



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.

Timothy S. Conrad Candidate for State Representative District 26 Survey Response

- **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?**

By reminding them they are no different than anybody else. We are all Delawareans with the same rights, and the same rights to access wherever services are offered.

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

As long as ADA Regulations are followed, I’d support legislation that helps those in need of better access to the facilities in question.

- **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?**

For control of care, I advocate for competition. Consumers can choose what better suits their needs.

- **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?**

Employers should know a person's disability is not on their resume, so it therefore should not be an issue at an interview.

- **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?**

Several strides have been made to include those of us who happen to have disabilities. To me, full inclusion would look like this: when we stop viewing persons with disabilities or other conditions of situations as some "other group" distinguished apart from those without such conditions, and access to any facilities presently in question is available to all.

- **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?**

The workforce issue will be largely resolved when stop using COVID as the excuse to fail to meet the needs of those served.

- **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?**

The long list is a result of staff shortages. The staff shortages are a result of failing COVID policy and a reset of wages due to wage increases.

- **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?**
- Our campaign is operating at a basic, "shoestring" budget level. There are free tools available to enhance the web page. It could be read to the user or enlarged. If elected, I will make sure there are proper accommodations in place for those who need it.
- **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.**

I would not. The current laws leave open the process for fraud. I disagree with the premise that a handicapped, aged, or minority voter would be some how disenfranchised without same-day registration, solicited mail-in voting, or no Id-Required. If I were someone with one of these distinctions, and I was told that I needed some extra provision because I was incapable of following the procedures currently in place, I would be insulted.

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

There does need to be improvement in the services offered disabled persons. I believe that the services that are presently offered need improving in quality and promptness before we consider adding more.