



# DELAWARE VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES COALITION



The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 24% of Delawareans of voting age have a disability. The Delaware Voters with Disabilities Coalition wants to ensure that these voters – one in four – are informed on the issues and prepared to elect candidates that best serve their interests. Our mission is to educate Delawareans with disabilities about the power of their vote and how to best use it.

Today, we are reaching out with a few questions to give you the opportunity to address the concerns of our community. The Delaware Voters with Disabilities Coalition will post your responses online. Receiving your responses by October 28, 2022 will offer voters time to consider your responses prior to voting.

## Candidate M. Sherm Porter for Senate District 7 Survey

- A key slogan of the disability community is “nothing about us without us.” How will you engage the disability community, if elected, in the policy decisions that affect our lives?

**No Response**

- What legislation have you/will you sponsor regarding accessibility problems?

**No Response**

- Additional services are needed in Delaware for the disabled community – adult supports as well as support for parents of special needs children/young adults. How will you bring additional services that offer the disabled population consumer choice, and control of their care?

**No Response**

- People with disabilities have a higher rate of employment in Delaware than the national average. However, that rate remains far below the average employment rate for people without disabilities. What will you do to help improve employment rates for people with disabilities and address discrimination in employment?

I appreciate you sending a survey. I will not be filling out the survey.

I am a HUGE supporter of the disabled community. We @ Sherm's Catering have been highly active since 2008 in your community. We moved into 87 Reads Way to manage the NCC Government Center. We were immediately introduced to Easter Seals. They were located across the street. We immediately became involved with helping them. We then added a relationship with Networks in the Christina School District. (I am a CHS '90 graduate.) We took on interns and help test students for job interviews in the work place. We then added DFRC & the Blue Gold game. We have sent chefs for about 7 years to BBQ their burgers and dogs at the beginning of the Blue / Gold Game.

- What does full inclusion for people living with disabilities look like to you? What steps do you plan to take to ensure access to full inclusion for your constituents?

**No Response**

- Funding for home- and community-based services is currently heavily weighted toward long-term care facilities as opposed to home- and community-based services. How will you work to (at a minimum) provide equity in access to these services and address work force and wage issues for individuals living in the community, particularly those living in their own homes?

**No Response**

- How will you address other systemic challenges to adequate in-home supports and services, such as long waiting lists, placement into group home being limited to crisis-only situations, and staff shortages that lead to uncovered hours?

**No Response**

- How does your campaign prioritize accessibility within your digital and in-person engagement? If elected, how will you ensure that your communications, from websites to press conferences and more, will be accessible to people with disabilities?

**No Response**

- On Friday, October 7, 2022 the Delaware Supreme Court struck down a law that would have allowed for same day registration and mail-in voting for all registered voters. The Court ruled that an amendment to the State Constitution was required, which would require a 2/3 vote in both chambers. Same day registration and mail-in voting provides greater opportunities for participation of people with disabilities in the electoral process. If the legislature chooses to pursue a constitutional amendment to allow citizens of Delaware to vote by mail and/or have same-day registration, would you support these measures? If not, please explain your reason.

**No Response**

- Is there anything else that you would like to share with the Delaware voters?

We are now supporting POW R & Thrive with 4 employees in the kitchen Carol has been with us for almost 5 yrs.

In conclusion, I have already supported the Disability workforce community. I will continue that as well as helping more. As Senator, I will have an opportunity and a larger platform to advertise and educate the business community on the power of hiring adults with disabilities. It will be an honor to represent District 7 as well as the Great State of DE on November 9th.

I appreciate your support and look forward to doing my part in helping you raise even more awareness to Coalition.