



Introduction

My lifetime career in politics began at the tender age of ten. I started a new school in the 5th grade and became friends with someone who been there since kindergarten. He decided to run and I was his (we didn't have a name for it yet) campaign manager. I did various things on SGA throughout grade school and did SGA and big-kid politics in college and law school. Most lawyers usually get a degree in political science because it's an easy degree if you want to be a lawyer; but I liked it!

I was born with fredriechs ataxia; a geneticist progressive disobeys order that slowly takes away physical abilities. It has no effect on my mental abilities, but people think it does because I have trouble talking. For many years, it was kind of muscular dystrophy but it's actually the breakdown of the nerves that carry messages to the muscles. Now I need help everyday to get up out of bed, get ready for the day. I also need help cleaning up my home and myself. I can't shower on my own, get dressed on my own and I can't eat on my own, without help.

I am afraid that my disability will make it hard to get home from the meetings and to the talk to constituents. I am working on getting a ride from the meetings, so I can stay for all of them. I don't know how I will talk to the constituents but I can email them with their concerns and questions that they will have. I am concerned about even questioning the bill presenter that comes to the city council meetings. With everything else I can work around it.

I want to be a council member to fight discrimination in the city, for both disabled people and other citizens. There is no wheelchair transportation besides the city bus and the paratransit . With the city bus some stops are not accessible for wheel chair bound citizens. You have to wait for the bus in the wind, rain and snow. With Paratransit you have to schedule a week in advance. In 2014 city council passed an ordinance for LGBT constituent's anti- discrimination, but it was defeated by the voters. Why do we stop there? For LGBT people they need to be go into businesses without fear of being discriminated against.

For disabled people it's important to able to get around, there are no wheelchair taxis in Springfield. A lot of roads don't have sidewalks for disabled and regular citizens to access. In a city like Springfield all people should be able to get around without fear of getting hurt or stuck without transportation. City council needs to protect them.

I want to be on city council for those reasons, and I think my education and disability will help me be the ideal choice for the city council chair.