



# 2008 AARP Voters' Guide

## State Assembly District No. 86

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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*The power to make it better.*<sup>®</sup>

## 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:  
**NATE MYSZKA**  
DEMOCRAT

I will work on the priorities that I hear about from citizens here in the 86th District while talking to them at their doors and elsewhere -- primarily, working to ease the increasing economic strain, including finding a way to get affordable health care that's always there.

I've heard from seniors on fixed incomes who are facing an extra financial crunch because of rising costs, people who are near retirement that are worried about being able to save enough to retire, and younger families concerned that their jobs (and therefore their health care) may not always be there. I plan on reaching out to the Governor and legislators of both parties who are interested in addressing these issues in order find solutions.

CANDIDATE:  
**JERRY PETROWSKI**  
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:  
**NATE MYSZKA**  
DEMOCRAT

I believe we need to find a way to get to affordable health care that's always there. The fact that I was diagnosed at age 6 with Type 1 diabetes has always focused the issues of affordability and insurance "always being there" quite a bit for me because I see each and every day what might happen if I lost my insurance.

I am happy to listen to ideas from everyone to achieve comprehensive health care reform -- whether it be seniors, families, people with diseases like mine, unions, small businesses, large businesses, and anyone else.

CANDIDATE:  
**JERRY PETROWSKI**  
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:  
**NATE MYSZKA**  
DEMOCRAT

I am supportive of electronic medical records "in concept" to help lower health care costs and improve medical care accuracy, so long as stringent standards are put in place to protect our privacy.

I also believe we must find a way to get to affordable health care that's always there for everyone so citizens can get regular check-ups and catch illnesses earlier -- when it is cheaper to treat -- rather than waiting until the uninsured end up in an emergency room where care is vastly more expensive and others who are already insured end up paying through higher premiums.

We need to make sure our public health infrastructure is strong and able to do important work on preventable health problems.

CANDIDATE:  
**JERRY PETROWSKI**  
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: NATE MYSZKA DEMOCRAT

We absolutely must continue SeniorCare, and I will work closely with AARP, its membership, and other interested parties to find ways to do so once elected.

We need to keep the promises we've made to Wisconsin seniors.

#### CANDIDATE: JERRY PETROWSKI 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](http://www.aarp.org/elections) or fill out the form below.*

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



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**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](http://www.aarp.org/elections).



*If you are not registered to vote, go to [www.aarp.org/makeadifference/politics/](http://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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