

1. I believe that reasonable access to adult basic education is a right. While a social contract for adult basic education must be different than the one for K-12 education in the sense that adult education is not mandatory, and we can expect adults to travel further than we might expect young students to travel, it should still be established.
2. I have always been supportive of funding for adult basic education services and also of public transit and early childhood education. With so many schools and churches that are largely unused at night, and so many college-educated people out of work, I would like to see more ABE programs created as well as the expansion of existing programs.
3. There is always a balance between spending as much money as possible on a program and running audits to make sure that the state's resources are being used appropriately. In this day and age, it should sometimes be possible to check with a random sample of ABE students and teachers by telephone rather than spend time on an in-person audit.
4. The adult basic education system should serve both the individual students and the community at large. Participants in ABE classes should be able to earn more money, help their children do better in school, make better health choices for themselves and their families, and participate to a greater extent in our democracy. While bad economic times may make the need for ABE seem more urgent, the reality is that the basic goals of ABE are largely the same in good and bad times.