



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

State Assembly District No. 93

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:
DARCY FIELDS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JEFF SMITH
DEMOCRAT

For the last two years I have been proud to represent the 93rd Assembly district. My legislative priorities have been, and will continue to be, creating more accessible healthcare, promoting a healthy economy and fixing the broken campaign finance system.

As a small business owner, I know the value of bringing people of varied backgrounds and ideologies to the table to solve problems. In the Assembly, I have reached across partisan boundaries on many initiatives, originating from both Democrats and Republicans. I will continue to bring new solutions to the problems facing Wisconsin because it is only by abandoning rigid political divides that we can find the right solution.

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:
DARCY FIELDS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JEFF SMITH
DEMOCRAT

I believe health care is a right, not a privilege. The people of Wisconsin should have access to the same health care that I, as a lawmaker, have.

Creating a healthcare plan that provides more coverage for hard-working Wisconsin families is at the top of my priority list. It is time we stop blaming each other for lack of accessibility and start working together to solve the problem in a bipartisan way.

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:
DARCY FIELDS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JEFF SMITH
DEMOCRAT

During the last session, I introduced a bill that would have allowed small businesses to take advantage of the health care plan enjoyed by state employees. This bill would have increased access to quality healthcare while also helping small business owners defray the growing costs of quality insurance.

As a small business owner myself I know what this means to both owners and employees. Creating a solution to this problem is among the very top of my legislative priorities for the next term.

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:
DARCY FIELDS
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JEFF SMITH
DEMOCRAT

I support the continuation of SeniorCare that has proven to be one of the most successful health care programs for seniors in the country.

The recovery of Senior Care last year was probably the finest moment for the 2007-2008 legislative session. It proved that Democrats and Republicans are able to work together in a crisis. I will continue to work with our U.S. Congressional delegation and with our Governor to ensure that SeniorCare remains available for years to come.

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
Washington, DC 20049
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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