

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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Spanish version: www.alianzadejubilados.org

It's Official: Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine Nominated at Democratic Convention

Secretary **Hillary Clinton** and Senator **Tim Kaine** of Virginia were officially nominated as the candidates for president and vice president at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia this week.

“Many powerful Americans, from household names to ordinary Americans, came together this week and made an incredibly strong case for the Clinton-Kaine ticket,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Retirees can count on Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine to expand and protect our earned Social Security benefits, rein in prescription drug prices and other health care costs and raise wages. They will defend workers’ and retirees’ defined benefit pension plans and the right to retire with dignity after a lifetime of hard work. The differences between Clinton-Kaine and **Donald Trump-Mike Pence** are like night and day.”

On Thursday Secretary Clinton delivered her acceptance speech and officially became the first female presidential candidate for a major U.S. political party. In her speech, she reiterated her support for a strong social safety net and vowed to expand Social Security. Secretary Clinton also addressed the cost of prescription drugs and her dedication to the policy details that will improve the lives of Americans, “Because it's not just a detail if it's your kid - if it's your family. It's a big deal. And it should be a big deal to your president.”



Secretary Clinton vowed to fight for working families and issues they care about, saying, “If you believe that companies should share profits, not pad executive bonuses, join us. If you believe the

minimum wage should be a living wage and no one working full time should have to raise their children in poverty, join us.”

She continued, “If you believe that every man, woman, and child in America has the right to affordable health care, join us. If you believe that we should say ‘no’ to unfair trade deals, that we should stand up to China, that we should support our steelworkers and autoworkers and homegrown manufacturers, join us.”



Alliance Executive Vice President Liz Shuler, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA), and Robert Roach, Jr. at the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia - July 27, 2016

Selection of Kaine Praised as “Icing on the Cake”

Secretary Clinton officially introduced Senator **Kaine** as her running mate at a Florida International University rally in Miami last Saturday.

“Senator Tim Kaine is a superb choice to be Vice President,” said President Roach in a [statement](#). “The Alliance for Retired Americans was already energized about a Hillary Clinton presidency, and Senator Kaine is the icing on the cake. His 93% lifetime score from the Alliance for his pro-retiree votes is proof that he is the right person for the job.”

He continued, “Secretary Clinton has been a champion for retirees throughout her distinguished career, and Senator Kaine has been throughout his. As a Governor and as a Senator, he has always had retirees’ best interests in mind. He has stated plainly that ‘we shouldn’t embrace radical reforms like the Ryan Plan or the privatization of Social Security,’ and that is music to our ears. Senator Kaine clearly opposes efforts to cut, privatize or shift Medicare costs to retirees.”

In his speech on Wednesday Kaine told the country why Hillary Clinton should be the next President. He also spoke about his own history in local government and as governor of Virginia, as well as his tenure in the U.S. Senate. As a member of the Special Committee on Aging, Kaine said he works “to make sure that seniors like my folks have a secure retirement and don’t get targeted by rip-off artists who will scam them out of their savings or overcharge them for prescription drugs.”

Democratic Platform Supports Expansion of Social Security Benefits

The convention delegates also officially adopted the [2016 Democratic Platform](#). It details the party’s official policy views on issues facing America, including Social Security and pensions. It vows to fight any attempt to “cut, privatize, or weaken” Social Security. In contrast to the [Republican Platform](#) that considers “all options” for Social Security reform, the Democrats promise to strengthen and expand benefits.

Democrats introduced specific policies to address Social Security and ensure seniors retire with “dignity and respect”. The platform says the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) must change so it more accurately reflects seniors’ spending patterns. It also promises to make sure Social Security’s guaranteed benefits continue for generations to come by asking those at the top to pay more, and will achieve this goal by taxing some of the income of people above \$250,000.

“Unlike the Democratic platform, the Republican platform clearly has cuts to Social Security on the table,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Don’t just take my word for it. *The Fiscal Times* made that very clear this week.”

In addition the Democratic Platform pledges to defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and make sure workers get priority and protection when pension plans are in distress. Democrats will fight to enact legislation to make sure that the earned pension benefits of Americans will not be cut, and will pay for that by closing tax loopholes that benefit millionaires and billionaires.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi Declares Opposition to TPP

Late last week House Democratic Leader **Nancy Pelosi** announced her opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade deal (TPP). In a [letter](#) to Citizens Trade Campaign, Pelosi said, “Please be assured that I will oppose the TPP as it is currently written or any deal that attempts to separate commerce from the environment and will work to ensure our nation’s trade policies include increased transparency, more consultation, and stronger protections to create jobs, strengthen human rights and protect the environment.”

Alliance members are among the 200,000 petitioners who wrote to Pelosi voicing their opposition to a lame duck vote on TPP. The trade deal would lead to higher drug costs, limit cost-control measures, and move well-paying American jobs overseas.

“Thanks to all the activists who signed our petition urging her to publicly oppose a lame-duck TPP vote,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “This is a significant moment in our effort to defeat the TPP and we couldn’t have achieved this without your support.”