



# 2008 AARP Voters' Guide

## State Senate District No. 20

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](http://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:  
**GLENN GROTHMAN**  
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:  
**CLYDE WINTER**  
INDEPENDENT

- Universal comprehensive health care.
- Take control of government away from corporations and return it to the people
- Reform the unfair, regressive tax burden.
- Stop the loss of good jobs to outsourcing, downsizing, and “free” world trade.
- Protect the environment, arrest climate change and pollution.
- Support excellence in public education, the arts, and public safety services.

Free public education (like social security insurance) should be a legacy each generation hands on, protected and strengthened, to the next. Elders should not end their lives in poverty. This clearly marks the distinction between aristocracy and true democracy – a government of, by, and for the people.

## 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:  
**GLENN GROTHMAN**  
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:  
**CLYDE WINTER**  
INDEPENDENT

Universal comprehensive single-payer health care is the only way, and a certain way, that health care outcomes for all Americans can be improved while simultaneously reducing the total cost of health care we are currently paying. We will pay less and get more by eliminating the handsomely paid gatekeeper that provides no health care and just says "NO" to people with "pre-existing conditions", "NO" to self-employed or unemployed people, "NO" to your choice of family doctor, "NO" to you and your doctor's preferred treatment.

Support passage of HR 676 in Congress and Wisconsin's Health Security Act in the state legislature.

## 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:  
**GLENN GROTHMAN**  
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:  
**CLYDE WINTER**  
INDEPENDENT

Please refer to my series of published articles on the health care crisis, archived in: <http://clydewinter.wordpress.com/category/health-care-crisis>.

One of the worst myths afflicting people in the US (caused by unrelenting propaganda) is that it would cost us more than we are currently spending to get better health care for all Americans, and to have universal comprehensive health care. Not true. It would cost less.

Measured health care outcomes in the USA have been getting steadily and rapidly worse, compared with the rest of the industrialized world, and our per capita costs have risen much faster than the rest of the world. Every other modern country has universal comprehensive health care for all, with better outcomes, and at a cost approximately half of ours.

## 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:  
**GLENN GROTHMAN**  
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:  
**CLYDE WINTER**  
INDEPENDENT

SeniorCare is an important program made necessary by the health care crisis affecting virtually all Americans. It is part of the patchwork of band-aid reforms to shore-up a systemic problem. I propose, and will continue to focus on and fight for a systemic solution that will help Americans of all ages and all walks of life. As I continue that fight, I will support the continuation of SeniorCare at current benefit levels.





*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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