



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

Oklahoma Corporation Commission (6 yr. term)

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.
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The power to make it better.®

Low Income Energy Assistance

Q ■ *Do you support or oppose the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the State Legislature doing more to help low income Oklahoma households afford their energy bills?*

AARP's Position:

Creation of utility bill payment assistance program for low-income persons

Support Oppose

Charles Gray (D)

Creation of utility bill payment assistance program for low-income persons

Support Oppose

Jeff Cloud (R)

Creation of utility bill payment assistance program for low-income persons

Support Oppose

Home energy costs make up a considerable portion of household budgets. Exceedingly volatile natural gas, electricity and fuel oil prices in recent years have significantly increased energy costs facing many consumers. Older Americans are particularly vulnerable to rapid increases in energy prices. Older low-income households spend a higher percentage of total income on energy costs than do other households.

AARP supports state programs to address energy affordability including bill payment assistance programs for low-income residential customers; automatic enrollment of electric and natural gas customers into assistance programs; and prohibitions on utilities from disconnecting or refusing to reconnect electric or natural gas service to low-income households during times when weather conditions threaten health and safety.

There have been three rate increases in 2008, four if you count fuel adjustment. People are hurting, the next commissioner must consider what every increase does to a person on a fixed or limited income.

I support utility bill payment assistance for low-income seniors. LIHEAP should be fully funded. Also, additional LIHEAP funding should be triggered when energy costs rise.

Q ■ *Do you support or oppose a requirement that utility cost recovery, including incentives and lost revenues, should be closely reviewed by regulators and linked to the verified performance of the utility in reducing energy use?*

AARP's Position:

Utility cost recovery linked to performance reviewed by regulators

Support **Oppose**

Increased electricity use will produce higher and more volatile prices. Everyone benefits from energy efficiency programs that lower both usage and monthly bills. The most controversial aspect of energy efficiency programs relates to paying utilities incentives and bonuses and even "lost revenue" in order to get them to offer such programs.

AARP supports affordable, cost-effective energy efficiency programs. Utility cost recovery, including incentives that are fair to consumers, should be closely reviewed by regulators and linked to the verified performance of the utility in reducing energy use. AARP supports an independent third party as an efficient means to deliver energy efficiency programs.

Charles Gray (D)

Utility cost recovery linked to performance reviewed by regulators

Support **Oppose**

Conservation is a weapon we are not using as effectively as we could. Allowing a utility run a conservation program is like asking a grocery store to limit the amount of food they will sell you, it will not work. Another way has to be found to promote energy conservation.

Jeff Cloud (R)

Utility cost recovery linked to performance reviewed by regulators

Support **Oppose**

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission closely reviews and verifies the books, records and performance of Oklahoma's electric utilities.

Pre-payment of utility investments

Q:

Do you support or oppose legislation that would require utility customers to pre-pay for utility investments such as power plants and transmission lines, before those investments are built and serving customers?

AARP's Position:

Require utility customers to pre-pay for utility investments

Support Oppose

Charles Gray (D)

Require utility customers to pre-pay for utility investments

Support Oppose

Jeff Cloud (R)

Require utility customers to pre-pay for utility investments

Support Oppose

Some electric utilities are seeking new laws permitting pre-approval and pre-payment of multi-billion dollar investments such as power plants and transmission lines. Electric bills would increase through higher rates or surcharges before the project ever provides service to customers, and even if construction is cancelled. Utilities, like other stockholder owned private companies, are responsible for raising their own money for investment. Shifting responsibility and risk to customers eliminates the utility's incentive to finance and manage investments efficiently.

AARP is opposed to cost recovery prior to a plant becoming operational. Utilities should not be allowed to shift risk to customers. The cost of power plants and other investments should not be included in rates until the plant is running and serving customers.

The ratepayer should not be charged and/or billed until power plants and transmission lines are built and serving customers.

I voted against the Red Rock \$1.8 billion expansion because of this single reason. The shareholders should have the risk, not the rate payers for pre-approval.

Advanced Meters

Q ■ *If advanced metering is adopted in Oklahoma, do you support or oppose new consumer protections for vulnerable populations who cannot easily shift utility usage to off-peak, lower cost periods?*

AARP's Position:

Consumer protections if advanced metering adopted

Support Oppose

“Advanced Meters” (also called “smart meters” and “smart grid”) refers to new technology that allows kilowatt hours to be tracked based on time of usage. Such meters are connected to communications systems that enable remote meter reading, programming and disconnection. Advanced metering allows alternative pricing which typically charge more for electricity at times of peak demand (summer, daytime, evenings) and less at low-demand periods (nights, Sundays, holidays).

AARP believes advanced meters and “peak use” pricing plans pose a significant risk for older, disabled, lower-income and other vulnerable people who for health and safety reasons cannot easily shift usage to off-peak, lower cost periods. Protections must be adopted to protect these vulnerable people from excessive costs and potential loss of heating or cooling services

Charles Gray (D)

Consumer protections if advanced metering adopted

Support Oppose

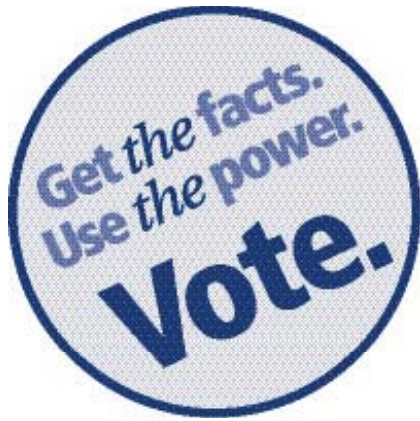
Will consider supporting advanced metering after consumer protections are in place.

Jeff Cloud (R)

Consumer protections if advanced metering adopted

Support Oppose

I support advanced metering when it shifts load and eliminates the need for new construction of electric generation. I also support proactive measures for low income seniors.



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.

Voter Information Inside



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