

State Office: Assembly District: 39

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Questionnaire

1. As a legislator, what are the three issues you will prioritize in the next legislative session?

[Health care access for everyone in Wisconsin, Restoring funding to our schools and Municipalities and restoring tax fairness back to our system.](#)

2. Studies indicate that one in four Wisconsinites have diagnosable mental illness and would benefit from effective treatment. In addition, mental illness is the leading cause of disability for working age adults in the United States. People often can not access effective treatment, frequently citing affordability as a barrier. What will you do as a legislator to increase access to effective treatment and community services?

[I will push for mental illness parity and will work to increase awareness of the loss in productivity due to mental health issues.](#)

3. Poverty is a reality for many people with disabilities in Wisconsin. Consider these facts, from the American Association of People with Disabilities.

- 27.5% of people with disabilities aged 18-64 live below the poverty line.
- The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is three times higher than for people without disabilities.
- The SSI supplement for Wisconsinites with disabilities has not increased in over ten years.

As a legislator, what will you do to address poverty for people with disabilities?

[I would work to increase funding for adult education to provide new work opportunities for people with disabilities. I would also push for additional aids for business to assist with disability accommodation.](#)

4. One of your constituents contacts you. She is a 68 year old woman whose 70 year old husband has just had a stroke and is now in a nursing home. They have a 46 year old daughter with cerebral palsy who has always lived at home.

Up until now, the family has been providing their daughter's personal care as well as help with mobility and transfers, for example in and out of the bathtub. Now with dad in the nursing home, mom cannot care for their daughter alone. The family is covered by Medicare and the daughter is Medicaid eligible.

All the family's available resources have been expended through caring for their daughter and dad's nursing home costs. Your constituent needs help to provide the assistance her daughter needs and she does not know where to turn. Please describe how you would handle this situation as a legislator and what specific steps you would take to assist this constituent.

I would make them aware if they were not already so of the Wisconsin Partnership Program, to help get them in touch with services that they can use to aid the transition.

5. Do you support expansion of Family Care statewide? Why or why not? If you support other initiatives to increase options for people with disabilities to live in the community, which ones and why do you support them?

6. A constituent in your district who is attending high school plans to attend college in the near future. Her high school offers college prep courses and other extra-curricular activities after school. Counselors often recommend that students participate in these activities to make their college applications stronger and to inform them about options and resources they have when it comes to making a decision to attend college.

Your constituent has a physical disability and uses a wheelchair. She is not able to drive or take public transportation. Her high school does not offer accessible transportation for these after-school programs.

This constituent would like her college application to be competitive with students who can participate in these programs. How would you respond if she called to request your assistance?

I would ask if she had contacted the county about any specialized transport that may be available for her. If no such program were available I would help her get in

touch with her local representatives to find out why a program is not available and advise them of the grants that are out there to set up such a program.

7. The 2000 census showed that approximately one in every 6¹/₂ Wisconsin residents has a disability. As a legislator, what specific steps will you take in order to reach out to the disability community and ensure you are proactively meeting the needs of this constituency?

As part of my campaign pledge, I will be holding town hall meetings in every town. To assist the disability community I would commit to having them in accessible facilities within specialized transport areas. I will also commit to having local office hours within the district, to make myself more accessible for all constituent issues.