

2024 Disability Presidential Candidate Questionnaire

The <u>American Association of People with Disabilities</u> (AAPD) is a national cross-disability civil rights organization advocating for the full recognition of rights for the over 61 million Americans with disabilities. AAPD's <u>REV UP</u> Campaign is a national nonpartisan campaign working to build the power of the disability vote.

In 2020, <u>17.7 million</u> people with disabilities voted in the United States' Presidential election. This was a <u>6 percentage point</u> increase from the turnout of disabled voters in 2016. There are roughly <u>40 million eligible</u> disabled voters and that number increases to over <u>65 million</u> when you include those who have a household member with a disability.

The growing electorate of people with disabilities is watching candidates closely and will certainly impact the 2024 presidential election.

We will publish any and all answers we receive from candidates in the 2024 presidential race exactly as they are submitted.

We look forward to learning about your policies and sharing your responses with our national community.

1. Disabled Leadership and Representation

 What are you doing to ensure people with disabilities are a part of every level of your campaign team? If elected President, how will you include disabled people at every level of your Administration?

2. Protecting and Advancing Disability Civil Rights

• What will you do to protect and strengthen the civil rights of disabled Americans?

3. Right to Live in Community

- What will you do to increase the availability of home and community based services?
- What will you do to support the direct care workforce, including family caregivers, that provides home and community-based services to disabled people and older adults?
- What will you do to increase the availability of affordable, integrated, and accessible housing for people with disabilities?

4. Voting Rights

- What will you do to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to their fundamental right to vote?
- How will you support states in ensuring their elections are accessible?

5. Health Care

- How will you protect, improve, and expand Medicaid and Medicare benefits?
- What steps will you take to ensure access to vision, dental, and hearing coverage for people with disabilities?
- What do you believe is the federal government's role in making sure people have access to the health care they need?
- How will your administration increase access to mental health care?
- What steps will your administration take to address discrimination against people with disabilities in access to health care, including life-sustaining treatment?

6. COVID-19 Response and Recovery

- As COVID-19 remains a risk, what public health strategies will you take to protect vulnerable communities?
- What steps will you take to ensure that those with Long-COVID have access to a full range of disability services and supports, as well as new treatment?

7. Criminal Justice Reform

- More than half of disabled African Americans have been <u>arrested by the age of 28</u>, and people with disabilities are also <u>more likely to be killed or harmed by police</u>. What steps will your administration take to stop police discrimination and eliminate police violence, particularly against persons with mental illness, persons with developmental disabilities, and Black and Latino/a people with disabilities?
- What will you do to increase accommodations for people with disabilities in the judicial system, including courts, jails, and prisons?

8. Employment and Economic Empowerment

- How will you expand opportunities for competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities?
- How will you address the underemployment and wage gap experienced by people with disabilities?
- Food insecurity and barriers to economic opportunity disproportionately impact people with disabilities. What steps will your administration take to ensure food security of people with disabilities?
- People with disabilities experience poverty at more than twice the rate of people without disabilities. What will you do to decrease the number of people with disabilities living in poverty?
- What measures will you take to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the same labor and employment rights as people without disabilities?

9. Education and Transition for Youth with Disabilities

- Do you support fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act IDEA at the levels intended when it was enacted?
- What will you do to ensure that children with disabilities are afforded equal educational opportunities in the general education classroom?
- How will your Administration prevent the use of restraint, aversives, and seclusion in schools?
- How will you ensure youth with disabilities have the support needed to transition from high school to higher education or careers?

10. Transportation

- Will your administration invest in accessible public infrastructure, including ensuring that disabled people can safely navigate <u>public rights of way</u> in both rural and urban communities?
- How will your administration ensure that Transportation Networking Companies (TNCs),
 like Uber and Lyft, and autonomous vehicles, are accessible to riders with disabilities?
- How will you improve the accessibility and dignity of travel, including air travel, for people with disabilities?

11. Technology

- What will you do to ensure continued improvements in digital accessibility?
- How will you ensure that uses of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies do not discriminate against people with disabilities?

12. Emergency Preparedness

 What policy changes will you make to ensure people with disabilities have full access to programs and resources before, during, and after disasters and public health emergencies?