



Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health

www.supportwomenshealth.org

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Organization Introduces WAWH Voter's Guide *Dedicated to Voter Education & Empowerment*

Madison – The Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) just released *The WAWH Voter's Guide*, which is designed to help voters determine how candidates feel about issues affecting women's health.

"With more than 20 legislative bills introduced last session that sought to restrict access to reproductive health care services and information, it is extremely important that candidates publicly acknowledge their stance on a variety of issues that will affect women's health in Wisconsin," said WAWH Director Sara Finger. "There's no better to ensure that than giving voters the tools they need to ask the right questions about this important issue."

State and federal policies have a huge impact on the issues affecting women's daily lives, but election data consistently shows that women are the largest group of non-voters in the United States. Women ages 18 to 24 vote less than any other age group.

"Education is the key to motivating young women to become engaged in the democratic process" said Finger. "At the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health, we believe that infrequent voters and new voters are more likely to vote when they learn where candidates stand on an issue that's as important as women's health care access."

The Voter's Guide is designed to be used as a quick and easy reference at local candidate appearances, forums, face-to-face meetings or in written communication. It is intended strictly for educational purposes and is not intended to influence the outcome of any election.

"Seeking answers to the questions that are important to you can be very intimidating. Our goal is to empower voters so that they can make the most informed choice possible on Election Day," said Finger.

WAWH has also created an Election Guide, which includes a detailed checklist of what every new voter needs to know before they head to the polls.

To learn more WAWH and its voter education efforts visit www.supportwomenshealth.org.

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*The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance women's health by creating an environment in which the public and elected officials confidently support women's health policy.
To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: www.supportwomenshealth.org*

A Voter's Guide to Asking Candidates Questions Relating to: Women's Health Issues

*Do your area candidates support Wisconsin women's health?
Call their campaign office or ask a question publicly at a candidate
appearance in your area.*

To find out who's running for office, visit wisconsinvote.org/candidates

1. Funding for Family Planning

Wisconsin's family planning health centers serve more than 150,000 Wisconsin women. Low-income women may obtain subsidized family planning services from health centers that receive state and federal funding under programs such as Title V and Title X. Services offered at these health centers include: annual exams; contraceptive services; family planning counseling; and pregnancy counseling. Every year demand increases for these services, yet spending remains below what is needed to serve this demand. **Would you support continued public funding for family planning services?**

2. Emergency Contraception

For over thirty years, women have used emergency contraception (EC) to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex. EC is simply a dose of oral contraceptives taken up to 120 hours after unprotected sex to safely and effectively prevent pregnancy. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists estimates that expanded access to EC could reduce the unintended pregnancy rate and incidence of abortion by half. **Do you support efforts to increase access to emergency contraception, by requiring hospital emergency rooms to give rape victims information and access to emergency contraception?**

3. Comprehensive, Medically Accurate Sex Education

Unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates for teens are shockingly high in our state. Research shows that responsible, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education works to delay onset of sexual activity and helps to prevent teen pregnancies and reduce STI's. Polls show that 85% of Americans support sex education that includes information about abstinence, contraception, and disease prevention. **Do you support the teaching of responsible, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education, including information about both abstinence and contraception, in Wisconsin schools?**

4. Right to Information

Prenatal care and tests are a vital part of health care for pregnant women because women must have access to the full range of information necessary to preserve their own health and lives *and* to make important personal decisions about their pregnancies. Yet every year legislation is introduced that would allow physicians to intentionally or negligently omit information regarding the availability and results of prenatal diagnostic tests and genetic counseling based only on a personal opposition to pregnancy termination. **Do you support women's access to comprehensive information necessary to health care decision making and health care services to enhance and preserve their health and life without the possibility of personal bias or objections from health care professionals?**

5. Health Care Reform

Health care remains a top concern for Wisconsin women and families. In Wisconsin, approximately 10.6% of the population is living without insurance. **Do you support the creation of a publicly-funded, universal single-payer system in our state?**

6. Mental Health Parity

Mental health and substance abuse problems affect hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites each year, yet many of these conditions are treatable. Studies suggest that insurance coverage of mental illness and substance abuse can decrease overall medical costs because of increased use of preventive versus acute care. **Would you support a Wisconsin Mental Health Parity Act which would provide equal coverage of mental health services under health insurance policies?**

7. Funding for Victims of Violence

Around the world at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Gender-based violence is a major public health concern and a violation of human rights. Adequate state and federal program funding is needed to ensure even access to services and shelters for *all* populations across the state. **Do you support an increase in state funding for battered women's services such as emergency shelters, transitional housing, and family visitation centers?**

Know where you candidates stand on these and other important issues!

Your vote is your voice - register to vote today!

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