



19/19

President
Barbara Easterling

Secretary-Treasurer
Ruben Burks

2014 Candidate Questionnaire for Federal Offices

Name of Candidate: Kyrsten Sinema State/District: AZ-09

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 07/25/2014

Party Affiliation: Democrat Republican
 Other (please specify) _____

Questionnaire Completed by:

Megan Cagle Name Communications Director Title

818 E. Osborn Rd. Suite 202 Campaign Street Address

Phoenix City AZ State 85014 Zip

Campaign Contact Information: Phone: (480) 526-7070

Fax: _____

E-mail: Kyrsten@KyrstenSinema.com

Campaign Web address: KyrstenSinema.com

Return your completed questionnaire to:

Alliance for Retired Americans
Department of Government and Political Affairs
815 16th Street, N.W., 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

or fax to: 202/637-5398

Please enclose a letter requesting endorsement. You may attach any material that details your work on behalf of retirees.

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS FEDERAL CANDIDATES 2014 QUESTIONNAIRE

Please indicate how do you plan to involve retirees and older Americans in your 2014 campaign?

Our campaign relies heavily on a dedicated team of older and retired individuals for advice on policy issues affecting seniors as well as for volunteering to help reach voters in the district.

Please list the contact information for your campaign's older Americans liaison.

Dana Kennedy (volunteer)
Name

(480) 225-1275
Phone number

danamiteconsulting@gmail.com
e-mail

Social Security

1. Would you oppose measures to further increase Social Security's normal retirement age, which is already increasing to age 67?

Yes No Comment:

2. Retirees depend on Social Security cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to keep up with inflation. COLAs are based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), a formula that understates inflation for seniors because it is based on living expenses for younger people who have much lower health care expenses. Yet, some want to change from the CPI-W to the Chained Consumer Price Index, a formula that would lead to lower annual COLAs. Would you oppose changing to the Chained Consumer Price Index?

Yes No Comment:

3. Would you support efforts for a new COLA index to more accurately measure inflation experienced by seniors, such as the currently experimental Consumer Price Index for the Elderly, an index of inflation that the Bureau of Labor Statistics created in the 1980s to measure the rising costs seniors face?

Yes No Comment:

4. **In 2014, the annual taxable maximum wages for Social Security is \$117,000.** Today, the share of total national wages covered by Social Security and subject to withholding has declined from 90 percent to about 83 percent because earnings have grown more rapidly for high wage earners. Would you support returning the wage cap to the historic level of 90 percent of payroll as a measure to support the long-term fiscal solvency of Social Security?

Yes No Comment:

5. Would you support removing the current \$117,000 wage cap so that everyone would pay the same rate on all their earnings?

Yes No Comment:

6. Should Social Security benefits be "means tested," that is, benefits are reduced according to a beneficiary's other income?

Yes No Comment:

7. Do you support measures to privatize Social Security by diverting a portion of individual payroll taxes into private investment accounts?

Yes No Comment:

8. Do you favor allowing younger workers to invest some of their Social Security withholdings in private accounts?

Yes No Comment:

Medicare and Prescription Drugs

9. While the Affordable Care Act of 2010 fills in the Part D doughnut hole coverage gap by 2020, would you support additional efforts to control rising pharmaceutical costs by requiring Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices, which the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense currently do?

Yes No Comment:

10. Leaked language in the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership (TPP) trade deal shows the deal could hamper the government's ability to list or price prescription drugs and medical devices and affect public programs such as the 340(B) program, Medicaid preferred list and drug discounts under the ACA. Would you support a trade deal that would interfere with the government's ability to use their purchasing power to obtain lower drug and device prices in public programs?

No

Comment: I am carefully monitoring the discussion around TPP. It is important that Congress play a meaningful role in the negotiation and approval of trade agreements. In November 2013, I joined more than 150 of my colleagues in sending a letter to President Obama stating our opposition to "Fast Track" Trade Promotion Authority or any mechanism that excludes Congress from having a meaningful role in the formative stages of trade agreements.

11. Some lawmakers have suggested turning Medicare into a voucher program, whereby beneficiaries would receive a stipend to buy private insurance or Medicare would pay a stipend to private insurance for each enrollee. The stipend would not keep up with medical inflation and over the years, seniors would be forced to pay more out-of-pocket. Would you support turning Medicare into a voucher program?

Yes No Comment:

12. When Medicare Part D prescription drug plan passed in 2003, the drug coverage of dual-eligibles (low-income seniors covered by both Medicare and Medicaid) was transferred from Medicaid to Medicare. Drug companies are required to pay rebates to state governments for low-income beneficiaries under Medicaid but not Medicare. Requiring drug companies to pay rebates under Medicare would generate \$141 billion in savings to the federal government over 10 years. Do you support requiring drug companies to pay rebates under the Medicare program?

Yes No Comment:

13. While Medicare Parts B and D are already means-tested, many in Congress are calling for greater means-testing of Medicare benefits as part of a deficit reduction plan. However, in order to achieve the savings envisioned by its supporters, means-testing would impact individuals making \$47,000 or more a year. Do you support greater means-testing of Medicare benefits?

Yes No Comment:

Long Term Care

14. In February 2012, the House repealed a provision in the Affordable Care Act, known as the CLASS program. The program was designed to be a source of long term care insurance. With our ever aging population, the need for such a program grows day by day. Would you support finding an alternative, affordable plan to meet the long term needs of the elderly?

Yes No Comment:

15. The once-a-decade White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) that makes policy recommendations affecting aging Americans is supposed to take place in 2015; however, Congress has not yet appropriated funding for this Conference. Do you support funding the WHCOA?

Yes No Comment:

Budget and Taxes

16. Sixty years ago, 30 percent of total federal tax revenue was from corporations. Today it's just 10 percent, because corporations are exploiting special tax breaks and loopholes. Do you favor requiring corporations to pay their fair share of taxes?

Yes No Comment:

17. Do you support the repeal of the federal estate tax?

Yes

No

Comment:

18. The House Budget Resolution for FY 2015 (H. Con. Res. 96) requires \$3.3 trillion in cuts over 10 years. These cuts would gut domestic programs that affect seniors, including medical research, senior housing and food stamps. Additionally, H. Con. Res. 96 ends Medicare as we know it and sets up a procedure for fast-tracking cuts to Social Security, while providing tax cuts to millionaires. Do you support this budget resolution?

Yes

No

Comment:

19. Given the aging of the American population, would you support reauthorizing the Older Americans Act and increasing funding for aging support programs, such as Meals on Wheels, transportation programs, and caregiver support programs?

Yes

No

Comment: