

2008 AARP Voters' Guide

Michigan State House District 31

How to use the AARP Voters' Guide:
Here's how this Voters' Guide works. AARP asked key questions about issues important to our members and their families of each major candidate for this race. Each candidate was allowed up to 125 words to answer each question. AARP did not edit or modify those answers. The candidates were asked to check the support or oppose circles. The candidates may have chosen not to check a circle.

AARP has provided a summary of our position for each of the issues.

- Pass this guide on to friends and family.
- Share your views with the candidates.
- Ask for clarification from any candidate whose answer seems unclear.

Be sure to vote on November 4.

www.aarp.org/elections

Get the facts.
Use the power.
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The power to make it better.®

Health and Financial Security

Q: *Are you committed to working with your fellow elected officials, regardless of party, to develop and implement policies that provide all Americans with access to quality, affordable health care and lifetime financial security?*

AARP's Position:

Commit to help end gridlock by working across party lines.

Support **Oppose**

Fred Miller (D)

Commit to help end gridlock by working across party lines.

Support **Oppose**

Daniel Tollis (R):

Commit to help end gridlock by working across party lines.

Support **Oppose**

The candidate chose not to respond.

Millions of Americans worry about their health and long-term financial security. They fear the future will not be as prosperous for their children and grandchildren. They face competing demands of affording health care, saving for retirement, sending children to college and supporting aging parents. At the same time, soaring health care costs constrain employers' ability to grow and compete.

AARP believes that providing quality, affordable health care and improving lifelong financial security for all Americans should be legislative priorities.

Ensuring all citizens have access to quality, affordable health care is the most pressing domestic issue facing our nation. I will continue to look for ways to address this matter locally in Michigan.

Additionally, we must look for ways to protect pensions and Social Security to ensure senior citizens can remain financially dependent through their retirement. Failing to do so will create a heavy burden on families and have a negative impact on our economy.

Retirement Savings Programs

Q ■ *Do you support or oppose the creation of a state assisted savings plan for Michigan workers who lack access to a retirement savings plan at work?*

AARP's Position:

Support or oppose creation of state assisted savings plan

Support Oppose

Fred Miller (D)

Support or oppose creation of state assisted savings plan

Support Oppose

Daniel Tollis (R)

Support or oppose creation of state assisted savings plan

Support Oppose

The candidate chose not to respond.

More than half of American workers lack access to a retirement savings plan at work. One new approach to expand savings is to use a state's experience and expertise to provide workplace retirement savings programs for small employers that are unable to provide them because of high fees.

When groups of small employers join together these fees drop enough to be affordable. Once the program is established, operational costs would be paid by participants. The state would be reimbursed for the costs of establishing the plan, and would serve as overseer of the plan, but would have no fiduciary or legal liability for its performance.

AARP supports adoption of this kind of state assisted retirement savings plan.

I support this proposal. One simple step the state can take in helping its citizens prepare for retirement is providing small businesses and the self-employed an easy way to save for retirement. I am a cosponsor of legislation to establish the Michigan Retirement Plan, which would create this state assisted savings plan. I will continue to support such a proposal when re-elected.

Reforming Long-Term Care

Q: *Will you support or oppose legislation that creates a “one-stop shopping” system for long-term care supports, services and payment options? Will you support allowing consumers to choose where they will receive state-funded long-term care services and to select the service provider?*

AARP's Position:

A single agency for “one-stop shopping.”

Support **Oppose**

Make single point of entry available statewide beginning in 2010.

Support **Oppose**

Allow consumers to choose where they will receive services and select the service provider.

Support **Oppose**

Fred Miller (D)

A single agency for “one-stop shopping.”

Support **Oppose**

Make single point of entry available statewide beginning in 2010.

Support **Oppose**

Allow consumers to choose where they will receive services and select the service provider.

Support **Oppose**

Daniel Tollis (R)

A single agency for “one-stop shopping.”

Support **Oppose**

Make single point of entry available statewide beginning in 2010.

Support **Oppose**

Allow consumers to choose where they will receive services and select the service provider.

Support **Oppose**

The candidate chose not to respond.

Many Michigan residents and their families, who need long-term care to maintain independence, often face confusion searching through the maze of service options scattered throughout many different agencies. Unfortunately, most options are geared to nursing homes rather than home and community based care, which most people prefer. It would make this process much easier to have information, assessment, and eligibility determination for services in a single agency so residents have one-stop shopping.

AARP supports two major changes in the state’s long-term care system:

- Creation of “one-stop shopping” approach for long-term care information, assessment, eligibility determination, and payment options.
- Allowing consumers to choose where they will receive state-funded long-term care services and to select the service provider.

Statistics have shown that families overwhelmingly support in-home health care for their elderly relatives. I support single point of entry legislation because it would provide consumers with additional choices for the care that best suits their families needs. In addition, this proposal is fiscally sound; the House Fiscal Agency expects that a single point of entry system would provide on annual savings on \$32 million based on current Medicaid long-term care expenditures. I also support allowing consumers to choose where their long-term care service provider, giving them some power over where their state funds will be sent.

Q: *Will you support or oppose legislation that requires pharmacies to post the prices of the 150 most prescribed drugs and their generic equivalents? Will you support or oppose legislation requiring drug companies to report what they spend on marketing to physicians?*

AARP's Position:

Require pharmacies to post prices

Support **Oppose**

Require drug companies to reveal marketing expenses to physicians

Support **Oppose**

Fred Miller (D)

Require pharmacies to post prices

Support **Oppose**

Require drug companies to reveal marketing expenses to physicians

Support **Oppose**

Daniel Tollis (R)

Require pharmacies to post prices

Support **Oppose**

Require drug companies to reveal marketing expenses to physicians

Support **Oppose**

The candidate chose not to respond.

Prescription drug prices continue to increase at nearly twice the rate of general inflation and more employers are eliminating prescription drug coverage for their workers and retirees. AARP supports policies to help people afford needed prescription drugs, such as access to information on comparable generic drug prices.

Consumers need to know if pharmaceutical sales representatives are influencing physicians to choose expensive brand name drugs over less expensive generic drugs.

AARP wants to ensure a free and open marketplace that makes available the lowest possible prescription drug prices. We support legislation that:

- Requires pharmacies to post the prices of the 150 most prescribed drugs and their generic equivalents; and
- Requires drug companies to report to the state what they spend on marketing to physicians.

I would support legislation to provide consumers with more access to information about the cost of common prescription drugs in their neighborhoods. Similar programs have already been introduced in other states, and they have been successful in alerting consumers to wide discrepancies in cost at different locations. Enabling consumers to access more information will help cut costs in the long run. Additionally, I have cosponsored legislation to require pharmaceutical companies to disclose how much they spend directly marketing to doctors, as I believe this is necessary to bring light to the dramatic impact this sort of advertising is having on the cost of prescription drugs.



If you are not registered to vote, go to www.aarp.org/makeadifference/politics/ and look under Tools for a form to fill out and send to your local voter registrar (the address will be there). Go to the same website if you need an application for an absentee ballot or to find out if your state allows early voting and what dates that will occur.

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