



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

Utah Senate District 1

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

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Q ■ What steps will you take to prepare Utah for an aging workforce? Do you support or oppose increasing funding for job training for older workers? Do you support or oppose the elimination of the Social Security/Unemployment Insurance offset?
(Please limit your response to 125 words)

AARP's Position:

Increase funding for job training for older workers

Support Oppose

Eliminate the Social Security / Unemployment Insurance offset

Support Oppose

Luz Robles (D):

Increase funding for job training for older workers

Support Oppose

Eliminate the Social Security / Unemployment Insurance offset

Support Oppose

The candidate chose not to mark a circle.

Carlton Christensen (R):

Increase funding for job training for older workers

Support Oppose

Eliminate the Social Security / Unemployment Insurance offset

Support Oppose

Traditional sources of retirement income, such as Social Security, employer pensions, and personal savings often are not enough. More than 37 million in the workforce are over 50, a number that will rise as the workforce grows older and works longer.

AARP supports flexible employment practices, such as job sharing, flextime, and phased retirement. Employer training programs should be made available to help workers of all ages.

Many retirees must reenter the workforce to supplement their Social Security retirement benefits or to get health insurance. Only four states—including Utah—reduce unemployment insurance benefits for those who lose a job while on Social Security. AARP opposes this practice, as it penalizes those who qualify for unemployment insurance yet are denied the coverage they've earned.

The candidate chose not to reply by the deadline.

People are living longer and many are capable of working beyond historic retirement age and capable of filling needed employment needs within the community. Having individuals continue to contribute their experience and hard work ethics is important.

I would support this elimination. In so doing, I would like to consider income levels as part of the equation. I do feel most of those effected would still benefit from that criteria.

Q: How would you propose to change policy to provide more accessible and affordable home and community-based care options to older Utahans and those with disabilities? (*Please limit your response to 125 words*)

AARP's Position:

Rebalance the long-term care system by removing funding bias favoring nursing home

Support Oppose

Establish programs allowing certain nursing home residents to transition into less restrictive settings

Support Oppose

Shifting existing Medicaid long-term care dollars to home and community based programs

Support Oppose

Liz Robles (D):

Rebalance the long-term care system by removing funding bias favoring nursing home

Support Oppose

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Shifting existing Medicaid long-term care dollars to home and community based programs

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Rebalance the long-term care system by removing funding bias favoring nursing home

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Support Oppose

The candidate chose not to mark a circle.

AARP is committed to achieving long term care reform so more people needing these services can remain in their homes and get services in the community. In Utah, the majority of long-term care spending is directed to nursing homes and institutions. Utah is ranked 47th in the country regarding the percentage of Medicaid dollars going to home and community based care of older people and adults with physical disabilities.

Several states have saved money and improved patient satisfaction with quality of care by shifting the allocation of resources, so a greater proportion provides services in the community and not in nursing homes. AARP supports the right of people to have more choice where they want to get services and how they manage their own care.

The candidate chose not to reply by the deadline.

After living next to my mother for 14 years and helping to care for her as she aged, I am convinced that an individual home is the best place to care for them as long as possible.

As long as reasonable criteria are established for the care of the individual, I am supportive of maintaining as much flexibility in their care as possible. One size does not fit all.

I believe as long as it can be shown that it is cost effective and the appropriate care can be delivered, allowing individuals to live within the community where they have contributed most of their life is a viable solution.

Q: In the face of escalating cost, how would you reform the health care system to make it available, affordable and accessible for every Utahan?
(Please limit your response to 125 words)

AARP's Position:

Provide increased subsidies for health insurance for eligible participants based on ability to pay

Support Oppose

Provide incentives for preventative care

Support Oppose

Create "medical homes" for more integration and coordination among providers

Support Oppose

Luz Robles(D):

Provide increased subsidies for health insurance for eligible participants based on ability to pay

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Create "medical homes" for more integration and coordination among providers

Support Oppose

AARP supports reforms to increase access to affordable, high-quality health care coverage for all Utahns, particularly those without public or private insurance or those at risk of losing coverage.

Making health care affordable is a shared responsibility among government, business, health care providers and individuals. Other reform options include opening existing public programs (e.g. Medicaid) to new categories of people who are uninsured.

The candidate chose not to reply by the deadline.

I believe that one of the significant solutions to controlling the cost of health care is to allow flexibility in accessing the delivery model of the treatment needed. Empowering individuals to make health care choices will also engage them in the benefit of controlling their costs. As treatments enter the rules based diagnosis arena, the level of expertise needed by the treating parties diminishes and thus can be provided by that lower level of expertise, yet yielding the same result.

To achieve this result, we need to increase the availability of locations that can deliver this level of health care and encourage individuals through the use of medical savings accounts to engage in the decision process of the level of service in health care that is really required. Too often health care is delivered in a model that is far more expensive than the level that is required for the individual.

I firmly believe we are better off having those individuals needing assistance to work through a system of health care than to access in emergency circumstances a level of health care that is quite expensive in its form of delivery and not to the betterment of the individual in the long run. Preventive health care is usually more cost effective in the long run, and minimizes other costs that come to society because of poor care. I believe a long term evaluation of our delivery models of health care have to be addressed because we over utilize the more expensive and often unnecessary models.



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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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