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STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL QUESTIONS – 2014

Why are you running for office? What are your personal priorities/initiatives?

How will you ensure that partisan politics does not affect your decisions?

Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications.

ANSWERS

I am running to spark a conversation about who we are and what it means to be Minnesotans at this point in time, especially given the near total disdain for politics as usual. The role of Attorney General is uniquely situated to be non-partisan, enforcing the law, calling balls and strikes the same for everybody. I am not running as a Democrat or Republican. I have no aspirations for higher office. I will not make decisions based on political considerations, unlike the incumbent who refused to prosecute the Little Falls double-murder because she wants to keep the NRA on her side in case she runs for Governor.

Of course this problem of big money influencing the decisions of elected officials goes beyond the incumbent Attorney General. Voting for Dawkins is a step towards Ranked Choice Voting, a pathway out of partisan gridlock, and a way to beat the big money stranglehold on who gets elected and what gets accomplished.

A priority once elected will be restoring confidence in the Attorney General's Office that the public interest comes first, not corporate interests, not personal ambitions. I will vote to divest from the fossil fuel industry (as a member of the State Board of Investment). I will stand up to the NRA and use my bully pulpit to ensure school and community safety. I will protect Minnesotans from fraud by re-establishing the white collar crime unit.

I worked my way through night law school and have been a lawyer for 35 years, representing my neighbors, not big corporations. I was a state legislator for 15 years enacting the Working Family Tax Credit, Parenting Plans, and much else that made Minnesota safer and better. I was a Child Support Magistrate for six years, earning a reputation for being a good listener and being fair. Now I want to work hard for all Minnesotans, ensuring justice for all, keeping us great.