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## Where do Michigan's U.S. Senate candidates stand on Medicare and Social Security?



### REP. ELISSA SLOTKIN:

**Committed to strengthening Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid**

- ✓ Voted for the law that empowers Medicare to negotiate the cost of prescription drugs and caps the price of insulin at \$35 per month for seniors
- ✓ Co-sponsored legislation to modernize the Social Security system by streamlining the claims process, increasing asset limits, and setting new minimum benefits
- ✓ Endorsed by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare due to her steadfast advocacy for healthcare and retirement security

Sources: U.S. Congress, H.R. 5376, Roll Call Vote #420, 8/12/2022; CAP, 8/12/2022; The 'Gander, 3/14/2024; NCPSSM, 3/14/2024

**Elissa Slotkin promises to defend ACA, Social Security, and Medicare**

*The 'Gander, 5/7/2024*



### FMR. REP. MIKE ROGERS:

**Out of touch with the needs of Michigan's seniors**

- ✗ Wants to raise the Medicare eligibility age to 67 and replace it with a voucher system—making folks wait longer for more expensive healthcare they've already paid for
- ✗ Voted against the Affordable Care Act and has promised to repeal it, meaning 1.4 million Michiganders would lose their insurance and healthcare costs would skyrocket
- ✗ Would cut programs like Social Security and Medicare, which millions of Michiganders rely on and have earned over a lifetime of hard work

Sources: *The Michigan Independent*, 8/7/2024; Michigan Advance, 3/23/2024; The 'Gander, 3/14/2024; Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 3/28/2012

**Bankrolled by pharmaceuticals, Mike Rogers helped block Medicare price negotiation**

*The Michigan Independent, 8/16/2024*

SEPTEMBER 2024

IN UNION SPECIAL REPORT:

## WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE



### WHY THESE ISSUES MATTER FOR MICHIGAN

Social Security and Medicare are key issues for Michiganders. In Michigan, Social Security supports around 251,000 residents, offering them financial security in retirement. Additionally, Medicare covers nearly 2.2 million Michigan residents, providing 21% of the state's population with essential healthcare. Protecting and strengthening these programs is crucial to maintaining the health and financial security of millions of Michiganders.

Sources: Social Security Administration, December 2022; HealthInsurance.org, accessed 9/10/2024

#### Michigan seniors blast former president Donald Trump on Social Security and Medicare comments

"If Trump gets his way, he would strip funding from these programs and cut the benefits that serve as lifelines for seniors across our state," said Jim Pedersen, the president of the Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans.

*Michigan Public, 3/12/2024*

#### Trump's Views On Social Security And Medicare—And Why Experts Say Funds Could Run Out Quicker If He's Elected

*Forbes, 8/16/2024*

**"Trump just doesn't care about these programs [like Medicare and Social Security] that we've spent years and years paying into. He wants to stop them. He only wants to make sure that the rich get richer. He has always served the millionaire and billionaire class over hard-working Michiganders."**

**—Maria Enriquez, Lansing-area senior**

Source: *The 'Gander*, 6/11/2024

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# KAMALA HARRIS AND TIM WALZ WILL PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE



“For 89 years, Social Security has made the difference between poverty or peace of mind for millions of seniors, people with disabilities, and other beneficiaries. Donald Trump is a threat to these bedrock programs. As President, I will protect and expand them.”

—KAMALA HARRIS,  
Facebook, 8/14/2024

Vice President Kamala Harris has consistently worked to protect Social Security and Medicare, two critical programs that hardworking Michiganders rely on. Harris’s record demonstrates her commitment to expanding benefits and ensuring the wealthy pay their fair share, all while safeguarding these essential programs from cuts. **Here’s how she’s fighting for you:**

### EXPANDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS:

As a U.S. Senator, Harris **co-sponsored the Social Security Expansion Act**, underscoring her commitment to increasing minimum benefits and adjusting cost-of-living calculations to help beneficiaries afford housing, food, and healthcare.

Sources: NASDAQ, 9/1/2024; CBS, 6/16/2022; U.S. Senate, S. 478, 2/13/2019



### MAKING THE RICH PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE:

Harris supports raising taxes on **incomes above \$400,000** to ensure Social Security remains strong. By increasing the payroll tax on only the wealthiest Americans, she’s making sure that those who can afford it contribute their fair share to the program.

Source: Kiplinger, 8/31/2024



### LOWERING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS:

Working with President Biden, Vice President Harris cast the deciding vote to pass the legislation that gave Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices. This move is projected to **save taxpayers more than \$288 billion over 10 years and reduce out-of-pocket costs** for millions of Americans.

Sources: NASDAQ, 9/1/2024; KFF, 1/24/2023; The Motley Fool, 7/28/2024



### PROTECTING MEDICARE:

Harris has worked tirelessly to **protect Medicare from cuts**, understanding that these benefits are vital for seniors and those in need. Her efforts are focused on ensuring Medicare remains available for future generations.

Source: NASDAQ, 9/1/2024



# DONALD TRUMP AND JD VANCE PROPOSE CUTTING SOCIAL SECURITY, RAISING THE RETIREMENT AGE, AND SLASHING MEDICARE BENEFITS

Former President Trump will deny it while campaigning, but he has threatened to cut Medicare and Social Security if he wins a second term. He said, “**There is a lot you can do in terms of entitlements, in terms of cutting.**” He has also promised to give the biggest tax breaks to the wealthiest corporations and said we would pay for them by cutting Social Security and Medicare.

Sources: *Forbes*, 8/16/2024; CNBC, 3/11/2024; The Hill, 7/30/2018; CNN, 6/27/2024; Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 6/13/2024



Trump suggests he’s open to cuts to Medicare and Social Security after attacking primary rivals over the issue

CNN, 3/11/2024

Trump wants to cut taxes on Social Security—but it could threaten benefits, experts say

CNBC, 8/9/2024



### A RISKY PLAN:

Trump’s plan to get rid of taxes on Social Security checks is a bad deal for seniors. It would mean smaller Social Security checks and could even hurt Medicare, which helps millions of Americans get the care they need. Experts say his changes could leave these programs **\$1.6 trillion short** over the next decade. This plan would also add billions of dollars to the national debt without helping the economy. **We need to protect Social Security and Medicare, not put them at risk.**

Source: CNBC, 8/9/2024



### A RECORD OF BROKEN PROMISES:

Despite his current campaign promise to protect Social Security and Medicare, **every budget proposed by the Trump Administration contained cuts to Social Security and Medicare.** The former President’s 2020 budget proposal included cuts to all three safety net programs, including a \$575 billion Medicare reduction.

Sources: *The Washington Post*, 2/9/2023; Vox, 3/12/2019



### PRIVATIZING MEDICARE:

Project 2025, created by Trump’s allies and former policy advisors, calls for replacing Medicare with a privatized Medicare Advantage program. This would lead to **higher costs and reduced access to care for seniors**, limiting the choice of doctors and requiring prior authorization for many services, which would lead to **delays and increased out-of-pocket costs.**

Source: Yahoo Finance, 7/20/2024