

## **IDAC campaign questions: a resource for civic action**

Active engagement in our democracy is how Americans ensure that we have government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Although it might seem difficult to have an impact on a campaign, every one of us can play a role in shaping the dialogue. These candidate questions are a resource for people who want to question candidates for federal, state, and local office about their positions on issues that affect people with disabilities, their families, and their communities. This wording is only a suggestion and these questions are not proprietary—feel free to change them to suit your personal voice and share them widely.

### **How can I use these questions?**

- E-mail a question to the candidate’s campaign.
- Ask a question at a candidate’s town hall meeting or other public appearance.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper encouraging them to include disability issues in their coverage of the candidate’s policy positions.
- Tweet your question to the campaign and/or during a Twitter town hall. [Hashtag: #IDACvote]
- Sponsor a town hall meeting at your congregation and use these questions.
- Share the candidates’ answers widely.
- **E-mail the candidate’s answers to [IDACvote@AAPD.com](mailto:IDACvote@AAPD.com).**



### **Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition**

The mission of the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC) is to mobilize the religious community to speak out and take action on disability policy issues with Congress, the President and Administration, and society at large. IDAC is a diverse nonpartisan coalition of religious and religiously-affiliated organizations whose core spiritual values affirm the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. For a complete list of IDAC members from Christian, Jewish, Islamic and Hindu traditions, visit <https://power.aapd.com/IDAC>.

### **The Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition**

is a Project of



*These questions are intended to assist you in becoming a more educated citizen and may be asked of all candidates running for office. We encourage you to use them widely and ask them of all of the candidates running for the offices in your hometown so that you can be fully informed on the issues.*

# **Election 2012**

## **Questions for Candidates**



**Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition**

## Independence and Community Living

Medicaid provides assistance to more than 8 million persons with disabilities, giving them the tools they need to live and work independently in their communities, such as battery powered wheelchairs, personal care attendants, and other rehabilitation devices and services. There have been proposals to restructure Medicaid.

### Questions:

#### *Candidates for federal office:*

- Please explain your position on Medicaid reform and its impact, if any, on the levels of funding and services currently provided under the existing Medicaid rules with respect to persons with disabilities. Specifically, how would you ensure that persons with disabilities now eligible for Medicaid will continue to receive the same level of services as are currently available?

#### *Candidates for state office:*

- Please explain your position on whether your State should participate in the expanded Medicaid program authorized by the Affordable Care Act, which would benefit many people with disabilities in your State.

## Employment

Americans of many faiths believe strongly that work brings dignity, self-respect and responsibility. Unfortunately, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which mandates equal access to employment for people with disabilities, has failed to result in an increase in employment as two-thirds of Americans with disabilities who want to work remain unemployed or underemployed.

### Question:

- What would you do to increase employment opportunities for qualified workers with disabilities?

## Education

Since passage and implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which sets standards to ensure that persons with disabilities will have equal access to public education, graduation rates for people with disabilities have increased 45 percent, with an associated decrease in dropout rates for students with disabilities. Similarly, enrollment in college has doubled for students with disabilities. Nevertheless, students with disabilities seeking a higher education continue to face enormous barriers to success.

### Questions:

- Do you support the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and funding it at higher levels to ensure that more students with disabilities complete high school?

- What policies and programs would you support to increase employment opportunities, particularly in the private sector, for graduates with disabilities?

## Access to Health Care

The Affordable Care Act of 2010 includes reforms that will help persons live and work independently in their communities. One important reform is a requirement that health insurance must be made available at reasonable cost to persons with pre-existing health problems and disabilities.

### Question:

- Will you support the implementation of reforms passed into law as part of the Affordable Care Act that help people with disabilities lead healthy lives and increase their access to long term services and supports?