



# 2008 AARP Voters' Guide

## State Assembly District No. 88

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:  
**JIM SOLETSKI**  
DEMOCRAT

As a state representative, my top-priorities will be creating a sustainable economy that brings jobs and economic prosperity back to the citizens of Wisconsin. We cannot afford to continue outsourcing well-paying state jobs. I have voted for the "American Jobs Act" which will help solve this problem.

In conjunction with these jobs, we must demand affordable and comprehensive health care. BadgerCare Plus is a good first step, but more work needs to be done. Along with a good economy and a well thought out health care plan, we have to implement a solid educational system that fosters learning and civic engagement to our youth.

I will reach out to all members of the Wisconsin Legislature to help in accomplishing long lasting health care, and a growing economy.

CANDIDATE:  
**TONY THEISEN**  
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: JIM SOLETSKI DEMOCRAT

As a citizen first, and a state representative second, these figures are very bothersome to me. All people should have affordable and adequate health care services available. It is imperative that we ensure pre-existing conditions do not penalize citizens ability to obtain and keep insurance. The size of the company, or if they are self-employed should not matter. The skyrocketing costs of health care must be restrained. Providing quality health care should be a top priority for all legislatures, as it is with me.

I will work with the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature to create policies that encompass all citizens.

Wisconsin is progressive state and needs to take the lead on this particular issue. We have started this process by fighting for BadgerCare Plus, and I look forward to finishing the job on health care reform.

#### CANDIDATE: TONY THEISEN 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:  
**JIM SOLETSKI**  
DEMOCRAT

Reducing the cost of insurance through minimizing the amount of administrative costs required will bring down the costs of health care.

We will put a system in place that will cover all citizens, provide a minimum level of affordable insurance eliminating the need to rely on emergency rooms to care for our families. This system will have oversight included so as to proactively protect the citizens of Wisconsin from the high prices of health care. Using improved technology in the health care industry will surely improve the accuracy and speed of treatment. Which will in the end save money. This process will not happen overnight, nor will it be inexpensive. However the time and money invested will yield a strong return.

CANDIDATE:  
**TONY THEISEN**  
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:  
**JIM SOLETSKI**  
DEMOCRAT

I have voted several times to "Urge the President to extend SeniorCare." I am also deeply bothered by the continuous increases of prescription drugs. The current levels of SeniorCare are a step in the right direction however, as your survey shows, we will need to increase the current benefit levels. I will work hard with all members, on both sides of the aisle, to accomplish this goal.

CANDIDATE:  
**TONY THEISEN**  
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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Office of Voter Education  
601 E Street, NW  
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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.*

AARP Wisconsin  
222 West Washington Ave #600  
Madison, WI, 53703  
1-866-448-3611

## **Voter Information Inside**

**AARP** 222 West Washington Ave. #600  
Madison WI 53703