



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

State Senate District No. 12

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

Inside:

Legislative Priority	2
Health Care Reform	3
Health Care Cost	4
SeniorCare	5



The power to make it better.®

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 HOLPERIN
DEMOCRAT

1. High energy prices. I will seek opportunities for northern Wisconsin to participate fully in the race to energy independence by harnessing our research facilities, biomass and workforce.
2. Education. I will advocate for rural districts facing declining enrollments, and for ways to avoid divisive local school funding referenda.
3. Environment. The Northwood's economy depends on a healthy environment and access to natural resources. I will work to assure both.
4. Infrastructure. The north needs good roads, more rail and access to high speed internet.

"Gridlock": I will support the use of more bi-partisan task forces similar to the Governor's task force on global warming.

CANDIDATE:
THOMAS TIFFANY
REPUBLICAN

My main priorities in office include fiscal accountability, affordable energy, job creation, and affordable health care. Smart choices must be made, separating wants from needs. The taxpayers of Wisconsin have tightened their belts; it is time state government does the same. Simply taking more money from those who fuel Wisconsin's economic engine is a prescription for economic anxiety. It is time for new ideas rather than the old ones that have landed us where we are today. Our economic prosperity depends on it. I believe that Less is More. Less taxation, less regulation and less litigation leads to more-- More opportunity, more jobs, more prosperity. I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reach these goals.

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 HOLPERIN DEMOCRAT

I assume this issue will be a high priority for our next President and that a national health insurance plan will be enacted by 2010.

Barring that, I would support:

Expanding BadgerCare to include adults who do not have children eligible for the program (since these adults with children can already get coverage).

Requiring health insurance providers to accept more risk by insuring individuals who are denied coverage currently.

Other reforms that use the state's negotiating and buying power to hold down the cost of medications.

CANDIDATE: THOMAS TIFFANY REPUBLICAN

I support the continuation of our current state and federal health care programs while addressing the issues of cost. Choice, Control, Information. Those three fundamentals must be pursued to make health care more affordable for Wisconsin citizens. We need to provide tax incentives for improved electronic medical record implementation, which will create full disclosure of costs and transferability while improving care and decreasing cost.

We also need to stop taxing healthcare and increase disclosure of health care costs to allow consumers control and choice in their health care decision making process. These avenues will help to lower cost and increase access to comprehensive health care plans.

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 HOLPERIN DEMOCRAT

I would be receptive to considering ideas like those proposed by AARP. I also understand as AARP certainly must, that its proposals would not significantly "rein in" health care costs. Bolder action is required.

I support national health insurance modeled upon Medicare. Failing that I would support convening a state-level task force on health care costs to make recommendation on the issue.

CANDIDATE: THOMAS TIFFANY REPUBLICAN

Through addressing the Choice, Control, Information avenues discussed in the previous response, it will lower cost and increase access to health care. The state should also encourage increased usage of purchasing pools. There has been success in Wisconsin with pooling farmers around our state to provide greater purchasing power to lower costs.

We've also seen the positive impact of pooling with SeniorCare, where the state government is able to negotiate with the drug companies to obtain lower drug prices.

I support the continuation of our current health care programs along with encouraging strategies such as tiered coverage choices so that employees can choose a plan that best meets their needs. These avenues will lower cost while allowing Wisconsinites the choices and affordability that they desire.

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 HOLPERIN
DEMOCRAT

I support the continuation of SeniorCare. I would assist efforts to lobby congress to allow the program to continue as a model for other states.

CANDIDATE:
THOMAS TIFFANY
REPUBLICAN

SeniorCare fills a valuable need for Wisconsin seniors, and I support the continuation of the program at current benefit levels. I will ask our state and federal legislators to join me to ensure the continuation of the SeniorCare federal waiver and fight to maintain benefits at their current level into the future.

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!**



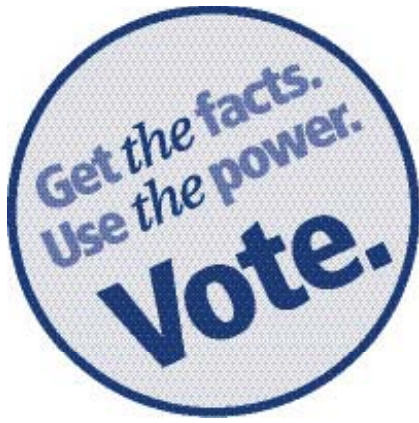
.....

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

Yes, please email me news, information, and offers from AARP and organizations that provide exclusive AARP discounts and benefits.

Please mail form to:
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.

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