



Health Care Voter Guide

For Rantoul/Danville 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 Rantoul and Danville 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		
Angela Michael (D)	U.S. House of Representatives (IL – 15 th District)	NO
Tim Percy (C)	U.S. House of Representatives (IL – 15 th District)	NO
John Shimkus (R)	U.S. House of Representatives (IL – 15 th District)	NO
Candidates for State Legislature		
John Bambenek (R)	State Senate (IL – 52 nd District)	YES
* Michael Frerichs (D)	State Senate (IL – 52 nd District)	NO
* Chad Hays (R)	State Representative (IL – 104 th District)	YES
Michael Langendorf (D)	State Representative (IL – 104 th District)	YES

Symbol Key

* = Incumbent, D = Democrat, C = Constitution, R = Republican

Congressional Candidate Questions

The three Congressional candidates that Champaign County Health Care Consumers surveyed - Representative John Shimkus, Angela Michael and Tim Percy - did not respond to CCHCC's candidate survey.

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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					
* Chad Hays (R)					X
Michael Langendorf (D)	X				

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

***Chad Hays (R):** "I, like most of my constituents, elected officials, health care providers et.al. continue to review the details and ramifications of a very significant piece of legislation. At this juncture the Act is the law and plans for implementation are underway."

Michael Langendorf (D): "Every citizen of the USA should have health care coverage."

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 businesses 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					
* Chad Hays (R)					X
Michael Langendorf (D)	X				

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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 system takes decision-making away from patients and doctors. The exchange, as long as it protects consumer choice, can help remedy this 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."

***Chad Hays (R):** "Again, the Exchanges are part of the law. I am extremely concerned about HFS's ability to complete this task in a timely fashion and efficiently encourage the process hereafter. If their implementation, or lack thereof of Medicaid reforms that passed overwhelmingly on a bi-partisan basis is any indication my concern is warranted. Couple that with the debacle related to the State's health plans bid process that the Auditor General rebuked and the wisdom of having the current personnel in charge of something so large is questionable."

***Michael Langendorf (D):** "It seems most reasonable."

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					
* Chad Hays (R)					X
Michael Langendorf (D)	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 that expansion but other cost savings would need to be found."

***Chad Hays (R):** "The current reforms of Medicaid that passed overwhelmingly in the General Assembly over the past two years is evidence that most agree that the current dynamic is financially unsustainable. The question essentially becomes – how does a state with horrible credit and no money pay for the expansion? What is the long-term sustainable funding stream? What gets cut out to support such an expansion?"

***Michael Langendorf (D):** "Support."

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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					
* Chad Hays (R)		X			
Michael Langendorf (D)	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."

***Chad Hays (R):** "The current group cannot even bid the State's health plan without creating a fiasco and causing stress and undue worry to our seniors and state employees. Our state is a fiscal deadbeat that does not pay its' bills and routinely stiffes providers, human service agencies and vendors, in terms of payment. Knowingly, allowing the same group to take on a dynamic of this magnitude would border on negligence."

***Michael Langendorf (D):** "If this system provides adequate service at a reasonable cost it is acceptable."

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					
* Chad Hays (R)			X		
Michael Langendorf (D)	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."

***Chad Hays (R):** "I would be most interest to read the specifics of this type of legislation. Does major tort reform accompany this concept?"

***Michael Langendorf (D):** "The state of Illinois needs to regulate and monitor health insurance premiums."

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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					
* Chad Hays (R)			X		
Michael Langendorf (D)	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."

***Chad Hays (R):** "This type of restoration would have to be offset by commiserate budget reductions elsewhere. What are the other reductions specifically? I do not oppose this concept but the time passed long ago for Illinois to simply add in financial responsibilities without deducting them somewhere else."

***Michael Langendorf (D):** "The pharmaceutical assistance for low-income seniors is an essential program."

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