



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

Utah House of Representatives District 45

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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ECONOMIC SECURITY for OLDER WORKERS

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

Laura Black (D):

Increase funding for job training for older workers

Support Oppose

Eliminate the Social Security / Unemployment Insurance offset

Support Oppose

Brian Monsen (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.

Utah's senior population will continue to be one of the faster growing state populations. I think we need to continue to enhance financial security for seniors. I support older workers and feel that, if needed, job training opportunities should be made available for them.

Increase funding: I whole heartedly support this based on finding the appropriate funds to support it.

Eliminate the SSUI offset: I Support this as long as it doesn't create barriers or discourage employers from hiring workers on social security.

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

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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.

Maintaining quality of life as we age is a priority. Many times these decisions are made only when critical care is needed. I am committed to making sure that community/home based care options are provided as the first choice for seniors needing long term care.

Four years ago, I helped create Molina Independence Care (MIC), which is a Long Term Care/managed care program that takes individuals out of nursing homes and provides them with additional home and community based services so that they can go back to their homes, go live with relatives or have the opportunity to live in an assisted living center. It was the most rewarding/satisfying program that I have ever been a part of. Quality of life improved, health status improved, families were brought back together.

Due to a glitch in the Medicaid waiver, the state had to shut down all nursing home diversion programs for a period of 3 years to collect additional data. Molina Healthcare is half way through that 3 year period.

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 preventive care

Support Oppose

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

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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.

I believe that the every person has a right to affordable and accessible healthcare. Comprehensive health care reform will be most successful when there is a collaborative effort to implement the change between business, government, health care providers, and individuals.

The Health System Reform task force is working diligently to provide additional options for Utah citizens in regards to health insurance. I support their efforts and will lend my expertise to them as they ask. Fifty four percent of the 300,000 uninsured individuals in Utah qualify for subsidized health insurance. We need to get them insured. This would benefit all Utahans, as we are currently subsidizing the uninsured population through our private health care premiums.

This would substantially help all Utahans if we were able to provide incentives for preventative care. I have seen this concept work first hand. My company implemented an incentive program for well woman exams, immunizations and well child check ups.



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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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Voter Information Inside

The AARP logo, consisting of the letters "AARP" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a small hook on its left side.