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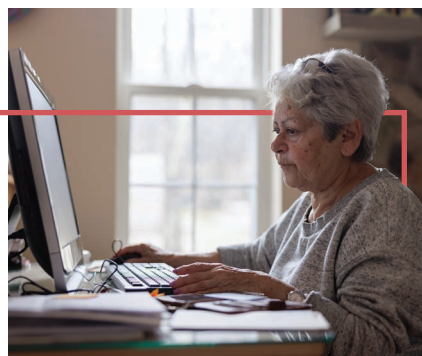
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## REAL STORIES FROM ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

As we've talked with voters across the Commonwealth, we're hearing a lot about Social Security, Medicare, and other earned benefits.



### Michael B., Pittsburgh

Michael says he would like to see the government re-balance its budget and prioritize retirees, so that Social Security recipients who spent a lifetime paying into those benefits on the promise that they could live on them in retirement will actually be able to do so.

### Robert J. Jr., Ligonier

Robert's primary concerns are health care, climate change, Social Security, and Medicare. He wants to see universal health care become a reality. Robert, getting close to retirement, also wants to see Social Security and Medicare benefits supported more substantially, so he can feel comfortable in his well-earned retirement.

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## ISSUES SPOTLIGHT

# MEDICARE & SOCIAL SECURITY

Expand and improve? Or privatize and sunset?

OCTOBER 2022

**T**his year's election will have significant consequences for Medicare and Social Security.

The debate, illustrated in the U.S. Senate race between Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and former TV personality Dr. Mehmet Oz, centers on whether to expand and improve Medicare and Social Security or potentially privatize and sunset these programs under proposals such as "Medicare Advantage," which would allow insurance companies to raise premiums and deny care to people with preexisting conditions.

**John Fetterman wants to improve Medicare and Social Security. Dr. Oz is in favor of privatizing Medicare.**

See inside for more information on our U.S. Senate candidates' positions on these critical issues.

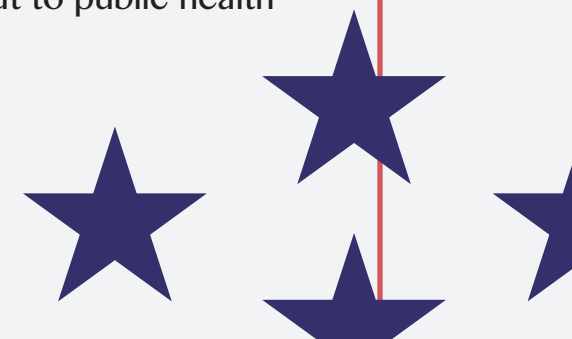


Pennsylvania  Capital-Star

"[Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate race] could define future of Social Security, Medicare... If Mehmet Oz... win[s], advocates for the most successful social welfare programs in American history should be worried."

**WHYY**  
 

"Pa. doctors call Oz's run for Senate a 'threat to public health'"



# COMPARING THE CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATE ON MEDICARE & SOCIAL SECURITY

Election Day is approaching fast. This November's election will decide the makeup of the U.S. Senate and the future of critical programs like Medicare and Social Security.

When it comes to health care and retirement security, where do you stand? Expand and improve, or privatize and sunset?

Below, *In Union* aims to clarify the positions of our two candidates for the U.S. Senate, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and former TV personality Dr. Mehmet Oz.



## JOHN FETTERMAN

### BOTTOM LINE

John Fetterman believes health care—including access to reproductive health care—is a fundamental right, as basic as housing, food, and education. As Lt. Governor, Fetterman worked with Governor Wolf to protect high-quality health care for 2.2 million Pennsylvanians.

- Vowed to protect Social Security, calling it a “critical lifeline for PA’s seniors,” and believes the ability to retire with dignity is “at the heart of the basic American bargain.”<sup>1</sup>
- Believes health care is a “basic, fundamental human right, no different than food or shelter.”<sup>2</sup>
- Has condemned calls from Senate Republicans to eliminate Social Security and Medicare as federal entitlement programs.<sup>3</sup>
- Believes we must lower the Medicare eligibility age to 60 while expanding coverage to include vision, hearing, and dental.<sup>4</sup>

**“We need to ensure all of our seniors can retire in dignity and comfortably. When I’m in DC, I will fight to expand Social Security and Medicare.”**

*John Fetterman, 8/14/2022*



## MEHMET OZ

### BOTTOM LINE

Former TV personality Dr. Mehmet Oz has proposed privatizing Medicare, which would allow insurance companies to raise premiums and deny care to people with preexisting conditions. He’s also promised to support the schemes of some Republican senators that could eliminate Social Security and jeopardize benefits for millions of seniors.

- Proposed privatizing Medicare and expanding “Medicare Advantage” programs, which are known to deny claims that would be covered under normal Medicare.<sup>5</sup>
- Proposes raising payroll taxes to 20%, passing the cost of health care onto working people.<sup>6</sup>
- Wants to give insurance companies more power to raise premiums and deny coverage.<sup>7</sup>
- Voiced support for a plan that could eliminate Social Security and Medicare, while allowing Wall Street to make billions off of beneficiaries and raising taxes to 35% on Pennsylvanians.<sup>8</sup>
- According to financial disclosures, Oz and his wife own up to \$600,000 in stock for health care companies, which would stand to benefit from privatized Medicare.<sup>9</sup>

**“Despite railing against Big Tech and Big Pharma, records show Dr. Oz has invested millions in both”**

*ABC News, 4/8/2022*

**CHECK THE FACTS:** 1. Twitter, @JohnFetterman, 8/14/2022; johnfetterman.com/issue/respecting-our-seniors, accessed 9/27/2022. 2. johnfetterman.com/issue/guaranteeing-health-care, accessed 9/27/2022. 3. Twitter, @JohnFetterman, 8/4/2022. 4. johnfetterman.com/issue/respecting-our-seniors, accessed 9/27/2022. 5. *Forbes*, 6/11/2020; Office of the Inspector General, 4/27/2022; *The Lever*, 8/17/2022. 6. *Forbes*, 6/11/2020. 7. *Forbes*, 6/11/2020; *The Lever*, 8/17/2022. 8. *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*, 3/9/2022; *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*, 4/10/2022. 9. *The Lever*, 8/17/2022.

