



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

State Assembly District No. 87

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.

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Legislative Priority

Question:

What will be your top state priorities if elected, and how will you work to break the gridlock to get things done on these issues?

AARP POSITION

AARP believes that providing quality, affordable health care and improving lifelong financial security should be top legislative priorities. AARP surveys show that Wisconsinites are worried 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: affording health care, saving for retirement, sending children to college and supporting aging parents.

Increasingly partisan political gridlock stands in the way of the ability to solve major issues. Wisconsinites want results from elected leaders, not promises without action. It's time for individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, and government to come together to find solutions.

CANDIDATE:
JUDY REAS
DEMOCRAT

My top state priorities include healthcare, education, economy and conservation. We need to set aside our differences and start working on issues that Wisconsinites deserve and will benefit from. We need to quit talking about the issues and the differences and work together to make this beautiful state a better place for all of our residents. I will work together with others to not only find solutions but to implement them as well.

We need to provide tax relief to property owners and one way would be to close corporate tax loopholes and to implement the Home Owners Property Exemption.

CANDIDATE:
MARY WILLIAMS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

Health Care Reform

Question:

How would you reform the health care system to make it a quality system that is affordable and accessible for every Wisconsinite?

AARP POSITION

AARP believes that all Wisconsinites deserve affordable, quality, and accessible health care. An individual's health care costs, including premiums, deductibles and out-of-pocket costs should be limited to between 5% and 10% of income. In an AARP Wisconsin survey, 69% of respondents age 50 -64 said the healthcare system is in a "state of crisis" or has "major problems." Those who have insurance and those who are uninsured respond similarly to this question. Over half of all respondents said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported healthcare coverage for all Wisconsin residents.

Three quarters of Wisconsinites age 50-64 without health insurance, are working. Half of Wisconsin's uninsured workers are self-employed or work for small employers. Many Wisconsinites are underinsured, paying too much for inadequate coverage.

CANDIDATE:
JUDY REAS
DEMOCRAT

Healthcare is an area in dire need of reform. I have over 20 years of experience working in the healthcare field and understand the issues that face the healthcare industry, the employers and the residents of Wisconsin.

Everyone must share in the responsibility to gain the benefits of affordable, quality health care for all. Like all reform, healthcare reform is easier to stop than pass. There are some good starts for reform but we need to keep groups talking to iron out differences and reach solutions that are acceptable for the benefit of Wisconsin.

CANDIDATE:
MARY WILLIAMS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

Health Care Cost

Question:

How do you propose to rein in the cost of health care while maintaining or improving the quality of and access to health care?

AARP POSITION

Across Wisconsin, individuals and employers are telling us that they can't afford health care; cost sharing is increasing and benefits are shrinking.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, health insurance premium costs nationwide have increased a cumulative 78% between 2001 and 2007. In an AARP Wisconsin survey, over eight in ten respondents said that making healthcare more affordable for all residents is extremely or very important.

AARP supports benefit packages that provide necessary care including chronic disease management, prescription drug coverage, prevention and wellness, mental health services. AARP also supports stronger oversight of the insurance industry.

AARP believes information technology, such as electronic medical records, would result in better, more efficient care, fewer mistakes and, ultimately, lower costs.

CANDIDATE:
JUDY REAS
DEMOCRAT

The cost of healthcare is undermining so many areas. Health insurance premium costs are forcing many employers to cut health insurance as a benefit, employees can't afford it, and that leaves more people uninsured, causing additional cost to healthcare providers and leaving more people without healthcare.

The state must step in to provide real solutions that will benefit the constituents without causing additional taxation. I will work to ensure that Wisconsinites get the same high quality health care that our legislators have had for years. Employers must be held accountable to share in the cost of health insurance without putting undue hardship on our businesses. The expansion of Badger Care this past year is certainly a start.

CANDIDATE:
MARY WILLIAMS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

Senior Care

Question:

*Do you support or oppose the continuation of SeniorCare at current benefit levels?
How would you ensure the SeniorCare program continues beyond December 2009?*

AARP POSITION

AARP Wisconsin and others are working on a plan to improve SeniorCare and provide an even more meaningful benefit to most participants of the program. The plan will be cost neutral to the state and will need legislative approval. According to a recent AARP Rx Watchdog Report, the cost of prescription drugs rose by more than 50%, on average, between 2002 and 2007. In Wisconsin about 100,000 Wisconsinites age 65 and older get help with the cost of their prescription drugs through SeniorCare. However, SeniorCare's future is uncertain because federal funding for the popular program will end in December 2009.

CANDIDATE:
JUDY REAS
DEMOCRAT

I definitely support SeniorCare and would like to see the benefits expanded to more of our seniors. I will fight to keep and expand this program.

CANDIDATE:
MARY WILLIAMS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

Whether it's fighting for affordable health care or working to ensure retirement security for all Americans, we can't do it without you. Sign up for free email updates and action alerts from AARP. We'll keep you informed about what's really going on in the White House, Congress, and your state legislature. Visit www.aarp.org/elections or fill out the form below.

Thank you for participating in the **AARP 2008 Election Project!**



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FIRST NAME	INIT. LAST NAME
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
ADDRESS	APT. #
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CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
EMAIL (for example: you@email@provider.com)	
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PHONE NUMBER	

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AARP 2008 Election Project
Office of Voter Education
601 E Street, NW
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www.aarp.org/elections

About the AARP 2008 Election Project:
AARP has launched the nonpartisan 2008 Election Project, and with your help we can make sure our voices are heard. We don't endorse any specific candidate or party. We just care about issues and with your help we'll make sure candidates take clear stands on the issues so people can make choices that reflect what's important to them.
Visit www.aarp.org/elections.



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

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