

Family Caregiving in Wisconsin: Overwhelming Support for a Caregiver Tax Credit

2019 AARP Survey of Wisconsin Registered Voters 40 and Older



ABOUT THIS SURVEY

This AARP Wisconsin survey of 1,000 Wisconsin registered voters, age 40 and older, seeks to understand the experiences of family caregiving and support of legislative policies to help family caregivers. Data was collected through a telephone survey conducted in June-July, 2019.

KEY FINDINGS

About nine in ten Wisconsin registered voters age 40 and older support the provision of a state income tax credit to family caregivers, who incur expenses for the care and support of a family member living in Wisconsin.

Support for a State Income Tax Credit for Family Caregivers
(Registered Voters 40+ N=1,000)
Support vs. Oppose



State income tax credit to family caregivers who incur expenses for the care and support of a family member living in Wisconsin

Support for a tax credit reaches well over the majority of voters in Wisconsin regardless of their political party. Registered voters, who identified their political party as Republican, Democrat, or Independent, overwhelmingly support a tax credit for family caregivers.

Percentage Supporting a Tax Credit by Political Party

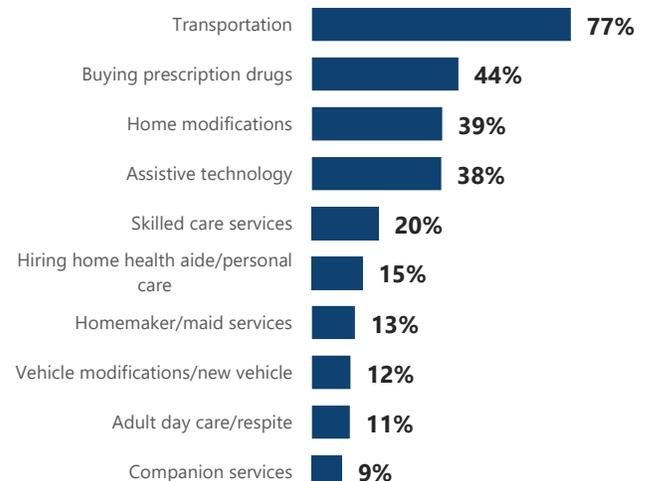
Republicans	Independents	Democrats
87%	90%	96%

Many Wisconsin voters age 40-plus have experience as family caregivers. Nearly half of Wisconsin voters say they have provided care – either currently (15%) or in the past (33%) – on an unpaid basis for an adult loved one who is ill, frail, elderly, or who has a disability. Most of these current or former caregivers (57%) say they have spent their own money to care for their loved ones.

57% of current or former caregivers use their own money to provide care.

Wisconsin caregivers are most likely to spend money transporting their loved ones to where they need to go. They also buy prescription drugs, modify their homes or their loved one's home, or purchase assistive technology.

Where Caregivers (Current and Former) Spent Money on Care (n=277)



A quarter of Wisconsin caregivers also say that they are strained financially due to their caregiver responsibilities.

IMPLICATIONS

Caregivers in Wisconsin are already providing much needed unpaid care to their loved ones. Family members are often the ones who provide care to their loved ones to help them through an illness or with chronic care or at the end of life. And most voters in Wisconsin (79%) would prefer – **to receive care at home** from a caregiver if they needed help due to aging or illness.

In Wisconsin, it is estimated that there are **578,000 caregivers**¹ who provide more than **538 million hours** of unpaid care valued at over **\$7 billion** each year.

Family caregivers have a huge responsibility – they help their loved ones with meals, chores, and shopping. They assist with bathing and dressing, manage medications, and perform nursing tasks. They take their loved ones where they need to go and shop for them. **And, they spend their own money caring for them.** That may be why so many registered voters 40-plus in Wisconsin support the provision of a state income tax credit for caregivers who incur expenses while caring for their loved ones in Wisconsin.

¹ Valuing the Invaluable: 2015 Update, AARP Public Policy Institute, July 2015.

SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

N = 1,000 registered voters 40 and older residing in Wisconsin

Demographic Variable	Weighted
Age	
40 – 49	21%
50 – 54	13%
55 – 64	30%
65 or older	37%
Gender	
Men	46%
Women	54%
Race/Ethnicity	
White or Caucasian	87%
Non-White	6%
Hispanic	1%
Education	
High school degree or less	41%
2-year degree or more	54%
Employment Status	
Employed	52%
Retired	33%
Voting Frequency in State Elections	
Always	61%
Most of the time	24%
Marital Status	
Married	59%
Not-married	36%
Household Income	
Less than \$30,000	16%
\$30,000 - \$74,999	34%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12%
\$100,000 or more	19%

METHODOLOGY

AARP Wisconsin commissioned a telephone survey among 1,000 registered voters age 40-plus in Wisconsin to learn about their experiences with family caregiving. The sample utilized an age-targeted landline and cell phone registered voter list obtained from Aristotle International. Wisconsin registered voters 40-plus who lived in rural counties were oversampled. Quotas were used in this study based on age and gender and were filled based on responses to questions in the questionnaire. Respondents were selected at random from the sample list to be dialed. American Directions Research Group (ADRG) asked to speak with the registered voter listed on the file. If that person was unavailable, ADRG asked to speak with another member of the household age 40-plus who was registered to vote in Wisconsin. The interviews were conducted from June 17 through July 12, 2019. The interviews averaged 19 minutes in length and were conducted in English. The data is weighted by age, gender, and geography to reflect registered voters in Wisconsin age 40-plus, based on the sample source. Percentages reported are rounded. The margin of error for this survey is ± 3.1 percent.

For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Terri Guengerich at 202-434-6306 or tguengerich@aarp.org. For more information on this issue in Wisconsin, please contact Helen Marks Dicks at 608-286-6337 or HMDicks@aarp.org.