



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

State Assembly District No. 63

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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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:
LINDA FLASHINSKI
DEMOCRAT

If elected, my top priorities will be breaking the gridlock in the Assembly, realizing affordable health care for all Wisconsinites, creating an energy policy based on conservation and renewable energy, restructuring the funding of education and property taxes, strengthening environmental policies, and addressing economic issues for Wisconsin families.

Many important issues such as health care are not addressed in Wisconsin because they are gridlocked at the Assembly level. If the Assembly makeup changes, there will be movement on many key issues. It is also important that we look at what can be done to change the partisan structure of the state legislature so that people of good will from both parties will be able to work together to find solutions that work for Wisconsin.

CANDIDATE:
ROBIN VOS
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:
LINDA FLASHINSKI
DEMOCRAT

The need for health care reform must be a top priority in Wisconsin and in our nation. Citizens face so many health risks that citizens of other industrialized nations do not – loss of health insurance, financial ruin due to medical issues, etc. Massachusetts recently enacted health care reform and, while there are startup problems, a recent poll showed overwhelming support for it. While a single-payer system like Medicare would probably be the most efficient, citizens may prefer a system in which individuals can choose between a privatized or government plan. Whatever plan is crafted, I would work to create available, affordable health care to all of our citizens.

CANDIDATE:
ROBIN VOS
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:
LINDA FLASHINSKI
DEMOCRAT

In the needed development of health care reform, all players must work together to create an affordable plan for all citizens. Citizens can no longer afford the annual 15-20% increase of the privatized, for-profit plans.

Some of the avenues available to make health care affordable include: oversight, monitoring, and guidelines for insurance and health care entities; improvement in coverage of preventive medicine procedures; technology to provide uniformity; coordination of services among groups; cost guidelines for patient procedures; and auditing for efficiencies as we move a plan forward.

Solutions must be arrived at by those who forge out reform, but it is time to give our citizens and our seniors access to health care that does not threaten their financial or medical future.

CANDIDATE:
ROBIN VOS
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:
LINDA FLASHINSKI
DEMOCRAT

I support the continuation of SeniorCare beyond December of 2009, while my opponent voted against a referendum to allow citizens to tell the government that this successful SeniorCare program should not be allowed to expire. I think it is crucial that we uphold the quality of life for our most senior members and that they have access to affordable prescription medications.

I would work hard to support this program, or a plan that is just as comprehensive, to ensure it continues to exist for Wisconsin seniors.

CANDIDATE:
ROBIN VOS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.



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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