



NATIONAL POLICY COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION DESCRIPTION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

PURPOSE OF POSITION

An advisory body to the AARP Board of Directors composed of a diverse cross-section of AARP members with a proven record of public policy interest and experience.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF POSITION

The National Policy Council (NPC) makes public policy recommendations for the Board's consideration and issuance. In doing so, it studies public policy options and considers opinions of members, guidance of staff and nationally renowned policy experts.

NPC members must:

- attend all NPC meetings (approximately three to five held throughout the year);
- serve as a member of one of three policy committees: Consumer and Livable Communities; Economic, Employment and Low-Income Issues; or Health and Long-Term Care. Expand knowledge of issues within policy committee jurisdiction;
- keep informed on public policy issues and developments (especially on issues relating to Policy Committee assignment);
- serve as resource and spokesperson on AARP public policy (this could include testifying before legislative or regulatory bodies; speaking at and/or attending conferences; leading policy discussions with AARP volunteers and members);
- coordinate activities through and communicate regularly with the Office of Policy Integration;
- perform related work as required.

APPOINTMENT CRITERIA

In appointing members to its advisory body, the AARP Board of Directors considers professional qualifications as well as additional considerations (see below).

QUALIFICATIONS

Certain proven abilities are desirable in NPC appointees—knowledge and skills necessary to assess, deliberate, and articulate AARP’s positions on complex matters of public policy. Candidates for the NPC must be able to demonstrate:

- commitment to the goals, philosophy, and public policies and priorities of AARP;
- ability to understand complex policy issues and to weigh their impact both on the general 50+ population and on vulnerable subpopulations;
- experience developing and analyzing policy issues in a legislative, regulatory, legal or political arena;
- occupational background and areas of issue expertise;
- ability and willingness to defend and clearly communicate AARP’s policy positions, once they are established by the Board of Directors, to members, elected officials, policy experts and the media;
- ability and willingness to represent AARP in a nonpartisan manner;
- ability and willingness to provide testimony on behalf of AARP;
- ability and willingness to work well with people from diverse backgrounds;
- ability to take a “national” (vs. local) perspective on issues;
- ability to distinguish between national and local volunteer roles;
- availability and willingness to travel to Washington and around the country for NPC meetings and activities; and
- membership in AARP.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following will also be taken into consideration in the appointment of qualified candidates:

- the NPC reflects to the extent possible the diversity of AARP’s large membership, factors including, but not limited to: gender, race and ethnicity, age, income, disability, geography (including from rural areas, etc).

LENGTH OF SERVICE

Members are appointed for a two-year term and are eligible for reappointment for up to six years.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MULTIPLE AARP VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Eligible for other AARP positions. NPC responsibilities take precedence in cases of conflicts of time.

TIME/TRAINING/TRAVEL REQUIRED

National Policy Council members are expected to attend the NPC Policy Development Meeting, policy committee and roundtables sessions, policy forums and other meetings as appropriate. NPC members may be asked to travel to states to obtain policy input and describe changes to AARP public policies. NPC members are required to devote a substantial amount of time on an ongoing basis to the review and study of complex issue materials. Exposure to certain issues may also stimulate further activities on behalf of the Association, such as participation on Boards and Commissions.

Training will be available on issues and skills as the position requires.

Significant travel may be required.

APPOINTMENTS

The Board of Directors appoints members of the National Policy Council based upon recommendations from the National Policy Council Nominating Committee.

SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

- National Policy Council members are voting members of the National Policy Council which makes public policy recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- National Policy Council members are authorized to counsel, advise and inform AARP volunteers as needed on public policy.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

National Policy Council members are appointed by the Board of Directors and staffed by the Office of Policy Integration.

REVIEW

Activities of National Policy Council members are reviewed on an ongoing basis and are reviewed formally every two years by the board-appointed NPC Nominating Committee.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

National Policy Council members have a wide range of resources to support their work including:

- Office of Policy Integration;
- Public Policy Institute;
- other AARP staff involved with legislation, regulation and public policy;
- National Policy Council members and policy committee chairs;
- training sessions on public policy issues and skills;
- research and public policy documents on important legislative issues;
- regular NPC updates;
- attendance at issued-focused conferences;
- various AARP newsletters on advocacy and policy matters; and
- AARP paid travel and other expenses incurred by members while on NPC business.