

ARRM Questionnaire

Section #1

Name: Ali Jimenez-Hopper

District: 57A

Question 1

My name is Ali Jimenez-Hopper and I am fortunate to be the GOP-endorsed candidate for State Representative for Apple Valley (57A). After earning a Bachelors Degree in Business Marketing from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and marrying my husband Ryan, a Marine Corps veteran, we returned to Minnesota to have and raise our 2 children, Elena and Logan. I truly admire our friends and neighbors and value the tremendous sense of community that exists here; and it is for that reason that I am running for State Representative.

Question 2

If elected for State Representative, I plan to work for schools of excellences that prepare all children for success, support for veterans; a secure retirement for seniors, affordable health care that preserves quality and patient choice, and efficient government that cost-effectively funds needed priorities.

Question 3

To date, my experience with the disability community has only been more veteran-related due to the fact that my husband is a veteran. My goal is to get more engaged with the issues in the disability community in the coming months and after I become a legislator.

Section #2

Question 1

I would first try to reform funding for disability services provided by our state by reviewing how funds are allocated and the designated rate structure as a way to create livable wages for direct care professionals/caregivers. Many times too many dollars are going to administration and not the actual workers. I would also get engaged with the unfinished parts of the Olmstead Plan to ensure low overhead costs. I would also audit the Disability Waiver Rate System to reduce wasteful practices.

Question 2

On its face it makes sense to support use of public dollars to increase availability and use of technology so long as the technology being used has a successful track record of use by people with disabilities and we can quantify the savings by reduced admin staff in other areas that can be allocated to such technology.

Section #3

Question 1

Although I am supportive of the spirit of the Olmstead Plan, such was a court legislative mandate with little input from the legislature but one that involved various agencies and will require additional funding from the legislature. Therefore, my job as a legislator is to get engaged in the process to make sure that public dollars are spent on programs that directly help those who have a disability receive needed services that will positively impact their lives. On behalf of my constituents, I also need to hold those agencies accountable and make sure they provide measurable outcomes.

Question 2

As a legislator, I would provide tax credits to builders as an incentive to expand affordable housing with accessibility features in those areas that have no or limited affordable housing options currently available. Where housing is available but lack accessibility features, I would propose grants or matching funds to be used by the building owner to incentivize the adding of these features.

Question 3

I believe it is the legislature's responsibility to protect business organizations, whether they are private or public (using taxpayer dollars to run them) from unconstitutional or damaging Federal or state mandates whenever possible. The House GOP has always been cognizant of unfunded mandates and tries to work with agencies and stakeholders to make changes to proposed requirements before being enacted so as to not require additional work without being compensated. The House will reject the new mandates proposed if there can be no compromise to the proposal.