

ARRM Questionnaire

October 5, 2018

Name: Lori Ann Clark

District: 21A

ABOUT YOURSELF

Question #1: Bio

I was raised on a farm in western Minnesota as the fifth of six kids and was the first to go to college. I have a B.A. in Political Economy from Randolph-Macon Women's College and an MBA in Venture Management from the University of St. Thomas. I've owned an electronics manufacturing company in Cannon Falls for twenty years now. I have been married for 23 years to my business partner and we have an adult daughter who lives in CA.

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 and what committees do you hope to serve on?

I became active in our local Indivisible Cannon Falls group after the 2016 election, where we quickly focused in on local and state politics because those are the areas that impact people's lives the most. I am running for office because I want to see us actually get the work done. It's incredibly frustrating to realize that we are still unable to find solutions for priority issues that were being discussed twenty years ago and it's time to bring people to the Capitol that will actually find the solutions to these critical issues so we can move on to the myriad of other issues that deserve our attention as well.

I hope to be able to address many of the key issues affecting our rural communities with my committee assignments: health and human services, jobs and economic growth, broadband initiatives and environmental concerns.

Question #3 – What experience or connections, if any, do you have with people with disabilities?

I have had a life-long hearing disability myself since birth, which requires me to wear hearing aids. I deal with a myriad of situations in which people underestimate or do not accommodate well those of us who have hidden disabilities. I have also had several family members and friends over the years who have needed additional help due to being wheelchair bound, blind, hearing disabled or any other limitations on skills that require us to need assistance in order to live and work independently.

OUR WORKFORCE CRISIS

Question #1 – What will you do as a legislator to address the significant challenges we are facing in providing services to people with disabilities?

We need to address the inadequate reimbursement rates for DSPs and PCAs. We need to increase the funding and the rate structure needs to allow for and recognize the true costs of service and adjust when those costs go up.

Question #2 – How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the legislated financial supports to access services that increase their ability to live as independently as possible in the community for which they live?

We can address the low wages in the industry in 2018 and need to do so to attract and retain the workers we need to support individuals. As we have with other key industries, we could also fund educational scholarships to increase the workforce population as the need grows.

THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR SYSTEM

Question #1 – How do you propose to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to high quality, community services while balancing the efforts by some to control the growth of the HHS budget?

I support the adoption of the MN Health Plan, which is a comprehensive health care solution that reduces the administrative burden of our existing health care system by using a private, single payer solution based on the ability to pay. Roughly a third of our health care “costs” today are administrative paperwork costs, which do nothing to provide quality care to those in need. You can learn more about this solution at mnhealthplan.org.

Question #2 – When the government adds a new mandate, what is its responsibility in supporting government funded services to pay for those mandates?

I do not support unfunded mandates, period. If a mandate is being passed, it should be implemented if and only if the needed funds are being provided to support that mandate.

Question #3 – What is your role as a legislator to oversee and ensure that those (Olmstead Plan) goals are met?

The Olmstead Plan was created to ensure people with disabilities can live, learn, work, and enjoy life as integrated as possible in our communities. Our state budgets will need to work with groups like ARRM to ensure the funding is there so these goals can continue to be met and the policies can continue to improve to do this in the best way possible.