



State House District 104

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HAVING TROUBLE CUTTING THROUGH THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN CLUTTER?

AARP is committed to helping you get the facts you need to choose candidates who reflect your values. We are non-partisan – we don't support or oppose any political candidates or contribute any money to campaigns or political action committees. Our priority is ensuring you know where the candidates stand before you cast your vote.

HOW TO USE THE AARP VOTERS' GUIDE:

AARP asked the major candidates in this race for their solutions about issues important to AARP members, Americans age 50-plus, and their families. Each candidate was allowed up to 625 characters to answer the questions. Their responses were not edited nor modified.

AARP has provided a summary of our position for each of the issues in this guide.

Accessing Affordable Health Care Coverage

Will you support or oppose the expansion of Medicaid in Pennsylvania?

AARP's Position:

AARP Pennsylvania Position
Access to health care coverage and the creation of the health insurance exchange is critically important for AARP members age 50+ but not yet eligible for Medicare. During this historic economic recession, many of these individuals have lost their jobs and their employer sponsored insurance coverage. That's why AARP supports the expansion of Medicaid which would provide 100 percent federal funding to expand coverage to individuals with incomes at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

Christopher C. Dietz (Dem):

I support the expansion of Medicare in Pennsylvania. We need to make sure that current and future Pennsylvanians are able to access and pay for high-quality coverage. I believe that Medicare should cover a standardized list of benefits that are affordable and that any identifiable areas of fraud and waste should be eliminated or reformed.

Susan C. Helm (Rep):

The candidate chose not to respond.

Home and Community Based Care

Do you support using lottery funds for nursing home costs or do you believe these dollars should be used to expand the existing lottery-funded home and community based services program (PENNCARE)?

AARP's Position:

AARP Pennsylvania Position
AARP believes lottery funding should be reserved for programs designed to help individuals remain in their home and community and should not be transferred to the Medicaid program to be used to pay for nursing home care.

Christopher C. Dietz (Dem):

Lottery funds should be used to expand the existing lottery-funded home and community based services program, called PENNCARE.

Susan C. Helm (Rep):

The candidate chose not to respond.

Fair and Reasonable Electric Rates

Some marketers support eliminating standard offer service (designating a single company as the default service provider for customers who do not choose an electric service provider), or changing the way it is provided. How will you ensure that standard electric service is provided at rates that are cost-based and reasonable?

AARP's Position:

AARP Pennsylvania Position
For older individuals, particularly those living on fixed incomes, utility expenditures become a larger portion of the household budget as rates increase. In restructured retail energy markets residential consumers should be ensured that standard offer service is always available at stable, predictable, and affordable prices. Suggestions to tie standard offer service to short-term wholesale market prices or other pricing strategies should be rejected.

Christopher C. Dietz (Dem):

I would work with the PUC to keep electric rates as low as possible so that no company has a monopoly on electricity service in any region of Pennsylvania. I would also reach out to groups like AARP and local senior centers to educate their membership about electric choice and how to switch to new providers. I would like to see a comprehensive listing of rates from providers accessible by zip code to help consumers choose the best company for them.

Susan C. Helm (Rep):

The candidate chose not to respond.

Pension Reform

Will you support or oppose pension reform legislation that limits access to defined benefit plans or reduces promised benefits and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for existing workers and retirees?

AARP's Position:

AARP Pennsylvania Position
AARP supports reforms to state pension funds that are fiscally responsible, ensure long-term viability of existing defined-benefit plans, and protect workers' financial security. Proposals that reduce benefits retirees earned on the job will be opposed. AARP is attentive to workers who have contributed to a pension plan for a significant time, or who are in or close to retirement. AARP supports legislative efforts to protect retirees from reduction or elimination of promised benefits, preserve access to defined benefit plans and cost of living adjustments, and limit taxation of benefits.

Christopher C. Dietz (Dem):

I support keeping the pension promises that have been made to our seniors and retirees. Workers have been working toward retirement under an established set of rules and benefits. They have tailored their savings and retirement plans based on existing benefit rules.

Susan C. Helm (Rep):

The candidate chose not to respond.

Tired of the campaign clutter? The AARP Voters' Guide will help you find out where the candidates stand on the issues important to you and your family.



For more information, please go to www.aarp.org/yourvote.

Voter Information Inside