



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

Michigan State House District 62

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**

Kate Segal (D)

Commit to help end gridlock by working across party lines.

Support **Oppose**

Gregory Moore (R):

Commit to help end gridlock by working across party lines.

Support **Oppose**

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.

As a County Commissioner, I helped create the Calhoun Health Plan that helps uninsured and underinsured residents in Calhoun County. In just two years, we have helped more than 4,000 residents access vital health care and continue to grow programs to meet the needs of Calhoun County's working families. As a State Representative, I look forward to working with my colleagues to increase programs such as the Calhoun Health Plan and provide all Michigan residents with access to quality health care and financial security.

I will absolutely work with all parties to find ways to increase access, control costs, improve quality of care, and support efforts to allow seniors to stay in their homes longer.

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

Kate Segal (D)

Support or oppose creation of state assisted savings plan

Support Oppose

Gregory Moore (R)

Support or oppose creation of state assisted savings plan

Support Oppose

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 would support state involvement to the extent that its role is limited to incentivizing the private sector to develop various products and solutions, and/or assisting the business community in working more closely together on possible programs that meet this growing need.

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

Kate Segal (D)

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Support Oppose

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Support Oppose

Gregory Moore (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 mark a circle.

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.

A single agency for “one-stop shopping.”: As a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, I see first-hand how important a single point of entry system is for our families struggling to meet their long term care needs. A single point of entry system allows families to find the resources they need, when they need them, to care for their loved ones.

A single agency for “one-stop shopping.”: I will need more information on this before giving a definitive answer. My understanding is that we have several pilot projects currently underway throughout the state and I'd like to hear the results of those projects first.

“Make single point of entry available statewide beginning in 2010.”: Again, this will depend on the outcome of the pilot projects currently underway.

“Allow consumers to choose where they will receive services and select the service provider.”: I certainly support the ability of consumers to choose with the caveat that cost must be a consideration. The taxpayers have not provided an open-ended checkbook and we must ensure that not only is quality care being provided, but that it is also cost effective.

Prescription Drug Affordability

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

Kate Segal (D)

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Support Oppose

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.

“Require pharmacies to post prices.”: Before adding another potentially costly mandate on businesses, which could in turn increase drug prices, we should first look at better utilizing existing resources such as the state drug price websites maintained by MDCH and the Attorney General.

“Require drug companies to reveal marketing expenses to physicians.”: All health care costs are rising. Rather than single out one industry, shouldn't all medical companies be required to reveal this data? Plus, a differentiation must be made between legitimate education expenses surrounding prescription drugs and the more egregious types of marketing such as luxury yacht trips and golf vacations that tend to send all of our blood pressures rising.



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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