

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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November 4, 2016

Spanish version: www.alianzadejubilados.org

Make a Plan to Vote this Tuesday

Studies show that people who take the time to confirm the location of their polling place in advance and decide what time of day they will vote are more likely to make it to the polls. Similarly, sharing this information with friends and family cements your plans and reminds them to get out and vote, too.

Even Vice President **Joe Biden** made a [plan to vote](#). You can make your plan [here](#).

“**Hillary Clinton** needs seniors to come out for her in force so that she can expand Social Security, protect Medicare and defend pensions from attack over the next four years,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Make your plan to vote and be ready in case of last minute complications or emergencies. The retiree vote can make all the difference in bringing Hillary a victory.”

Alliance Members Join the Effort to Protect Voters

Alliance activists in key states are joining the AFL-CIO and hundreds of volunteers with the Election Protection Coalition to help ensure every eligible voter can cast their ballot. Volunteers will join the first line of defense against voter suppression tactics, confusing laws, outdated infrastructure and other impediments voters face when attempting to cast their ballot.



North Carolina Alliance members prepare for Election Day.

Voter advocates [fear](#) Donald Trump's rhetoric of a "rigged" election and his call for supporters to "go out and watch the polls" will sow discord at polling centers. This is also the first presidential election following the 2013 Supreme Court decision that severely weakened the Voting Rights Act, affecting the Justice Department's oversight of voting practices.

If you have a problem casting your ballot or suspect a voting rights problem, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE. There have already been more than 42,000 calls from voters to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law hotline reporting voter suppression efforts throughout the country.

"It is unacceptable there are barriers Americans must tackle in order to exercise their right to vote," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "The Alliance is proud to work with other volunteers so seniors' voices are heard on Election Day."

Alliance Members Speak Directly with Senate Candidates Jason Kander, Katie McGinty and Patrick Murphy

This week the Alliance held tele-town halls with Senate candidates **Jason Kander** of Missouri, **Katie McGinty** of Pennsylvania, and Rep. **Patrick Murphy** of Florida.

Rep. Murphy answered questions from many of the more than 6,300 Florida Alliance members on the call. He addressed the realities of retirement security and rising health care costs in Florida, saying that Medicare should cover hearing, visual and dental needs and negotiate for lower drug prices. He also discussed the importance of raising the payroll cap in order to strengthen Social Security so that the wealthiest pay their fair share.

Kander, a former state legislator and veteran, discussed protecting Social Security and Medicare from cuts and privatization, improving the Veterans Administration, and raising the minimum wage with the more than 2,500 Missouri Alliance members on the call. He noted his opposition to raising the retirement age and stressed his opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

In her town hall with nearly 11,000 Pennsylvania Alliance members, Ms. McGinty answered questions about protecting Social Security and strengthening Medicare from privatization. She emphasized empowering Medicare so it can directly negotiate prescription drug prices and she said she would work to adjust the Social Security COLA formula so that it reflects what seniors actually purchase. She added that she would be available to the Alliance to keep in touch with retirees and to continue working together after the election.

"All three of these candidates will fight for retirees," said Mr. Roach. "Their opponents — Senators **Marco Rubio** (FL), **Roy Blunt** (MO), and **Pat Toomey** (PA) — have all voted to weaken Social Security and Medicare."

Big Pharma's Latest Trick to Increase Profits

On Monday, *Time* reported that pharmaceutical companies have found a new way to [inflate](#) prescription drug prices, by combining cheap generic drugs into costly tablets.

Companies like Pernix Therapeutics Holdings Inc. use cheap generic ingredients to make their drugs but then hike up the cost of the final product. Pernix's migraine medication, Treximet, has two main ingredients that cost \$19 each but the drug's nine tablets costs \$700. This strategy has been used for other products including acne cream and rheumatoid arthritis treatments.

“Millions of Americans struggle to fill their prescriptions, but pharmaceutical companies continue to put their profits over people,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We must elect leaders on Tuesday who will rein in Big Pharma.”

Trump Probably Avoided His Medicare Taxes, Too

Donald Trump’s continued refusal to release his financial information has led countless experts to question whether he has paid taxes in decades. Now, it is believed he also avoided paying into [Medicare](#).

In 2015, Trump was forced to reveal some of his finances in the Financial Disclosure Form 278e required to enter the primaries. This document reports that he had a total salary of only \$14,222 from his show “The Apprentice.” The part of the form concerning “Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year” states “Not Applicable.”

He claims to receive no salary from any of the 200 corporations he runs. This means he can avoid paying millions of dollars in taxes for Medicare.

“How can Americans trust **Donald Trump** to lead our country if he cannot even be trusted to pay his taxes and support those who depend on Medicare?” asked Mr. Fiesta. “Donald Trump has cheated the system and cheated the American people.”

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.4 million retirees and their families.