



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

State Senate District No. 18

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:
RANDY HOPPER
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JESSICA KING
DEMOCRAT

As a State Senator I will: work to bring good, family supporting jobs to our community, fight to ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare, never stop fighting to make our neighborhoods safe and secure, and work to build responsible budgets.

In order to achieve results on these issues it will be necessary to work in a bipartisan fashion. I intend to build a coalition of support for results, with the same work ethic that I use to achieve results as a member of the Oshkosh Common Council. I believe that there is bipartisan constituent consensus in the 18th State Senate District that the legislature must focus on job and healthcare security.

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:
RANDY HOPPER
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JESSICA KING
DEMOCRAT

During my career as an attorney, I represented healthcare providers and their patients as they struggled with medical necessity and pre-existing condition claim denials. Reform must provide people and healthcare providers with security. As a bankruptcy attorney and consumer advocate, I confront the results of ineffective access to healthcare, along with the defeated consumers and providers who attempt to navigate the current bureaucracy.

People must have confidence that a paid premium provides access to meaningful, quality healthcare. Reform must include disclosure to consumers of cost and outcomes achieved.

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:
RANDY HOPPER
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JESSICA KING
DEMOCRAT

I believe that reform must include all parties in the healthcare system. I believe that reform must include disclosure of cost and outcomes achieved. I believe that healthcare consumers must be given an opportunity to make choices with transparency of information. Once consumers have paid their premiums, they should receive the delivery of service without fear of claim denial or loopholes in coverage. People need security in healthcare to lead productive lives.

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:
RANDY HOPPER
REPUBLICAN

Candidate chose not to respond.

CANDIDATE:
JESSICA KING
DEMOCRAT

I support the continuation of SeniorCare, and I think that Wisconsin should be proud that we are able to continue this program and be a national leader, providing access to prescription drugs for our Seniors. I am willing to support our federal delegation in their efforts to obtain an extension of SeniorCare beyond 2009.

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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| PHONE NUMBER | |

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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.

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Voter Information Inside

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