



# ARRM

## Section #1: About Yourself

Your Name: Erwin "Erv" Rud  
District you are running in: 1B

Question #1: Please provide a short background about yourself.

Retired. Former nursing home administrator; was a rehab specialist  
providing job placement services for disabled and work injured people  
MA Degree in Health and Human Services Administration, former  
Council member of the Minnesota State Council on Disability, Current  
a part time home health services caretaker/HHA

Question #2: What do you hope to accomplish by running for office? What will your main priorities be at the Capitol if you are elected?

1. Money Out of Politics; 2 Education Funding; 3. Affordable health  
care for all; 4. Local Govt Aide

Personal freedom and social and economic fairness are my  
principle. Please see my issues pages at [www.ervrud.com](http://www.ervrud.com)

Question #3: What experience or connections, if any, do you have to the disability community?

See #1 and review about "Erv" on my website

## Section #2: Our Workforce Crisis

**Question #1:** Our industry is facing a workforce crisis. There are simply not enough people to provide the direct care needed for people with disabilities to lead independent lives. Given that the overwhelming majority of funding for disability services comes from the government, and low wages are a driving force behind high rates of staff turnover, what ideas would you offer for helping to create a livable wage for our direct support professionals and caregivers?

Livable wages in Minnesota are \$16-17/hour. Minimum wage of \$15.00/hour is mandatory. Also, stopping non-compete clauses by home care agencies and government policies that encourage employer wage theft (such as not paying for travel time between clients)

**Question #2:** As technology continues to become a bigger part of everyone's lives, there are numerous products that can be used by individuals with disabilities which offer them increased independence, including things as simple as apps on cell phones and tablets. Some technology can supplement staff while others can substitute for staff. Would you support the use of public dollars to increase the availability and use of technology?

Yes

### Section #3: The Sustainability of our System

**Question #1:** Minnesota's Olmstead Plan includes a broad series of key activities our state must accomplish to ensure people with disabilities are living, learning, working and enjoying life in the most integrated setting appropriate for their needs. In 2015, a set of very ambitious goals and benchmarks were finalized and approved by the Minnesota courts to help ensure that the intent of the Olmstead Plan is realized. What is your role as a legislator to oversee and ensure that those goals are met?

Legislative Audits, required agency reports and goal attainment, discussing the experience of worker associations and employers on outcomes

**Question #2:** Affordable housing is an issue for many people in Minnesota. A cornerstone of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan is the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to live as independently as they choose. As a legislator how would you strategically expand availability of affordable housing with accessibility features for Minnesotans with disabilities?

Make certain that proper funding levels are met and also auditing these programs to assure proper spending is maintained

**Question #3:** Our industry has seen an influx of "unfunded mandates" - items that cost providers additional money without subsequent compensation, such as the increase in minimum wage, the Affordable Care Act, increased regulatory fees and the new Department of Labor Overtime Rule to name a few. When the government adds a new mandate what is its responsibility in supporting government funded businesses to pay for those mandates?

Absolute responsibility to provide funding for these mandates. Need to have reports or anecdotal evidence in hearings to confirm unfunded mandates