

AARP 2020 PRESENTATION TO WA STATE SENIOR LOBBY

Cathy MacCaul, Advocacy Director, AARP Washington State



APPROVE 8212 Mailer to 250,000+ voters



"Our state's Long-Term Care Trust Act will help reduce the burdensome cost of long-term care for hundreds of thousands of struggling Washington families.

A vote to **APPROVE ESJR 8212** will allow the Washington State Investment Board to better manage and invest our money—ensuring it's there for us when we need it for decades to come."

— **Walt Bowen**,
WA State Senior Citizens' Lobby

APPROVE ESJR 8212
Secure the Long-Term Care Trust Act

Return your ballot by Nov. 3rd

Paid for by Approve 8212 (Top 5 Contributors:
SEIU 775 Ballot Fund, AARP)
PO Box 9100
Seattle, WA 98109

Front panel



An overwhelming bi-partisan majority of 141-4 in the State Legislature voted to approve ESJR 8212.

Now it's our turn to make long-term care available and affordable to a growing senior population.

"850,000 Washingtonians provide unpaid care to a family member—spending 20% of their own income on care.

Without action, countless more middle and working class families will be forced to spend down their life savings to help care for their loved ones."

— **Sylvia Liang**, Parent Caregiver

"70% of seniors will require some form of long-term care like assistance with bathing, dressing, toileting and eating, yet the average cost of long-term care is more than \$260,000. That's a price most families can't afford without severe sacrifices—like emptying their retirement savings or selling their home."

— **Melissa Watts**, Home Care Worker

APPROVE ESJR 8212
Secure the Long-Term Care Trust Act

SUPPORTED BY PROVIDERS AND ADVOCATES FOR SENIORS, INCLUDING:

AARP Washington

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE Senior Citizens' Lobby

whca Washington Health Care Advocates

Back panel

APPROVE 8212

- 8212 is a common-sense measure secures the funding for long term care for all Washington seniors and gives the Washington State Investment Board the OPTION to invest in stocks and bonds—allowing the fund to grow in value over time, instead of failing to keep up with inflation and the needs of an aging population.
- Strong Bi-partisan support. House and Senate voting to approve 96-1 and 45-3, respectively
- ESJR 8212 will joins three other similar amendments by voters:
 - In 1968, investment of public pension funds in equity investments (Amd. 49, passed with 72% “yes” vote).
 - In 1985, investment of workers' compensation funds (Amd. 75, passed with 71% “yes” vote).
 - In 2000, investments of funds held in trust for persons with developmental disabilities (Amd. 93, passed with 65% “yes” vote).
- Washington State Labor Council, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, AARP Washington, League of Women Voters, Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby, Adult Family Home Council of Washington State, Washington Education Association, SEIU 775, and many others

Long Term Care Coalition

- Washington State has one of the strongest Long Term Care systems in the nation and the strength of that system could be irreparably damaged by proposed cuts.
- Current budget proposal cuts long-term care for approximately 10,000 people who rely on LTSS for help with daily activities like eating, bathing, and toileting
- It is unconscionable to cut long-term care for vulnerable people in the middle of a global pandemic
 - Hobbles our ability to respond to a second wave of the pandemic because current recipients who live in the community could end up hospitalized if they lose care
- Cutting long-term services and supports has racial equity implications, and will increase homelessness for both service recipients and their caregivers, who are disproportionately women of color

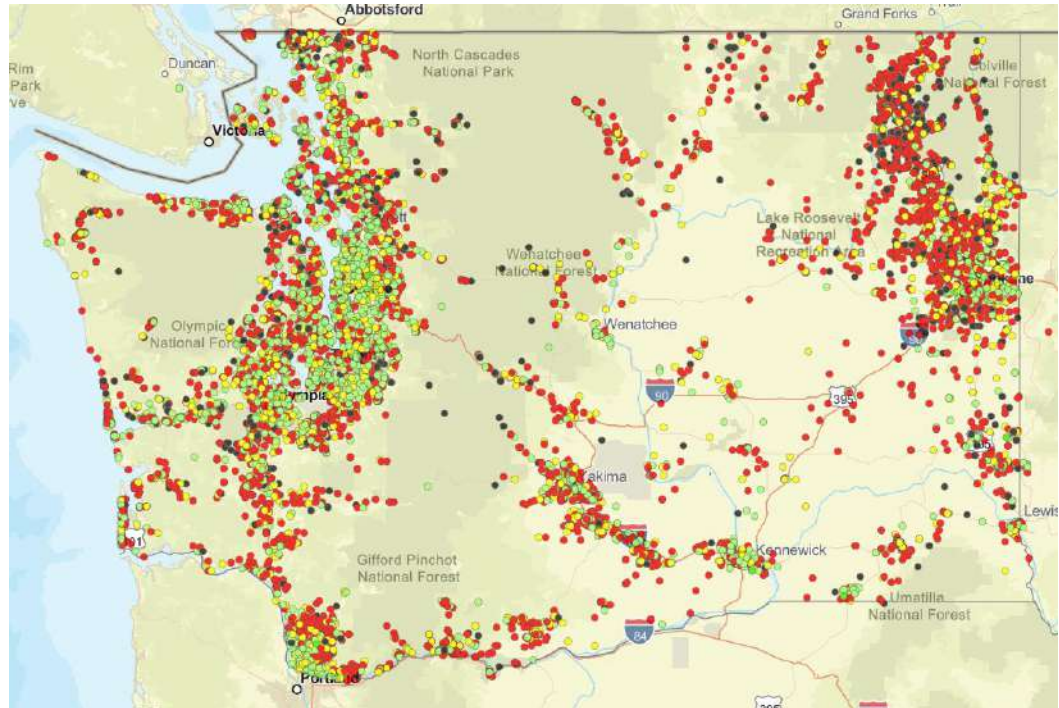
Long Term Care Coalition Partners

- AARP
- All Ways Caring
- Adult Family Home Council
- BrightSpring
- Casa Latina
- Catholic Community Services
- Consumer Direct Care Network Washington
- CDM Caregiving Services
- First Choice In-Home Care
- Full Life Care
- Korean Women's Association
- LeadingAge Washington
- National MS Society
- Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 8
- Office of Developmental Disabilities Ombudsman
- Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
- SEIU 775
- The Arc – Washington State
- Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- Washington Health Care Association
- Washington Home Care Coalition
- Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
- Washington State Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
- Washington State Senior Citizen's Lobby
- Washington State School Retirees Association

Statewide Broadband Survey

October 8, 2020

- **27,045**
Respondents
- 93% (25,240)
Have broadband
- **37% (9,981)**
Less than 10 Mbps download
- **7% (1805)**
No access
- **= 44% Unserved**
(less than 10 Mbps download)



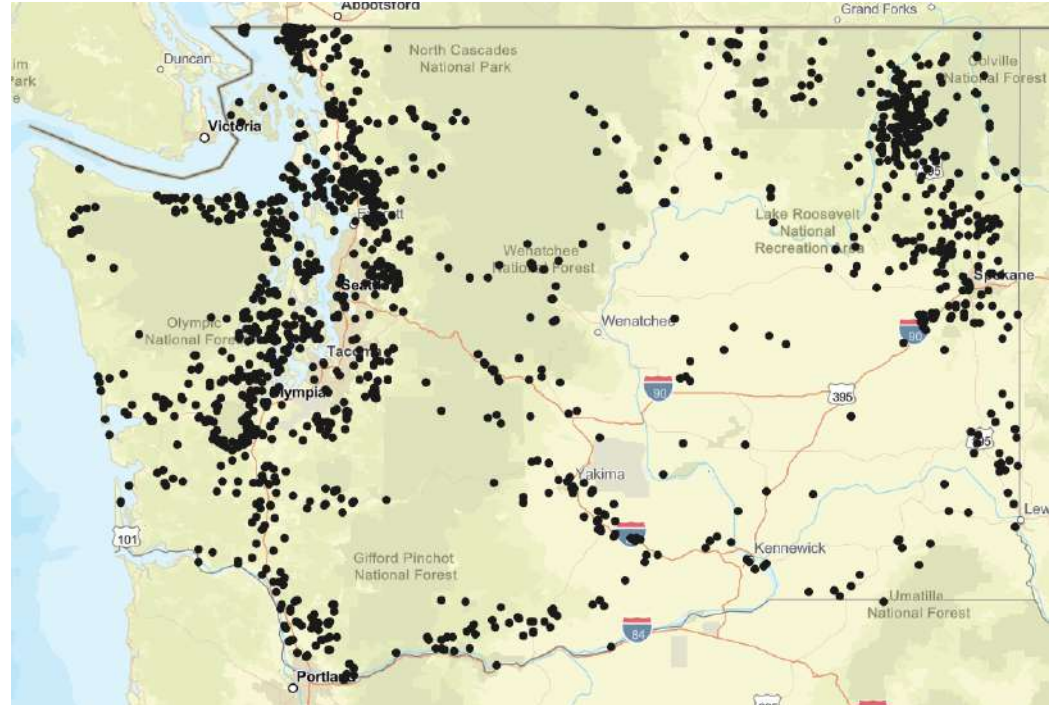
No Broadband Access

answers

Respondents can select multiple

October 8, 2020 (1836)

- Not available in area 49%
- No access 47%
- Too expensive 8%
- Don't know how to get 0.7%
- Don't have a computer 0.6%
- Can't use a computer 0.05%
- Worried about privacy 0.05%
- Don't need it/not interested
- Physical challenges
- Use public wifi instead

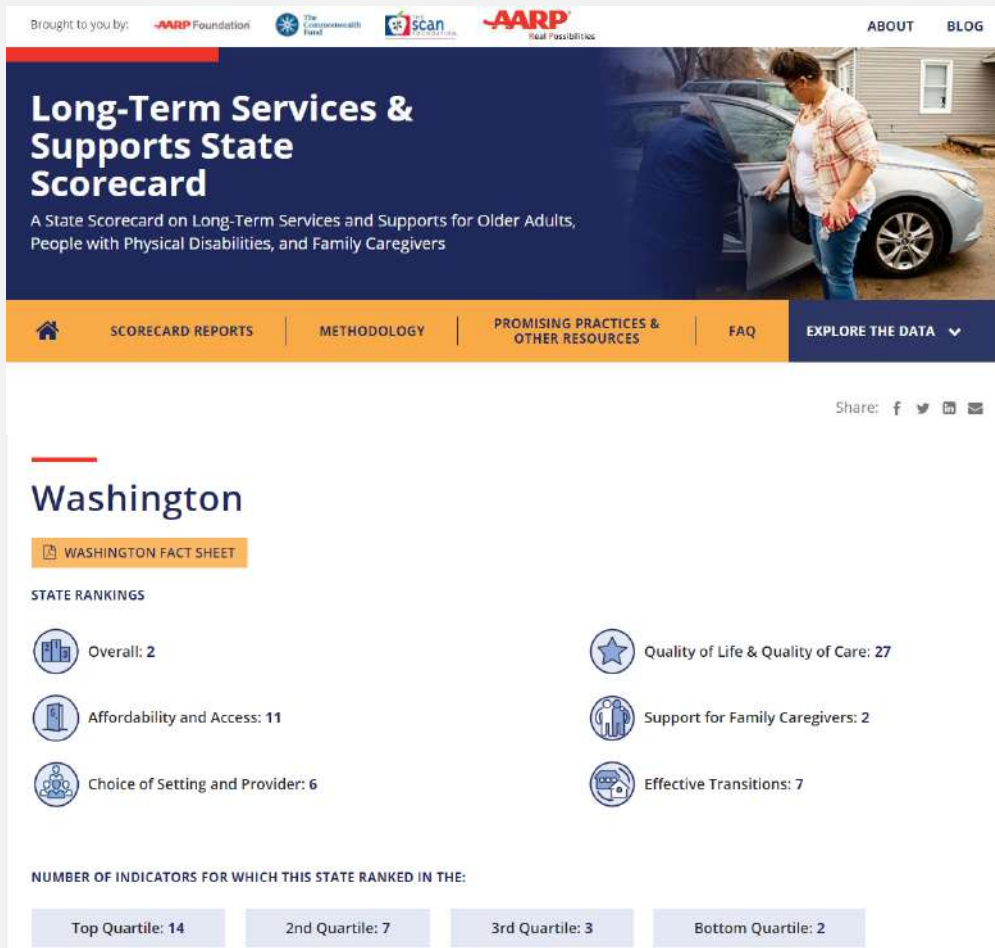


The Broadband Challenge

- A digital divide exists in many parts of Washington State particularly:
 - Older adults of color with low incomes
 - Those in rural communities, where unreliable and costly internet and cell phone services exist
- Telemedicine and videoconferencing efforts are a challenge because of technology access and skills
- Increased barriers to the use of digital tools and training among the oldest adults and those with sensory disabilities or dementia.
- Digital technology is not a viable option because there is no one available to set it up or to trouble shoot as “tech support.”

AARP Score card Ranks Washington State #2

<http://www.longtermscorecard.org/>



COVID Impact on Seniors

- Washington State has 1.7 million older adults (60+), including 107,000 people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias (State Plan on Aging, 2018).
- Eight in ten deaths from the COVID-19 virus in the U.S. have occurred in people age 65 and older (CDC, 2020).
- The pandemic creates health and economic risks by disrupting case management for older adults that prevent institutionalization, emergency room visits, and other negative health outcomes.
- Social isolation is a significant health threat to older adults.
- Food insecurity - senior centers pivot from congregate meals drive thru
- Uncertain state long term services budget

Telemedicine

- Initial suspicion and lack of technology skills and devices to use telemedicine by consumers
- COVID has propelled telemedicine adoption forward
- March 17, CMS announced that Medicare will cover telemedicine for routine follow-up visits
- Meaningful interactions were difficult in a virtual environment for those who are hard of hearing, low vision, bedbound, or living with memory loss or cognitive impairment

AARP Legislative Priorities Being Considered

- Long Term Care Budget
- Broadband and Technology Skills Development
- Housing
- COVID best practices/lessons made permanent
- Rx
- Retirement Savings – Secure Choice

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www.aarp.org/wa

QUESTIONS??

