

2008 ILLINOIS CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

1. CIVIL RIGHTS

- i) Do you believe that people with disabilities have the same rights as anyone else?
YES NO
- ii) Do you believe that individuals with disabilities should be the primary decision maker in their lives?
YES NO

2. POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- i) Will you make it a priority to include people with disabilities as part of your political team and/or as advisors on relevant issues?
YES NO
- ii) If YES, how do you intend to do so?

3. TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- i) Do you support legislative measures to require that Internet technologies be made accessible to and usable by people with disabilities in Illinois?
YES NO
- ii) What measures would you propose to ensure that consumer electronic and telecommunications devices are accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities in Illinois?

4. INTEGRATED COMMUNITY LIVING

In its 1999 *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, the Supreme Court said people with disabilities should not be unnecessarily institutionalized and states should operate programs for people with disabilities in the most integrated settings possible. This means that states should avoid large institutional settings and provide opportunities for people with disabilities to live in settings with 6 people or less. The state of Illinois currently ranks *last in the nation* in providing integrated living opportunities for people with disabilities.

- i) Do you support funding mechanisms, such as "Money Follows the Person," that allow people with disabilities in Illinois who are currently unnecessarily institutionalized to move into integrated living settings?
YES NO
- ii) How would you increase opportunities for people with disabilities in Illinois to live in the most integrated settings?
- iii) How will you address the shortage of community direct care attendants in Illinois?

5. HOUSING

- i) What would you do to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, integrated housing opportunities in the community for low and moderate income people with disabilities and their families?

6. EMPLOYMENT

- i) What steps would you take to reduce employment barriers and improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities in your district and in the entire state of Illinois?

7. EDUCATION

- i) Federal and state laws require that students with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment and that appropriate accommodations and support services are provided to them. How would you ensure that these laws are enforced in Illinois?

8. HEALTH CARE

- i) What steps would you take to ensure that people with disabilities in Illinois have access to affordable, quality health care that is responsive to their individual needs?
- ii) How would you improve the quality of health and rehabilitation services provided to veterans with disabilities in Illinois?

9. TRANSPORTATION

- i) What would you do to expand access to affordable, accessible transportation for people with disabilities in Illinois, especially in rural areas?

10. VOTING

- i) What steps would you take to ensure that voters with disabilities in Illinois are able to vote privately and independently?

Please send completed responses by **June 15** to:

Email: response@realchoiceinillinois.org

Mail: Campaign for Real Choice in Illinois
44 East Main, Suite #208
Champaign, IL 61820

Please include your name, address, and district number with your response.

Thank you for your participation!