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Statement by AARP's John Hishta on Presidential Debate: Silence on Social Security Could Cost Future Retirees Up to \$10k a Year

Hempstead, NY — “Americans who are working hard and paying into Social Security were the real losers at tonight’s debate,” AARP Senior Vice President, Campaigns, John Hishta said.

“In this issueless campaign, the debate was the best chance for voters to get real answers on how the presidential candidates would keep Social Security strong for future generations. If our leaders don’t commit to act, future retirees could lose up to \$10,000 per year.

“The failure of Mr. Holt to ask them about it, or for the candidates to address the issue proactively, is deeply troubling. Especially for the 170 million Americans who are paying into Social Security and deserve to know whether the candidates stand before Election Day. We will now turn our attention to the upcoming debates and urge the moderators to commit to ask and the candidates to commit to act.”

Social Security faces a significant revenue shortfall that, while still a number of years away, would result in a nearly 25 percent, across-the-board benefits cut for all Social Security recipients, if left unaddressed. Despite recent polling in support or more focus on the issue, it has been largely ignored in this election. A battleground AARP survey of Boomer women found: 71 percent want the next president and congress to address Social Security immediately and more than two-thirds have heard nothing about the candidates’ plans, AARP said.

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About AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million that helps people turn their goals and dreams into 'Real Possibilities' by changing the way America defines aging. With staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and promote the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare security, financial security and personal fulfillment. AARP also advocates for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world’s largest circulation magazine, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin.

Media Contacts:

AARP Media Relations, 202-434-2560, media@aarp.org, [@AARPMedia](https://www.aarp.org)

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