



Health Care Voter Guide

For Champaign-Urbana Residents

**Your quick guide to the
Tuesday, November 6, 2012
Illinois General Election**



A special publication of
Champaign County Health Care Consumers

*Remember to VOTE on Tuesday, November 6
between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.*

To find your polling place please contact:

Champaign County Clerk's Office

217-384-3720 or on the web at <http://www.champaigncountyclerk.com>

Champaign County Health Care Consumers
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About This Voter Guide:

The 2012 Health Care Voter Guide is produced by Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC) of Champaign, Illinois. CCHCC is a non-profit, grassroots, citizen action organization dedicated to quality, affordable health care for all. CCHCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and does not endorse elected officials, candidates for office, or political parties. However, CCHCC does participate in voter education and encourages everyone in the community to exercise their right to vote.

We hope this Health Care Voter Guide provides local consumers with useful information on candidates' positions on relevant healthcare, social, and economic issues. Contact CCHCC for more information on these issues or for other ways to get involved.

About the Candidates:

CCHCC surveyed 7 candidates from the Champaign-Urbana area for this Health Care Voter Guide. CCHCC surveyed candidates running for U.S. House of Representatives, State Senate and State Representative. The candidates that were surveyed are listed in the table below, in alphabetical order by office sought.

| Candidate & Affiliation | Office Sought | Completed Survey? |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Candidates for U.S. Congress | | |
| Rodney Davis (R) | U.S. House of Representatives (IL – 13 th District) | NO |
| David Gill (D) | U.S. House of Representatives (IL – 13 th District) | YES |
| John Hartman (I) | U.S. House of Representatives (IL – 13 th District) | YES |
| Candidates for State Legislature | | |
| John Bambenek (R) | State Senate (IL – 52 nd District) | YES |
| * Michael Frerichs (D) | State Senate (IL – 52 nd District) | NO |
| * Naomi Jakobsson (D) | State Representative (IL – 103 rd District) | YES |
| Robert Meister (R) | State Representative (IL – 103 rd District) | NO |

Symbol Key

* = Incumbent, D = Democrat, I = Independent, R = Republican

Congressional Candidate Questions

* Congressional candidates are running for U.S. House of Representatives for the 13th District*

1. If elected to office, would you work to maintain, weaken, or repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – the national health reform law passed by Congress in March 2010?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Maintain | Weaken | Repeal | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | X | | | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | | | | | X |

David Gill (D): "I do not support the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Many of the provisions in this new law are a step in the right direction, including those prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, allowing people to remain on their parents' health insurance plans until age 26, eliminating life time caps on coverage, and requiring insurance companies to spend at least 80% to 85% of premiums on medical care rather than administrative costs. I continue to believe, however, that the ACA relies too much on insurance companies that put profit ahead of quality patient care."

John Hartman (I): "None of the choices provided reflects my position on the health care in the U.S. and the ACA, so I will leave them unchecked and describe where I stand. The U.S. health care delivery system falls short of other major countries in two especially important aspects: We do not cover all of our citizens, and we pay far more per person.

How did we manage to do this? Like almost everything else coming out of Washington DC, our health care laws reflect our political system. And the ACA is no exception. Yet given today's gridlock, if we repeal it, we will probably end up with nothing, and that would be a setback to the estimated 32 million people who will gain coverage under it. Not surprisingly, the facts tell us that Americans without health insurance are sicker and die younger than those of us with health insurance. So I would not vote for its outright appeal, but would seek to improve its flaws.

For example, we know that Medicare's administrative overhead draws 3.6 cents from every health care dollar it processes. The Canadian system's administrative overhead draws less than 2 cents. The private insurers in the U.S. draw out 11.7 cents per dollar. The New England Journal of Medicine reported a few years back that our entangled bureaucracy cost the average American \$1,059 per year, compared to \$307 for the single payer system in Canada. Yet ACA relies exclusively on private insurers, without even an option to use a Medicare-like system.

It is irresponsible not to provide the most efficient method. The special interest money that flows into our politics is manifest here by the influence of the health insurance lobby, which excluded a Medicare-like, public option for consumers. The citizens were denied the choice of a more efficient alternative.

We need to be open to change, and should not capriciously dismiss other countries' programs as "socialized medicine". To many Americans, socialism is two-thirds of the way to the communism of Joseph Stalin, but does the record bear out that Canada has moved two-thirds of the way to a darkened world of barbed wire and guard towers, even after decades of "socialized medicine"? Is Australia beaten down in a Cultural Revolution as the result of going down the path of providing insurance for all its citizens? The facts don't fit the facile "socialized" dismissal of these more efficient systems."

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2. Single-payer health care is a system in which the government sponsors health insurance, while health care providers (doctor, hospitals, etc.) remain in the private market. Do you support or oppose the passage of legislation that establishes single-payer health insurance in the United States, such as Medicare for all?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | X | | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | | | | X |

David Gill (D): “I support an expanded and improved “Medicare for All” program that extends coverage to all Americans, cuts costs and puts patients—not health insurance profits—first. I believe that the best way to expand access to quality health care is to allow all Americans, regardless of age, to buy in to Medicare, which is much more cost efficient than private insurance companies. Surveys consistently show that most current Medicare beneficiaries are happy with the coverage they receive. I believe that we should give all Americans the opportunity to purchase the same high quality health care coverage through Medicare.”

John Hartman (I): “None of the choices provided reflects my position on single-payer, so I will leave them unchecked. Unfortunately, the complex challenges we face with health care in the U.S. belie simple solutions. A single-payer system on the model of Medicare for all has the potential to reduce the administrative component of costs, as was mentioned in my response to the ACA question. That does not mean that it is the optimal system, and it certainly does not mean that it will solve all of our problems. Other countries, such as Germany and Japan, have much more efficient delivery of health care than the U.S., and the use of multiple, non-profit insurance providers is an integral part of their systems. A single-payer system, itself, takes no stand on the fee-for-service system, which is not needed to put the patient’s care first. The Mayo Clinic pays its doctors a salary instead of fee-for-service and provides high quality at lower costs.

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies recently published a report, Best Care at Lower Cost, which describes how we spend \$750 billion per year on health care that does not benefit the patient. It properly designates the value of making the entire medical community continual learners. This community includes scientists, medical service providers, patients, and administrators.”

3. Do you support or oppose privatizing Medicare by providing Premium Support Credit, commonly referred to as a “voucher,” to Medicare beneficiaries to purchase their health insurance coverage through either private insurance or original Medicare Plans?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | | X | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | X | | | |

David Gill (D): “I will oppose any and all efforts to privatize Medicare. In 2011, Republicans in Congress voted with near unanimity for the Paul Ryan plan to replace Medicare with a voucher system in which seniors would receive coupons for partial payment toward the same kind of inadequate insurance that they could not

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afford before Medicare was enacted. My Republican opponent Rodney Davis strongly supported Paul Ryan’s plan, but I understand that Medicare privatization plans would lead to the ruin of our most vulnerable citizens.”

John Hartman (I): “I oppose privatizing Medicare. I think it would be a mischaracterization to suggest that the premium support plan advocated in the Bipartisan Policy Center’s report, Restoring America’s Future, is privatizing Medicare. I think there are a number of problems with premium support plans. We have economic research that describes how insurance markets do not always perform optimally, especially health insurance markets. I am also concerned that we are not yet at a point where patients are in a position to make fully informed choices among plans. Other countries are able to control costs without using premium support plans.”

4. Medicare is currently prohibited from using the bulk buying power to negotiate for lower drug prices for Part D recipients, such as how the VA operates. Do you support or oppose allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | X | | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | X | | | | |

David Gill (D): “In these tough economic times, I understand that the last thing seniors can afford is paying exorbitant prices for the medicines they need. I do not support this prohibition on the federal government negotiating with pharmaceutical companies for better prices for seniors. Our seniors deserve to have a health care program that will work of their behalf.”

John Hartman (I): “Lobbying by special interest is the only way to explain why the government would voluntarily give up its bargaining power for the benefit of the citizens.”

5. Do you support or oppose privatizing Social Security?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | | X | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | X | | | |

David Gill (D): “Before the creation of the Social Security program under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the majority of American senior citizens lived in poverty. For generations, Social Security has been one of our most successful federal programs, allowing senior citizens to retire with dignity after a lifetime of hard work. Social Security is a promise that we make to Americans, that if they work hard and contribute to the system, they can have a secure retirement.

I believe that Social Security needs to be strengthened and protected for future generations, not opened up to risky Wall Street investment schemes. Unlike my Republican opponent Rodney Davis, I most certainly do not support the privatization scheme and deep cuts included in the Paul Ryan budget.”

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John Hartman (I): "Social Security has done a great deal of good for the American citizens since it was first instituted. That the system is facing demographic pressure from the baby boomers is a separate issue from the way the funds have been managed for the American people. I see no reason to introduce greater risk."

6. Do you support or oppose raising the Social Security retirement age?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | | X | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | X | | | | |

David Gill (D): "I do not support raising the retirement age. I am concerned about the impact this change would have on the high percentage of seniors who rely on Social Security as their only source of income. I also believe that a further increase in the retirement age would disproportionately impact low-income seniors, who tend to have shorter life expectancy than those seniors who are more fortunate."

John Hartman (I): "The baby boomer demographics necessitate putting more money in and taking less money out. To fully embrace the system that has done us so much good, we should remove the ceiling on the employer match portion of both social security and Medicare. Of course, economists would properly tell us that the employer match is part of the employee's total remuneration package. The removal of the ceiling would not fall hard on small business owners, because few of them have employees making over the ceiling of \$110,100 per year. In addition to putting more money in, we need to take less money out, and we can do that by gradually providing full benefits. The life span of Americans today has increased by several years from the 1930's when Social Security began. The age that benefits become fully available can be adjusted to reflect that reality."

7. Do you support or oppose cutting Medicaid funding in order to balance the federal budget?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | | X | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | X | | | | |

David Gill (D): "As a doctor, I understand that cutting Medicaid funding in order to balance the budget would critically harm the children, people with disabilities, and low-income seniors who rely it. I believe that it is the height of irresponsibility to support cutting Medicaid funding in order to balance the federal budget. Instead, I believe that we can balance our federal budget and create a stronger economy when we have a Congress that does not vote for the Bush tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, tax breaks for off-shoring jobs and massive subsidies for big oil. It's time to set the right priorities again, clean up Congress and get our nation's finances in order."

John Hartman (I): "If we do not get on a trajectory to balance our budget, we face what Erskin Bowles has called "the most predictable economic crisis in history." We will be heading toward a situation like in Greece with a 53% unemployment rate for workers under age 25. We must act now to avoid the desperation reflected

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in the increased suicide rate in Greece. To get on a sustainable trajectory we all need to have an oar in the water. If everybody knows that everybody else is pulling along with them, it will increase the chance that we can come to an agreement in our fractious politics. The cuts to Medicaid should be small to the point of only being symbolic.”

8. Do you support or oppose the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012, which would expand comprehensive dental coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans Administration, and increase community dental services?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | X | | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | X | | | |

David Gill (D): Support.

John Hartman (I): “I am in general agreement with the bill in that the nation’s safety net ought rightly include dental services and that a transaction tax on securities trading could be structured to meet pay-as-you-go fiscal discipline. However, I feel the timing of this expansion would damage our chances of dealing with an even more important imperative, namely, of dealing with the looming fiscal crisis that would hit the poor the hardest.”

9. If elected to office, would you work to strengthen, maintain, or repeal the President Bush tax cuts, which are set to expire on December 31, 2012?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Strengthen | Maintain | Repeal | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|------------|----------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | | | | | | X |
| John Hartman (I) | | | | | | X |

David Gill (D): “Maintain for middle class families making less than \$250,000, but repeal for millionaires and billionaires who should pay their fair share. Any reform to the tax code should protect middle-income families. I support extension of the current tax rates for middle-income earners.”

John Hartman (I): “We should do nothing. That way, they will run the course as they were originally designed and expire. They should have never been enacted in the first place.”

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10. Do you support or oppose the "Buffet Rule," which would require the wealthiest Americans who make more than \$1 million to pay at least a 30% federal income tax rate?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | X | | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | X | | | | |

David Gill (D): "I support proposals such as the Buffett Rule. Allowing tax cuts to expire for income above \$250,000 a year would reduce the deficit by a trillion dollars over the next decade. Ninety-seven percent of small businesses would not be affected by this change."

John Hartman (I): "We need the revenue to improve our deficit trajectory. However, I am concerned that this is more of a made-for-media idea and less a serious, comprehensive plan for to improve our deficit, such as the Simpson-Bowles plan."

11. If elected to office, would you work to strengthen or reverse the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which allows corporations to spend, without disclosure, unlimited sums of money on political advertising?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Strengthen | Reverse | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | | X | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | X | | | |

David Gill (D): "I believe that *Citizens United* poses a serious threat to our democracy. Wall Street bankers and corporate lobbyists have had too much power in Congress for too long. That's why I won't accept a penny from Wall Street banking interests or corporate political action committees in my campaign.

If elected to office I would work to limit the influence of campaign donations on Congressional actions by banning Congressmen from accepting PAC and lobbyist money from industries directly regulated by committees they serve on, registered lobbyists from making campaign contributions to federal candidates, and government contractors and prospective contractors from lobbying Congress or donating to campaigns and federal committees. I will also work to pass the DISCLOSE Act, the Congressional proposal that would force corporations, unions, and other groups to reveal the donors behind their political ads."

John Hartman (I): "I am only accepting \$20 or less in contributions and only from residents of the district. This same spirit can be found in the Citizens Election Program, which has done so much to transform the politics of money in Connecticut."

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12. Do you support or oppose the Student Loan Forgiveness Act, which would cap interest rates and payments on federal student loans, provide loan forgiveness after 10 years of repayment, and allow private student loan borrowers to obtain federal consolidation loans?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Rodney Davis (R) | | | | X | |
| David Gill (D) | X | | | | |
| John Hartman (I) | | X | | | |

David Gill (D): "I will strongly support legislation that relieves students of the crushing burden of student loan debt. Thirty years ago when I was an undergrad and then a medical student at U of I, I was able to work my way through school and leave with a reasonable amount of debt. But today's undergrads are leaving school with a diploma, limited job prospects and an average of \$20,000 in student loan debt. Total outstanding student loan debt in America is expected to exceed \$1 trillion this year. Millions of hardworking, taxpaying, educated Americans are being crushed under the weight of their educational debts. I believe that ensuring access to an affordable college education shouldn't be a partisan political issue. It's a matter of economic survival for the middle class and should be treated as a national priority, not a political football."

John Hartman (I): "H.R. 4170 includes the following language: Funds appropriated or otherwise made available for a fiscal year to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be made available from the funds available for Overseas Contingency Operations. We are heading straight toward an economic crisis that will hit the poorest the hardest if we continue to pass bills that will increase spending with vague funding provisions. Congress revamped and improved the student loan program in 2010, and we should give this program more time before making changes."

Symbol Key

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State Candidate Questions

1. Do you support or oppose the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – the national health reform law passed by Congress in March 2010, at the state level?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| State Senator | | | | | |
| John Bambenek (R) | X | | | | |
| * Michael Frerichs (D) | | | | X | |
| State Representative | | | | | |
| * Naomi Jakobsson (D) | X | | | | |
| Robert Meister (R) | | | | X | |

John Bambenek (R): "The implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is non-discretionary."

***Naomi Jakobsson (D):** "The Act is an essential step towards the ultimate goal of providing affordable health care for all Americans. The State of Illinois, and all of us, should work to make it succeed."

2. The Affordable Care Act mandates certain consumer protections, but much of the implementation is left up to the states, such as the establishment of a Health Benefits Exchange. The Exchange will provide access to affordable health insurance for individuals, families, and business starting in 2014. Gov. Quinn announced that Illinois will operate a federal-state partnership Exchange, but the state will need to decide whether or not to move to an entirely state-operated Exchange by 2015. Do you support or oppose an Illinois-controlled Health Benefits Exchange?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| State Senator | | | | | |
| John Bambenek (R) | X | | | | |
| * Michael Frerichs (D) | | | | X | |
| State Representative | | | | | |
| *Naomi Jakobsson (D) | X | | | | |
| Robert Meister (R) | | | | X | |

John Bambenek (R): "The exchange has the potential to be one of the best components of the health care reform law. Many problems can be traced by the fact our current health care systems take decision-making away from patients and doctors. The exchange, as long as it protects consumer choice, can help remedy this

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problem. We need to make sure if the exchange is implemented that it allows the greatest flexibility to consumers to choose and “own” the plan best suited to them and for insurance companies to offer innovative solutions to their consumers.”

***Naomi Jakobsson (D):** “Either an Illinois-controlled or a federal-state partnership exchange will be an improvement over the present situation. That being said, I favor a completely Illinois-controlled Health Benefits Exchange. One reason to favor this is, while I do not expect the Federal law to be overturned, there is an outside chance that it will be. But Illinois residents need a Health Benefits Exchange anyway, so we should be prepared to operate it regardless of what happens at the Federal level. There is such an exchange operating successfully in Massachusetts, so it is clear that this can work at the state level. If Illinois controls the Health Insurance Exchange, it will reflect our values and our understanding of what is best for our state.”

3. Do you support or oppose the state participating in the expansion of Medicaid eligibility (up to 138% Federal Poverty Level) and eliminating the categorical requirements to receive Medicaid (age and disability status, mothers with young children, etc.) outlined by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| State Senator | | | | | |
| John Bambenek (R) | | | X | | |
| * Michael Frerichs (D) | | | | X | |
| State Representative | | | | | |
| * Naomi Jakobsson (D) | X | | | | |
| Robert Meister (R) | | | | X | |

John Bambenek (R): “Medicaid currently takes up over \$10 billion of a \$33 billion budget. I support finding means to insure everyone has access to quality health care but the system is on track to crowd out all other spending on schools, public safety, transportation, etc. We need to take a comprehensive look at Medicaid to ensure we have a sustainable system that can take care of those most in need. I would be willing to look at the expansion but other cost savings would need to be found.”

***Naomi Jakobsson (D):** “I support the Medicaid eligibility expansion as outlined under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. That being said, I take this position with the knowledge that, while the Federal Government will pay for practically all of this expansion initially, ultimately the State will need to pick up much of the cost. The need for revenue to pay for this is one of the reasons I have introduced an amendment to the Illinois Constitution to enable the legislature to levy a graduated income tax, in place of the flat tax that is now mandated. I hope that this amendment will be adopted by the legislature for placement on the ballot in 2014 for ratification by the voters, so that revenue can be increased while still lowering the tax burden on middle- and lower-income taxpayers.”

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4. Single-payer health care is a system in which the government sponsors health insurance, while health care providers (doctors, hospitals, etc.) remain in the private market. Do you support or oppose establishing single-payer health insurance for the State of Illinois?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| State Senator | | | | | |
| John Bambenek (R) | | X | | | |
| * Michael Frerichs (D) | | | | X | |
| State Representative | | | | | |
| * Naomi Jakobsson (D) | X | | | | |
| Robert Meister (R) | | | | X | |

John Bambenek (R): "Illinois has run Medicaid into the ground; it is incredulous to believe that somehow Illinois could run a single payer system without catastrophic results."

***Naomi Jakobsson (D):** "I consider single-payer health insurance a good idea. In many nations around the world, it is clear that single-payer produces better outcomes at lower cost than the system we have. The Nordic countries are an especially appropriate comparison, because each of them has a smaller population than Illinois. Therefore Illinois clearly has a large enough pool for an actuarially sound distribution of risk. But—I can't see how to get there from where we are now, in this society and with our political system. A good step, which I would support, would be to introduce a government-sponsored health insurance option, permitting private insurance options in parallel."

5. Do you support or oppose the passage of state laws to regulate health insurance premium increases in Illinois?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| State Senator | | | | | |
| John Bambenek (R) | | | X | | |
| * Michael Frerichs (D) | | | | X | |
| State Representative | | | | | |
| * Naomi Jakobsson (D) | X | | | | |
| Robert Meister (R) | | | | X | |

John Bambenek (R): "It depends on the regulations in question. Regulation has a place in any proper economic system but an economy can be both under- and over- regulated. Too often when politicians wade into territory of having a say over prices, they simply grandstand "to keep rates low" which cause other economic problems downstream. Any regulatory system must be properly balanced and include people with real expertise in the industry they are regulating."

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***Naomi Jakobsson (D):** "Such regulation is necessary to prevent people from getting hit with massive increases in their premiums for getting sick, or just for getting older. It also is a necessary part of a strategy of containing overall health care costs."

6. Do you support or oppose restoring pharmaceutical assistance for low-income seniors who lost their IL Cares Rx benefits?

| Candidate & Affiliation | Support | Oppose | No Stance/ Undecided | No Response | Responded, Did Not Check Box |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| State Senator | | | | | |
| John Bambenek (R) | X | | | | |
| * Michael Frerichs (D) | | | | X | |
| State Representative | | | | | |
| * Naomi Jakobsson (D) | X | | | | |
| Robert Meister (R) | | | | X | |

John Bambenek (R): "It was short-sighted that our elected leaders, including my opponent, voted to end Illinois Cares Rx and it is absurd some of those same politicians are now championing legislation to restore a program they voted to kill just a few months ago. It will take hard work to reform Medicaid and make the system sustainable but I will not support policies that masquerade as reform that do little more than increase pain and costs."

***Naomi Jakobsson (D):** "Not only do I support this concept, but I introduced legislation in the current session of the General Assembly to restore Cares Rx. I don't know if we will be able to pass it in the veto session or a special session in early January. If we don't pass it, I will reintroduce the bill in the next session beginning later in January."

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