



**504 DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

*The First Democratic Club in the Country Focusing on Disability Rights*

[www.the504democraticclub.org](http://www.the504democraticclub.org)



**2010 Gubernatorial Candidate Screening Questionnaire**

Please save as a Word document, complete & return by e-mail to: [president@the504dems.org](mailto:president@the504dems.org) by 06/09/10.

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Borough: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

:  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Endorsements:**

Political:

Community:

Labor:

1. How have you incorporated people with disabilities into your campaign?
2. If there is a Campaign office(s) is it wheelchair accessible?
3. What personal and professional experience have you had with people with disabilities in your personal life and in the workplace?
4. What type of jobs would you be willing to hire and to provide reasonable accommodation (e.g. flex or part time) for staff members with disabilities?
5. While in public office and/or prior to this campaign, what have you accomplished in regard to advancing disability rights? This can include work towards accessible housing, transportation, employment, health care, education, and including people with disabilities in the political process?
6. Will you commit to only attend and/or sponsor events that are accessible to people with disabilities including providing written materials in alternate formats, providing assistive listening systems, and sign language interpreters, as well as ensuring that locations are accessible to people who use mobility aids, like wheelchairs and walkers?
7. Do you pledge to use your office to affirm or strengthen, rather than weaken, civil rights protections to persons with disabilities?
8. How do you propose your active involvement/availability to the disability community?
  - a. Will there be a specific person in your office responsible to this community?
  - b. Will have regular office agenda meetings on these issues?
  - c. What would you do to have direct contact with our community?
9. How will you work closely with the disability community to assure passage of vitally needed legislation? What will be your strategy?

10. If you are an incumbent,
  - a. Is your office accessible to persons with disabilities? If not, If not, what have you done to rectify the inaccessibility? When do you intent to find an accessible office?
  - b. What oversight have you performed regarding implementation of programs/legislation passed previously?
11. If you are not an incumbent,
  - a. Is your present office/work place accessible to people with disabilities? If not, what have you done to rectify the inaccessibility?
  - b. If the present district office is inaccessible, do you intent to find an accessible office?
12. Do you support a waiver of the state's sovereign immunity claims under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973?
13. At present: SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) Household income cap is \$29,000. DRIE (Disabled Rent Increase Exemption) is \$19,284/single and \$27,780/2 or more. What is your position on increasing DRIE income eligibility to match SCRIE?
14. Will you develop new and renovated housing for people with disabilities?
  - a. What alternative programs will you propose to allow persons with disabilities to stay in their own homes/apartments? Perhaps a dedicated housing trust fund should be established for persons with disabilities?
  - b. What efforts are you willing to commit to assuring that people with disabilities do not become homeless - are able to stay in their own apartments with adequate supports.
15. Do you favor the incorporation of the housing provisions of Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act into NYS Human Rights Law?
16. People with disabilities have one of the highest rates of unemployment and underemployment as a result of both physical and attitudinal barriers. What have you done in your present office to advance employment opportunities for people with disabilities? What would you do as Governor to increase the employment of people with disabilities in both State government and the private sector?
17. Many transportation service providers such as taxis, limousines and hotel shuttles currently fail to provide accessible service. What would you do to expand accessible transportation options for people with disabilities in NYS?
18. In the Olmstead decision, the Supreme Court ruled that severely disabled persons have the right to live in the community in the "least restrictive environment," and not be warehoused in nursing homes. In spite of the fact that personal care services are often more cost effective, and severely disabled persons are often happier and live longer in their own homes, there continues to be a nursing home bias in government. What would you do to insure that consumers have the opportunity to remain in the community if they so desire?
19. The Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP): Enables self-directing senior citizens and younger disabled persons (or their surrogates) receiving home care under Medicaid to recruit, hire, train, supervise and (if necessary) discharge workers, with the home care agency servicing as a "fiscal conduit" to pay salaries, taxes and benefits based on information provided by the consumer and worker. Although CDPAP is a product of the disability rights movement, HRA no longer allows consumers to serve on the Boards of provider agencies and has encouraged agencies to move away from the "self-directing" model to the more traditional "medical" model. Would you, as Governor, seek to reverse that policy and strengthen and expand CDPAP? Please describe strategy and time frame for such policy change.
20. Do you support the extension of Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) to low-income persons with disabilities regardless of age? What would you do to ensure this?
21. Children with disabilities often attend schools with segregated placements, insufficient supports to function in a regular classroom, or travel in poorly maintained buses to attend schools far from their homes because their neighborhood school is inaccessible, cannot or will not provide an appropriate education. Months pass before an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is

developed or implemented. Would you do to ensure that school districts are more user friendly to children with disabilities and their parents? Provide time frame.

22. As a result of cutbacks in Federal funding, programs serving students with disabilities in the SUNY/CUNY system are being eliminated. These students often report that SUNY/CUNY fails to provide mandated supports. Will you support a fully funded office of disability services on each SUNY/CUNY campus to assist students with disabilities in securing accommodations?"
23. Persons with disabilities have historically been under-represented within the Democratic Party leadership. According to the 2000 census, persons with disabilities comprised 20.6% of all residents in New York State and 23.1% of the population 18 years and older. Previously, we were told that only those groups included in the Voting Rights Act were included in the goals and timetables for delegate selection. Yet the lesbian and gay communities were included for the first time at the 2000 convention at the 2004 and 2008 conventions. Would you support a campaign to set a goal that 10% of the total New York State Delegation to the 2008 Democratic National Convention be comprised of persons with disabilities?