Lieutenant Governor | Virginia

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 150 words to answer the question. AARP did not edit or modify those answers. The candidates checked the support or oppose circles. In addition, 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 8th.

www.aarp.org/va
Q: Do you support or oppose reforming Virginia’s long-term care system to ensure that consumers in need of long-term care have access to a full and balanced range of services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AARP's Position:</th>
<th>William T. “Bill” Bolling (R):</th>
<th>Leslie L. Byrne (D):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebalancing Virginia’s long-term care funding to provide more home and community care options</td>
<td>Rebalancing Virginia’s long-term care funding to provide more home and community care options</td>
<td>Rebalancing Virginia’s long-term care funding to provide more home and community care options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposes</td>
<td>Opposes</td>
<td>Opposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing a program to assist certain nursing home residents to return home or to community based settings when desired and appropriate</td>
<td>Establishing a program to assist certain nursing home residents to return home or to community based settings when desired and appropriate</td>
<td>Establishing a program to assist certain nursing home residents to return home or to community based settings when desired and appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposes</td>
<td>Opposes</td>
<td>Opposes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many older Virginians who need help with activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing, and dressing would prefer to remain in their homes as long as possible. Virginia, however, allocates 70% of its Medicaid long-term care spending to nursing homes, while only 30% goes to home and community-based services. AARP believes that rebalancing Virginia’s long-term care system is the best way to allow older Virginians to remain in their homes as long as possible. In 2005, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that requires the Commonwealth to ensure that a “balanced range” of services are delivered to older Virginians “consistent with their needs and preferences.” These services should be provided “in the most independent, least restrictive and most appropriate living situation possible.” AARP supports reforms that rebalance long term care funding to allow eligible individuals to choose where to receive long-term care services. AARP also supports the establishment of a program to assist those nursing home residents who are able and wish to move back home, or into other less restrictive settings, to do so.

I enthusiastically support rebalancing Virginia's long term care program to enable more older Virginians who are in need of long term care services to remain at home, as opposed to being placed in a nursing home. In home services can be more beneficial to long term care recipients, and these services can be provided at less cost to the taxpayers. This approach is a win/win situation for everyone. I also support providing tax credits to encourage more Virginians to purchase private long term care insurance to provide for their own long term care needs, as opposed to relying on government to provide for these needs. This would enable older Virginians to receive quality long term care services without having to deplete their personal assets before receiving state assistance.

I support reform for Virginia’s long-term care system. During my years in the Virginia Senate, I was a champion of improving the current system. Whether it is extending long-term-care funding for more home-care options or protecting those in nursing homes from abuse and neglect, I will continue to build on my record of being a strong voice for the concerns of seniors and their families. In the past I have introduced a series of bills and studies to protect seniors from abuse and neglect in nursing homes, and as Lt. Governor I will work to ensure that every senior has a living arrangement that is appropriate for his or her needs and where his or her dignity is protected.
Q: Would you support or oppose the establishment of a “no wrong door” system for long-term care services in Virginia?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AARP's Position:</th>
<th>William T. “Bill” Bolling (R):</th>
<th>Leslie L. Byrne (D):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a “no wrong door system” for persons seeking long-term care services</td>
<td>Establish a “no wrong door system” for persons seeking long-term care services</td>
<td>Establish a “no wrong door system” for persons seeking long-term care services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Supports Opposes</td>
<td>✓ Supports Opposes</td>
<td>✓ Supports Opposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in information technology and other systems to make it easier for people seeking services and to avoid duplicate information</td>
<td>Invest in information technology and other systems to make it easier for people seeking services and to avoid duplicate information</td>
<td>Invest in information technology and other systems to make it easier for people seeking services and to avoid duplicate information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Supports Opposes</td>
<td>✓ Supports Opposes</td>
<td>✓ Supports Opposes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Older persons and their families seeking long-term care services face a confusing array of public and private services and providers in Virginia. Finding their way through the maze of these services without help often means that people cannot find quality services, spend too much money on the inappropriate services, or end up in nursing homes when their needs and desires might have been better met with services in their community. Virginian’s should understand what their choices are and receive timely notice of program eligibility if they are to have a real choice of services and the settings where services are received. A “single point of entry” (SEP) or “no wrong door” system that would make it easier needs to be established in Virginia. Such a system would make it easier for individuals needing long-term care services to get the most appropriate care in the right setting.

I would support establishing an open door system for accessing long-term care services in Virginia. In fact, I have previously supported initial efforts to help create such a system by making certain that information regarding long-term care services is readily available within the Department of Health, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, Area Agencies On Aging and other public entities. Our goal should be to make certain that any citizen in the Commonwealth can easily obtain information on the various services that are available to qualified recipients.

I strongly support the establishment of a “single point-of-entry” or “no wrong door” system for long-term care services. Technological advances make this not only possible but economically sound. As the nation’s consumer advocate, I fought for government to provide the best, most cost-effective information to consumers so they can make informed choices. As Lt. Governor, I will continue to push for government to simplify the process and assist Virginians in navigating it.
**Q:** Do you support or oppose increasing funding for public transportation programs, particularly those serving the elderly and persons with disabilities?

**AARP’s Position:**
Do you support or oppose increasing funding for public transportation programs, particularly those serving the elderly and persons with disabilities?

**Supports**  **Opposes**

The ability to get around a person’s community is crucial to his or her quality of life. This is especially true for older persons who no longer drive. Having affordable, easy-to-use, and flexible transportation choices is essential to going to doctor’s appointments, staying in contact with family and friends, and preserving a sense of independence. As the “baby boomer” generation ages, increasing numbers of people may be isolated because of where they live and the lack of alternatives to driving.

AARP believes it is critical that policymakers begin to address the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities now by offering choices beyond driving, and allowing people to travel independently in their communities.

**William T. “Bill” Bolling (R):**
Do you support or oppose increasing funding for public transportation programs, particularly those serving the elderly and persons with disabilities?

**Supports**  **Opposes**

I do support additional funding for public transportation programs that serve the elderly and persons with disabilities. I understand that many older Virginians, particularly those with disabilities, have a hard time getting around, and this can impact their quality of life and their ability to access programs that they are eligible to participate in. It is important for us to make these programs accessible for qualified participants. Otherwise, the programs are meaningless.

**Leslie L. Byrne (D):**
Do you support or oppose increasing funding for public transportation programs, particularly those serving the elderly and persons with disabilities?

**Supports**  **Opposes**

This is one of the most crucial issues facing a number of seniors today and with baby boomers aging, it becomes even more critical in this auto-centric nation. The question is: How do you remain part of the community, get to doctor’s appointments, attend church, and visit friends if you no longer drive? Flexible and affordable transportation options for the elderly and disabled are essential for so many Virginians, and I will fight for additional state resources to support these important initiatives as Lt. Governor.
Q: Do you support or oppose prohibiting payday lenders from making a loan to a borrower who has an outstanding loan? Do you support or oppose requiring a waiting period between payday loans?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue: Payday Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AARP’s Position:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibit payday lenders from making a loan to borrower who has an outstanding loan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require a waiting period between payday loans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The candidate chose not check boxes

Payday loans are short-term, high interest loans often used by people who need money before payday. These loans by check-cashing outlets in Virginia have up to a 390% annual rate. Payday loan legislation in Virginia prohibits payday lenders from renewing, refinancing, extending payday loans or making more than one loan at a time to a borrower. However, many borrowers still renew their loans and are getting more than one loan at a time. The average payday loan borrower in Virginia obtains 12 loans a year.

AARP supports establishing a database of payday loan borrowers that lenders must check before making a loan. If a borrower is listed on the database, the lender can not make a payday loan to that person for at least 1 month after the loan is repaid.

There may be legitimate reasons for a borrower to obtain more than one payday loan, or to obtain back to back payday loans. Accordingly, I would be reluctant to prohibit a borrower’s ability to do this in state law. However, I agree that it is important for us to strike the proper balance between making payday loans available to people who need them and making certain that the structure of these loans do not become an unbearable burden for borrowers. I am willing to work with AARP and any other interested organizations or individuals to try and reform existing state laws to achieve this goal.

I was a strong voice against the legislation legalizing payday lending in Virginia during the 2002 General Assembly session. I believed then and believe today that payday lending preys on those with the fewest financial resources. I would rather rescind the 2002 legislation than just amend it, but short of that I would support legislation that protects Virginians from the worst abuses. In particular, I would bolster enforcement mechanisms for preventing multiple payday loans to the same borrower and the rolling over of single payday loans. Even payday loans’ advocates see the proper role of these loans as being an infrequent, emergency fix, not a way of life. We must all work toward requiring a waiting period between loans.
AARP is making a difference—

Whether it’s fighting for affordable health care or working to ensure retirement security for all Americans. But 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 2005 Election Project!

FIRST NAME INITIAL LAST NAME

ADDRESS APT. #

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

EMAIL (for example: youremail@provider.com)

About the AARP 2005 Election Project:
AARP has launched the nonpartisan 2005 Election Project, and with your help we can make sure our voices are heard in 2005. 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
AARP is nonpartisan and does not own a political action committee (PAC), endorse political candidates, or contribute money to political parties or political candidates’ campaigns. AARP educates the public about issues of concern to older Americans and their families through voter guides, issue workshops, and candidate forums.

For more information contact:
AARP Virginia
707 E. Main Street, Suite 910
Richmond, VA 23219
1-866-542-8164
www.aarp.org/va