



# ARRM

## Section #1: About Yourself

Your Name: Gary Schindler  
District you are running in: 27A

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

- College administrator - student services
- Former high school teacher and counselor
- Married wife Nurse - retirement facility
- 2 children adults
- Live Albert Lea active in the community

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?

- work force development + housing
- transportation and Internet access
- Education funding
- Local Government Aid

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

- support to college students with disabilities
- Cedar Valley Services clients work at the college
- Ensure facilities are accessible

## 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?

- Examine minimum wage levels
- Comparable state support to raise wages like what is done with nursing home facilities.

**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?

• Seek regular updates on progress

• Ensure resources are present for

transition services and data collection

• Support to develop employment opportunities

• Support to purchase assistive technology

**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?

• Ensure programs are funded to expand

housing and examine regulations to

expand housing grant applications.

**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?

• Examine funding mechanisms and

increase allocations.