guaranteed benefits. I oppose the privatization of Social Security accounts, as the President proposed, because they will not enhance the solvency of the Social Security trust fund. We must first protect the rights of current beneficiaries, as well as those who have relied on the promise of Social Security and will soon collect benefits. Then, because the number of workers per beneficiary will reduce from 3.25 in 2004 to 2 in 2060, we must take steps to protect Social Security for future generations of needy seniors, who are working and living longer. |

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| VA | Allen (R) | <i>Candidate did not check a box.</i> | | ✓ | | My goal is to increase and expand safe retirement opportunities for working men and women. I am committed to preserving and protecting Social Security to ensure its solvency for future generations. In the past, I have sponsored legislation to repeal the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits and eliminate the Government Pension Offset and Windfall elimination. Also, I support a Social Security "lock box." I will only support plans to reform Social Security if they do not adversely affect those already receiving or those who are about to collect Social Security benefits. |
| VA | Webb (D) | | ✓ | ✓ | | <i>Candidate chose not to make additional comments.</i> |

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SUMMARY OF CANDIDATE RESPONSES

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|--|-------------------------------------|---|---------|----------------|---|---------|----------------|
| | | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | NO CHECKED BOX | SUPPORTS | OPPOSES | NO CHECKED BOX |
| | TOTAL RESPONDING CANDIDATES = 9 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 15 | 1 | 3 |
| | TOTAL NON-RESPONDING CANDIDATES = 1 | | | | | | |