

Introduction to AARP and Take a Stand Campaign
June 2016

Real Possibilities

### **AARP FACTS**

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, social welfare organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families—such as health care, employment security and retirement planning.





#### **AARP FACTS**

#### **AARP's Vision**

A society in which all people live with dignity and purpose, and fulfill goals and dreams.

#### **AARP's Mission**

AARP enhances the quality of life for all as we age. We champion positive social change and deliver value through advocacy, information, and service.





## **AARP'S FOUNDER**



"To serve, not to be served"
- Ethel Percy Andrus





### **AARP VOLUNTEERS**

**Board of Directors** 

22

National Policy Council 25

State Based Volunteers 13,868

Driver Safety 5,219

Tax Aide 35,195

Create the Good 238,814





# **ADVOCACY AT AARP**



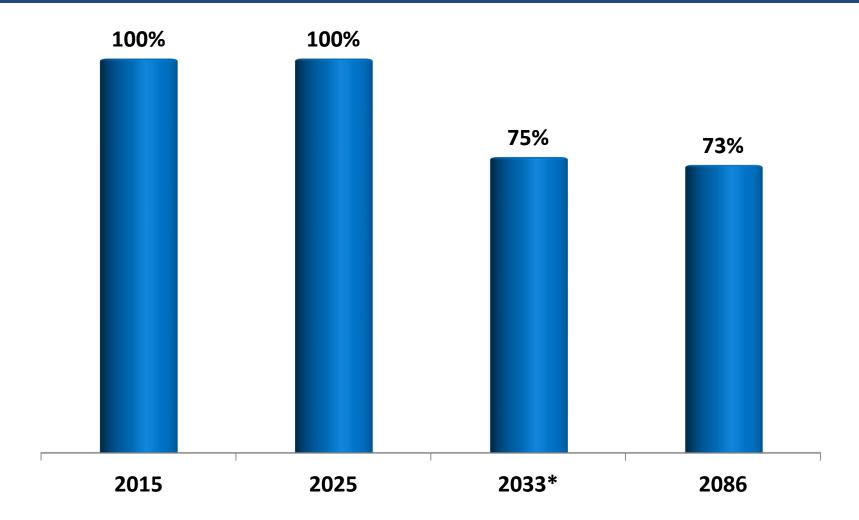






### SOCIAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

#### Facing funding shortfall in less than 20 years







### SOCIAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

If no action taken, benefits will be cut by nearly 25% after 2034, which could mean up to \$10,000 per year

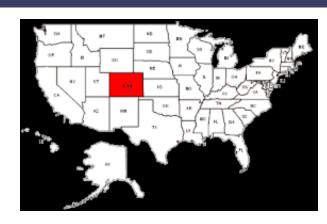






#### SOCIAL SECURITY IN COLORADO

- One in seven Colorado residents receive Social Security.
- The average benefit is \$1,235 per month in Colorado.



- Social Security lifts 168,000 of Colorado retirees out of poverty.
- Social Security is the only source of income for 3 in 10 residents age 65+ in Colorado.

SOURCE: AARP 2014 COLORADO QUICK FACTS ON SOCIAL SECURITY



### DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION





# Take a Stand Messaging

Doing nothing is not an option. It's time for the presidential candidates to <u>lead</u> on Social Security, and give us specific plans for how they'll keep it strong for future generations.





# Take a Stand Messaging

We can't afford to wait. If our nation's leaders don't act, future generations could lose up to \$10,00 a year.

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You work hard and pay into Social Security with every paycheck. It's your money, The presidential candidates owe you a specific plan to keep Social Security strong so you get the money you've earned.



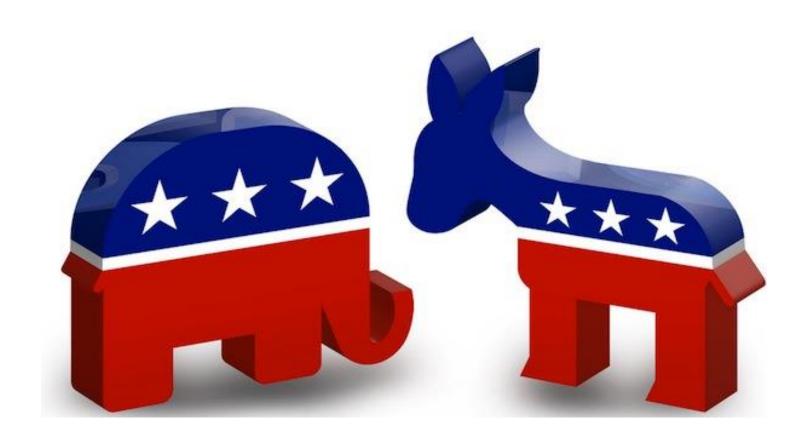


#### WHY NOW?

- Can't afford to lose up to \$10k: If our leaders don't act, people will lose between \$4,000 to \$10,000 a year.
- You paid in: We need to ensure you get the money you've earned.
- Better future: It's about our kids and grandkids, and handing them a better America than the one handed you.



# GENERAL ELECTION







### **MOST DISCUSSED OPTIONS**

### **Change Benefits**

- ☐ Reduce benefits on all Social Security recipients
- ☐ Raise the retirement age
- ☐ Recalculate or Eliminate annual COLA
- ☐ Lower benefits according to wealth and/or age
- ☐ Improve Benefits for women & children
- ☐ Pass the problem onto the next generation.

#### **Change Revenue**

- ☐ Increase or Eliminate Payroll Tax Cap from \$118,500
- ☐ Tax higher earnings
- ☐ Apply Payroll Tax to Retirement Savings Plans (i.e. 401(k) plans)
- ☐ Divert some contributions away from Trust Fund for private accounts in stocks
- ☐ Pass the problem onto the next generation



## **OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

16











Real Possibilities

## THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING



