

Second run's a charm

Focused on government's role, Lohmer hopes to make 'significant change'

BY PATTY OSTBERG

Rep. Kathy Lohmer (R-Lake Elmo) has been interested in local politics for years, attending Republican precinct caucuses and serving as



Rep. Kathy Lohmer

a delegate. But it was in 2008 while her son was serving a 15-month tour in Iraq, that she realized she was willing to sacrifice too. "I was thinking about him and his friends and young people who serve in the military and what they are willing to do. ... What am I willing to do?"

She was unsuccessful in her House bid that year; she ran again and her persistence paid off.

Lohmer believes government's role should consist of basics such as national defense,

roads and bridges, security and police. "In Minnesota, our constitution says education," she said. While home-schooling her four sons, Lohmer questioned what government's proper role should be.

Too often government oversteps its bounds in cases like the smoking ban and business regulations, she said. "Every time you turn around there's a new law (restricting people's freedoms). I don't like smoking; I don't smoke, but I don't think it's the government's job to tell people who should."

Lohmer's district includes 10 communities. The issues vary, but include the development of the empty State Farm building in Woodbury; building a new St. Croix River crossing between Stillwater and Wisconsin; water and landfill issues in Lake Elmo; and fly ash storage in Lakeland.

DISTRICT 56A	
Population (2009 est.):	44,380
Largest City:	Woodbury
County:	Washington
Top Concern:	The state as a whole

Serving on the House Health and Human Services Finance and Reform committees, State Government Finance Committee and Veterans Services Division, Lohmer hopes to help make "some significant changes" for people. "We have \$32 billion to spend for approximately 5 million people; that should be enough money, we should be able to prioritize and spend wisely," she added.