

NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Democrat to Challenge Marklein in State Senate District 17

BLANCHARDVILLE, Wisconsin – Kriss Marion, a farmer, small business owner and Lafayette county board supervisor, is challenging Republican Howard Marklein for the District 17 State Senate Seat.

Marion, a democrat from Blanchardville, garnered national attention in 2017 as one of Wisconsin's famous "Cookie Bill Ladies." She and two other women farmers fought the state for four years before winning home bakers the right to sell their products.

"I'm running because it's time to stand up for the interests of rural places. Not just for our sake, but for the sake of Wisconsin. Our tax

money should be put to work in our district where it's desperately needed for roads, schools, Main Street redevelopment, small businesses and long-long-awaited basic broadband. Give us decent tools, remove silly regulatory barriers, and watch us grow the economy."

Marion's platform prioritizes investment in rural infrastructure, protection for natural resources and a return of decision-making powers to local government. At the core of her philosophy is a belief that Wisconsin will prosper by supporting small business entrepreneurs, including family farmers, to create more and better-paying jobs.

"Western Wisconsin was first in 2017 for the most farm bankruptcies in the nation. There are a lot of people that have given up hope in rural communities," Marion said. "But I haven't. We can survive and even thrive, with a decisive shift away from policies that favor special interests over local voices."

Marion also calls for a return to political civility. "When you are elected to local government, you can't afford to play party politics. Out here in our tiny towns, we have to work together if we're going to get anything done," Marion said. "That's what I've done on the Lafayette County Board and that is what I intend to do in Madison. Voters are tired of the fighting, in both the national and state arenas. We are ready to move forward together and heal."