

REV Up Kentucky's

2026 Kentucky Candidate Survey: Disability Issues Responses

Vote
November 3

REV UP Kentucky fosters civic engagement and protects the voting rights of Kentuckians with disabilities. The statewide, nonpartisan coalition includes people with disabilities, family members, and organizations.



Background

The 2026 Kentucky Candidate Survey: Disability Issues invited candidates for Kentucky state and federal offices to consider how policy decisions impact Kentuckians with disabilities.

The survey asked the following questions:

- How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?
- How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?
- How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?
- How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?
- How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?
- Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

REV Up Kentucky made multiple attempts to contact the 203 candidates in August and September. We recognize not everyone may have received the survey. 25 candidates completed the survey.

Responses are unedited and organized by office, district, and then in alphabetical order by candidates' first names.

REV Up Kentucky will continue to survey candidates for Kentucky state and federal offices in future elections.



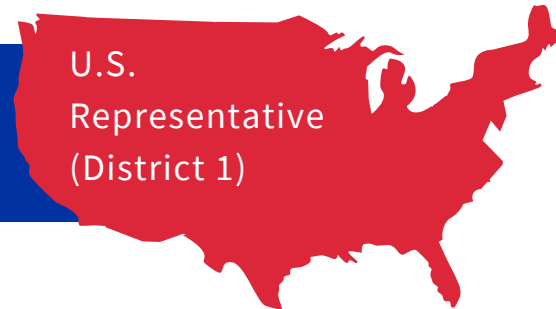
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John "Drew" Williams

U.S.
Representative
(District 1)



How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

People with disabilities should be able to receive the care they need in the communities they choose. In Congress, I would protect Medicaid and support dedicated federal funding to expand Home and Community-Based Services, reduce waiver waitlists, and move toward guaranteed access for eligible people.

Funding must also translate into available care. I would support reimbursement rates that cover the actual cost of services, with accountability to ensure those investments improve caregiver wages, benefits, training, and retention, especially in rural Kentucky. I would also support respite care, options to choose and direct one's own services, and compensation for qualified family caregivers. States should report waiting times and gaps in care so we can measure whether people actually receive the services they are approved for.

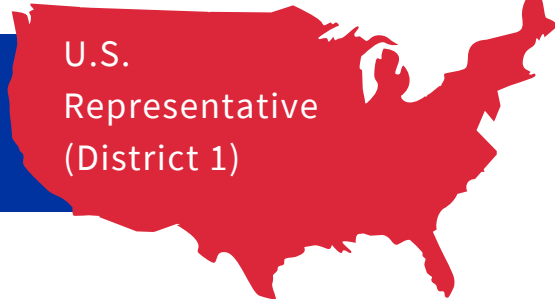
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

Affordable housing must also be accessible and located where people can participate in community life. I would support expanding federal housing investments, including Section 811 housing for people with disabilities, rental assistance, and USDA rural housing programs.

In rural Kentucky, we need both new construction and improvements to existing homes. I would support grants for accessibility modifications such as ramps, wider doorways, and accessible bathrooms, along with stronger accessibility requirements for federally funded housing. I would also support assistance for small communities and nonprofit developers that lack the staff to navigate federal grants.

People with disabilities should have meaningful housing choices, including homes near family, employment, transportation, and services. They should help determine where and how these investments are made.

John "Drew" Williams continued



U.S.
Representative
(District 1)

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

I would oppose efforts to weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Voting Rights Act, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and support adequate funding for the agencies responsible for enforcing them. A protection on paper means little if someone cannot get a complaint investigated or a violation corrected.

My priorities would include accessible public services and websites, effective communication accommodations, and the ability to vote privately and independently. I would defend accessible voting options and oppose unnecessary barriers to registration, ballot access, and assistance.

I would also use congressional oversight to hold federal agencies accountable for disability access and enforcement. People should have a clear, accessible way to report discrimination and obtain timely remedies.

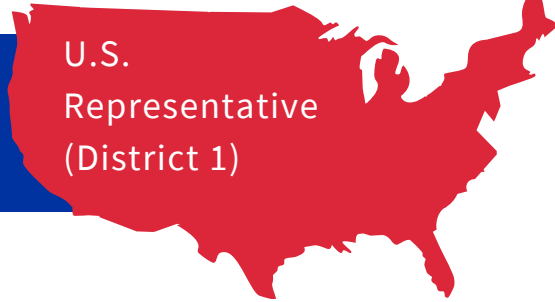
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

People with disabilities should help shape legislation from the beginning. I would establish a district disability advisory group that includes people with different disabilities, backgrounds, and support needs, with strong representation from rural communities. Their participation would be ongoing, with opportunities to review proposals before decisions are made.

My office would provide accessible meetings, remote participation, plain-language materials, captioning, and other needed accommodations. I would actively recruit people with disabilities for staff and advisory roles and work with disability-led organizations to reach constituents who are often excluded.

I would also explain how that input shaped my decisions. Consultation should produce an accountable relationship, with people able to see what their representative did in response.

John "Drew" Williams continued



U.S.
Representative
(District 1)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

People with disabilities deserve access to jobs alongside nondisabled coworkers, with fair wages, benefits, and opportunities for advancement. I would support stronger federal investment in vocational rehabilitation, accessible apprenticeships, paid work experience, job coaching, and support during the transition from school to employment.

Keeping a job also requires reliable transportation, workplace accommodations, and continued access to necessary care. I would support helping small employers provide accommodations while enforcing protections against hiring discrimination and workplace exclusion.

I would also work to reduce benefits cliffs, modernize outdated income and asset limits, and expand pathways to retain Medicaid while working. Benefits counseling should be readily available so people understand their options before changing jobs or hours. I support ending disability-based subminimum wages through a funded transition that provides sustained support for workers and employers.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

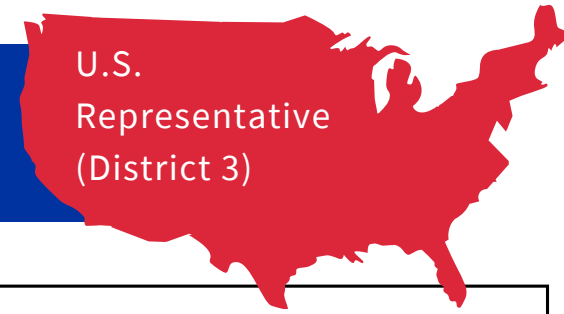
I believe people with disabilities deserve independence, opportunity, and an equal voice in the decisions that affect their lives. My commitment is to protect the services and civil rights that make those goals possible, and to make my office accessible and accountable to you.

I would judge our progress by practical results: whether you can get the support you need, find an affordable and accessible home, pursue meaningful employment, and participate fully in your community. I would bring that same attention to rural Kentucky, where distance and limited providers can make every barrier harder to overcome.

You deserve a representative who listens, follows through, and includes you in the work. I am here for you.

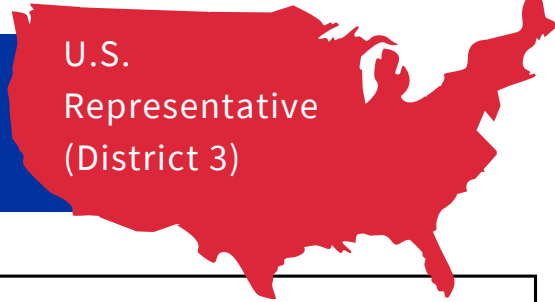
Morgan McGarvey

U.S.
Representative
(District 3)



How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	Funding for Medicaid flows from the federal government to the states. I would advocate for increased Medicaid funding and provide incentives to the states that prioritize funding community based services. After we restore and increase Medicaid funding, I believe Congress should expand existing programs or create a new federal program that guarantees individuals with disabilities and the elderly an in-home medical benefit.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	The lack of housing in this country exacerbates other community problems - poverty, substance use disorder, domestic violence (to name just a few) and people with disabilities face increased challenges in securing appropriate housing. We already know that the Housing First model works. While in the Kentucky State Senate, I started the Affordable Housing Caucus. I believe it is time for a nationwide effort, a Marshall Plan, to address the lack of housing. In Congress, I supported the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act — the first comprehensive bipartisan housing legislation passed in decades. But we must do more. I will continue to advocate for more funding in Congress.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	We cannot go backward. I oppose efforts in Congress to roll back protections for individuals with disabilities, limit enforcement or remediation required by law, or let businesses off the hook who violate these landmark laws. I also oppose any proposal, like the SAVE Act, that would disenfranchise people for whom in-person registration and voting are impossible or a significant burden.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	In all legislative actions, the people most affected must be at the table. When Medicaid was on the chopping block in Trump's Big Awful Bill, I went back to my district and held public meetings and roundtables with advocates and people in the community who would be directly impacted by those cuts. I took their stories back to DC to advocate for increased, not decreased, funding. As the ranking Democrat on the Small Business Committee's Entrepreneurship Subcommittee, I worked with the Republican chairman to hold a hearing on employment and entrepreneurship for individuals with disabilities. In a divided, partisan Congress, this hearing was a rare moment of bipartisanship and agreement, and I was proud to host a Louisville business owner with disabilities as a witness.

Morgan McGarvey continued



U.S.
Representative
(District 3)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

While it is the states that decide much of the way Medicaid is spent, the federal government can incentivize programs that work to remove barriers for people with disabilities to enjoy appropriate, fulfilling employment.

One of the very first bills I introduced as a freshman member of Congress was the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Reporting Act, which requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to conduct a comprehensive study and submit a report to Congress detailing the specific challenges and needs faced by entrepreneurs with disabilities. This bill went on to pass the full House of Representatives, and I will continue to work to get it signed into law.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

I have a long record, from the Kentucky State Senate to U.S. Congress, of fighting for my community. I have been accessible and open to learning more about how to help people. My best ideas for legislation come from meeting with constituents. If I am at a table, I will always make room for my constituents.

Billy Ray Wilson

U.S.
Representative
(District 5)

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

You want like this answer. Your life needs should be a thought throughout you life to a point of self-control, even with disabilities. The United States is not a Socialist Country.

How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

Elect individuals that truly represent the people, not investors.

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

All US citizens must be treated equally.

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

Citizen should vote for US citizens that earn the right to represent, not a political party.

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

There should not be any barriers. If you are competent and have the will to accomplish a task for monetary and health care, then the position should be available to you, if qualified to fill the position. The United States is not a Socialist Country.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

Because I am a United States one hundred percent combat disabled US Air Force career retiree and Department of Veterans Affairs Administrative Officer of the Day medically retiree that is fully aware of the hardships faced by individuals with true disabilities. Moreover, the governments of the United States whether state or federal must care for their citizens. The United States is a Constitutional Republic, not a theocracy.citii===

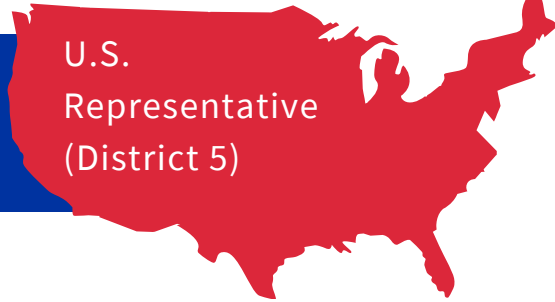
Gerardo Serrano

U.S.
Representative
(District 5)



How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	People with disabilities should have a meaningful choice to live in their own homes and communities. I would support reliable funding for home care and Medicaid waiver services, shorter waiting lists, and fair pay to recruit and retain caregivers, especially in rural Kentucky. Family caregivers also need respite care and practical support. I would demand accountability so that funding reaches the people who need care and the workers providing it.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	I would support repairing existing homes and building affordable, accessible housing in rural Kentucky. Assistance should include ramps, wider doorways, accessible bathrooms, and other modifications that help people live independently. I would work with local governments, builders, and nonprofit organizations to remove unnecessary barriers to construction while preserving accessibility and safety. Housing efforts must also consider access to transportation, health care, and essential services.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	Defending civil rights is one of my main reasons for running. I would oppose efforts to weaken disability protections and support effective enforcement, timely investigation of complaints, and meaningful remedies for discrimination. Equal access to voting, public services, education, and employment must be more than a promise on paper. I would listen directly to people with disabilities to identify where those protections are failing.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	People with disabilities should help shape the decisions that affect their lives. I would regularly consult with constituents with disabilities and disability advocacy organizations before voting on relevant legislation. My office, public meetings, and communications would be accessible, with opportunities to participate remotely. I would welcome people with disabilities as staff members and advisers and explain how their concerns influenced my decisions.

Gerardo Serrano



U.S.
Representative
(District 5)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

People with disabilities deserve the opportunity to earn fair wages and work alongside other employees. I would support accessible job training, transportation, assistive technology, and workplace accommodations. I would also work to improve benefit rules so that taking a job or earning more does not abruptly cost someone essential health care or support. Employers and workers need practical assistance, and discrimination complaints must receive timely attention.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

I believe Congress should put Americans first. I oppose unnecessary foreign wars and blank checks overseas while people here struggle to afford groceries, housing, and health care. Decisions about war must come before Congress, and representatives must answer for their votes.

As an independent, I would judge each issue on its merits. I want to protect Social Security, defend constitutional rights and due process, and demand accountability for taxpayer money. My own fight against civil asset forfeiture taught me why government power must have limits. Public office should be a responsibility to serve the people.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

We must first undo the cuts to Medicaid, housing assistance programs, and community development programs that support people with disabilities. Next, we need to strengthen these programs. One model is the VA, which provides comprehensive care for soldiers with disabilities; this includes medical and psychological care, specialized assistance, and programs for people with specific needs like Script Talk for the visually impaired. Ultimately, though, we must pass a universal health care bill that includes long-term support for people with disabilities to thrive in the community or in an institution. We also need to strengthen public transportation services beyond those we have now to better enable people with disabilities to access services and participate in their chosen communities.

How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

I would first seek to restore and increase funding to HUD and USDA rural housing assistance programs. Secondly, I would increase the percentage of units that must be designed for accessibility to qualify for government housing tax breaks for landlords. We need to build more public housing; I would support a federal jobs program to build this housing with a focus on buildings that are accessible. The Road to Housing Act was a good first step, but we need stronger legislation focused on rural housing.

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

I would fight to defeat the Save America Act, which adds barriers to voting. Recent Supreme Court decisions have weakened the Voting Rights Act; I support legislation to restore and strengthen the VRA. If the ongoing lawsuit to weaken the Rehabilitation Act succeeds, I would introduce legislation to restore and strengthen it. I would also support legislation to expand mail-in voting, provide free transportation to polling places on election day, and make election day a national holiday. I would advocate for enhanced enforcement and funding for disability services to strengthen the ADA.

Mikel Wein continued

U.S.
Representative
(District 5)

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

If elected, I would ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to be hired in my office. One of the most appealing things about the House of Representatives, versus most other branches of government, is that it is the most responsive to the will of the American people. To that end, I am committed to holding town halls every 2-3 months throughout my district to ensure everyone is given an opportunity to be heard. I would also seek to increase online pathways for people to comment on pending legislation or contribute ideas for needed policy. I also support a federal direct ballot initiative program, modeled on state-level programs to give citizens the opportunity to vote directly on specific issues.

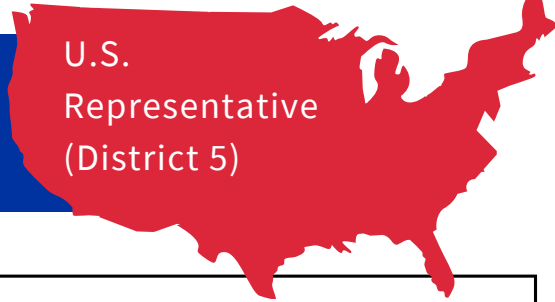
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

Congress should update ADA protections, especially to help disabled workers retain employment and have access to job training programs. Congress should also work to make "Right to Work" illegal at the federal level and entitle every American to access to Union representation upon request. Unions can help ensure that disabled persons have the protections and support they need in the workplace. I also support a federal Universal Basic Services program, which would cover household needs to increase quality of life, ensure that federal aid is targeted for actual costs that people face, and reduce one of the barriers to employment that pays a living wage.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

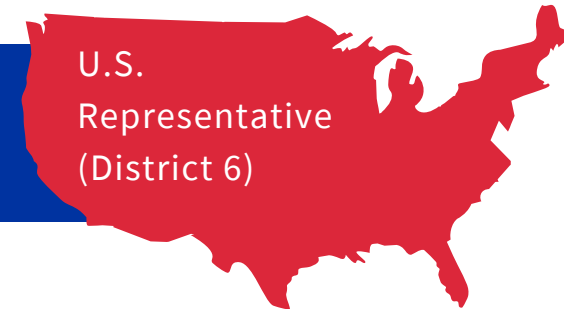
I am focused on restoring and expanding social services and rebuilding communities so that all people can live with dignity in the community of their choice. I will work toward a federal jobs program to build more accessible public housing and community centers that will provide programs, such as after-school care, we desperately need. I am also proposing to build solar-powered charging hubs to power local and regional EV transportation that will allow people with disabilities to access community services. In sum, I am committed to ensuring that all people can have stable lives and remain in the place they love.

Ned Pillersdorf



U.S.
Representative
(District 5)

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	Medicare for All! I am featured in The Big Conn documentary on Apple TV
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	Block grants
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	Support
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	My career has been doing that
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	Support American Visibilities act
Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?	They can watch the documentary



How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

Every Kentuckian deserves the right to live in their community — not an institution — with the support they need to thrive.
I support expanding home- and community-based services (HCBS) through Medicaid, so people with disabilities can get personal care, housing assistance, and job coaching where they live — not in isolated facilities. Right now, thousands are on waiting lists for these services. That’s unacceptable.
As your voice, I’ll fight to:
Increase state funding to clear Kentucky’s HCBS waiting list
Incentivize local innovation — like supported living programs and peer-run housing — with state grants
Partner with nonprofits and faith communities to expand respite care and personal attendant services
Strengthen Olmstead compliance — ensuring Kentucky upholds the Supreme Court ruling that people with disabilities have a right to live in the most integrated setting
This isn’t just about policy — it’s about freedom.
No one should be forced into an institution just because support isn’t available at home.

How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

Affordable housing starts with fixing the system — not just building more units. Two forces are breaking it: the federal deficit and Wall Street’s grip on our neighborhoods.
First, the federal deficit. When the government borrows trillions, it floods the market with debt, driving up interest rates for everyone. Cities, counties, and housing authorities have to borrow at higher costs — making affordable housing projects too expensive to build or maintain. We can’t compete. So I’ll push to cap non-defense deficit spending and redirect savings into low-interest federal loan pools for local housing — so communities can build without bleeding on interest.
Second, private equity. Giant firms are buying up single-family homes — not to live in, but to flip, rent, and extract. They’re not neighbors. They’re portfolios. And they’re pricing working families out of entire markets. I support targeted reforms.

Jay Bowman continued

U.S.
Representative
(District 6)

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

I support:
Strengthening ADA enforcement at the state level with clear accountability — so every business, government office, and public space in Kentucky is truly accessible
Expanding voting access for people with disabilities — including mobile voting units, accessible ballots, and training for poll workers
Fully funding Section 504 programs in schools and workplaces, so accommodations aren't delayed, denied, or left to chance
Protecting these rights from erosion — opposing any effort to weaken them through regulation, budget cuts, or executive overreach
And I'll go further: I'll champion a Kentucky Disability Rights Task Force — made up of people with disabilities, advocates, and legal experts — to review policies, respond to complaints, and ensure our state leads by example.
Because civil rights aren't real until they're lived.
And no one should have to fight for access to a ballot, a building, or a basic seat at the table.

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

If you're making decisions about people with disabilities — but people with disabilities aren't in the room — you're part of the problem.
I commit to nothing less than full inclusion. Not token seats. Not after-the-fact feedback. Real leadership roles from the start.
Here's how:
Appoint people with disabilities to key state boards and commissions — including education, health, transportation, and workforce development
Create a Kentucky Disability Policy Council — made up of self-advocates, parents, and independent living leaders — to review every bill, budget, and regulation that impacts our community
Require state agencies to consult with disability stakeholders before launching programs or changing services
Fund leadership training and stipends so people with disabilities — especially from underserved communities — can participate without financial penalty

Jay Bowman continued

U.S.
Representative
(District 6)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

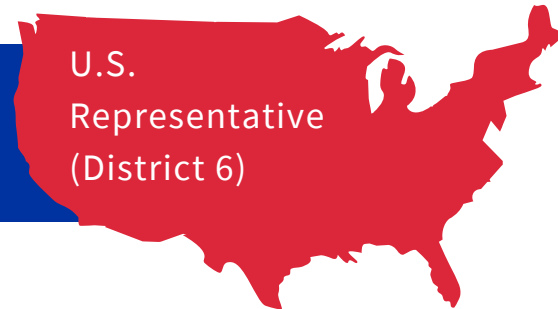
Right now, too many face the same impossible choice: take a job and risk losing health care, benefits, or housing — or stay on the sidelines to stay safe. That’s not a choice. It’s a trap.
End benefit cliffs by creating a state-funded bridge that protects Medicaid and housing assistance as people earn more — so work always pays
Partner with Kentucky businesses to create apprenticeships and on-ramps in growing fields like advanced manufacturing, AI tech support, and green energy
Invest in transition programs for youth with disabilities — so they leave school with skills, connections, and real job offers, not just a certificate
Launch a Kentucky Inclusive Employer Certification — recognizing companies that hire, promote, and accommodate fairly, with tax incentives for those who lead
And I’ll make sure these programs are designed with people who’ve lived the struggle — not just talked about it.
Because employment isn’t charity.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

I’ve seen with my own eyes what happens when we choose support over silence — and independence over indifference.
My grandfather was blind — and I was the only grandchild he ever saw. I watched him navigate the world without sight, facing every barrier with quiet strength. He didn’t wait for help. He made his way — and he made it look possible.
Now, my 93-year-old mother is losing her vision to macular degeneration. But her mind? Sharp as ever. Without the support of the Veterans Administration, and critical local and state programs, she wouldn’t be able to live at home — not safely, not independently.
But she is — because those programs exist.
And that’s the difference.
We’ve seen what works.
We’ve seen what’s possible.
And we know the truth: everyone — young or old — deserves the chance to live with dignity and control over their own life.

Robert Quigley

U.S.
Representative
(District 6)



How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

Quigley supports shortening the wait times increasing the number of providers and increasing the amount of funding available to cover all related services this question addresses. Ultimately in the macro picture we have a badly configured financial system. More specifically we need to provide the resources to help the disabled folks and more importantly, provide the resources so that disabled folks can take care of themselves through more jobs for example, a tiny or small business that they own and or operate. They may even be a partner in such small businesses. Overall, the theme and focus of a Quigley administration is to robustly develop economic opportunities, and the funding necessary to achieve those economic opportunities across all of the Kentucky six counties specifically and the state of Kentucky generally.

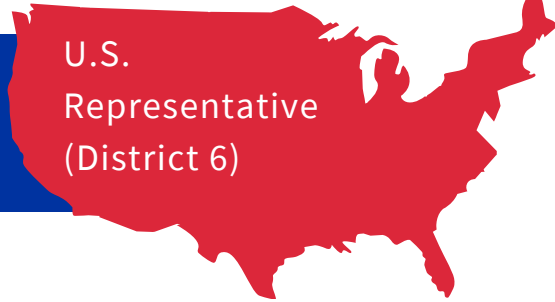
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

I will spearhead a reform of FHA housing regulations to make it much easier to qualify for a mortgage for a small home also known as a starter home in the range of 250 to 750 sq ft.². In addition, I will spearhead the efforts to build up to 1 million new homes across Kentucky that fall into this small and tiny home category. People with disabilities as well as first time buyers and seniors all want small homes. I will map them out and build them in a smart affordable way. In essence solving the housing crisis is one of the big pillars of the Quigley For Congress platform in the Kentucky six congressional district.

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

Quigley supports properly funding the listed legislation as well as other surrounding relevant legislation. We must also provide funding to enforce such laws with the intention of improving the lives of all of our citizens. In short, the laws must have meaning and resources must be available to achieve the laws objectives. There is no point in passing symbolic legislation or putting such symbolism on the law books only to collect dust. In addition, I am a really big advocate and supporter of tiny and small business creation. There will be plenty of funds made available through legislation so that all capable people will have the opportunity to improve their lives. And when they don't, we must fund programs that help.

Robert Quigley continued



U.S.
Representative
(District 6)

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

Once elected the Quigley team will put a mobile minivan office on the road. At least two or three of my staff members will visit every single county two times per month. Every constituent will have the opportunity to visit the mobile office and discuss their issues, suggestions and concerns. We will also have an open line of communication through physical presence in the office, emails, cell phones, text messages, website chats, etc.. So we want to know what our 750,000 constituents are saying and that includes everybody with a disability too.

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

I will introduce legislation that gives specific tax breaks to companies of all sizes that hire folks with disabilities. In addition, see the other answers to your questions that apply here too. All hands on deck is the Quigley motto. Let's help start new businesses and let's give employers a tax incentive to hire folks with disabilities too. Quigley Builds Kentucky.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

Both Democrats and Republicans have had 175 years to solve both big and small problems across America. They failed. What we have today are two parties trying to outdo each other and simultaneously trying to harm each other just so they can get reelected.

Robert Quigley Kentucky's independent and a nationally known independent says let's put this to an end. We will focus on solving the problems that George Washington warned about 250 years ago; paralyzation through party politics. In Short, the independent voice is the guy today that's gonna make things happen.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

As a Geriatrics and Palliative Care physician, I've spent my career caring for patients and families, and I know people live longer and are happier when they can remain in their homes and communities. Helping people stay home means better health and less time in long-term care facilities. It also helps all Kentucky taxpayers by reducing Medicaid spending on nursing facilities. Caring for Kentucky starts with listening. I'll work across party lines and listen to families and caregivers about what they need to live safely and independently in the communities they call home.

How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

Affordable housing is a critical need in every corner of Kentucky, from our small towns to our suburbs. I'll work to increase the housing supply and make homeownership more attainable through regulatory reform and construction incentives. I support tax incentives and community grants to make homes accessible, such as installing ramps and bathroom hand-holds. Investing in people's ability to stay in their homes means fewer fall-related injuries and lower costs for nursing homes. I'll also work to reform the homestead exemption so seniors and veterans can afford to age safely in their homes.

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

I believe everyone deserves equal access to housing, employment, public accommodations and the ballot box. I support modernizing our election laws with expanded early voting and extended voting hours that better meet the needs of Kentucky families. I've spent my career caring for veterans, families and patients, and I've seen how much independence and dignity matter in every person's life. Neither political party has a monopoly on good ideas, and I'll work across party lines to make sure every Kentuckian can fully take part in our community and civic life.

Dr. Christian Furman continued

State Senate
(District 6)

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	In medicine, the best care comes from listening closely to patients and families, because they know their own lives better than anyone. I'll bring that same approach to the State Senate. Caring for Kentucky means meeting people where they are, from house calls to town halls, and making sure every voice is heard and valued. Please call me. My door will always be open to you and your family. Kentuckians with disabilities deserve a real say in the decisions that shape their lives, before legislation is voted on, not after.
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	Everyone who works deserves good jobs that provide self-respect, a fair wage and financial security. No full-time worker should have to live in poverty. I'll support expanding workforce training programs that equip Kentuckians with the skills needed for a changing economy. I'll also support partnerships among local government, schools and businesses that strengthen our regional economy. As more employers use AI in hiring, I support requiring them to disclose when automated systems are used in hiring, monitoring or evaluating employees, so every applicant is treated fairly.
Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?	As a practicing physician, I'm running to improve the health and well-being of all Kentuckians. I've spent my career caring for veterans, families and patients, and as a Congressional Fellow in Washington, D.C., I advised members of both parties on the needs of older adults. In my medical practice, I care for Kentuckians one patient at a time. As your State Senator, I'll listen, I'll answer your call, and I'll work across party lines to build a more affordable, healthier and safer Kentucky for every family.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	Government was set up initially to serve the people. All of the people. No one, especially those with disabilities and their families, should be forced to wade through mountains of forms and wait years for services. The Kentucky legislature should be working toward reducing complications to file for services and funding, improving provider training and availability, funding plans so families can afford to stay home or pay caregivers to take care of those with disabilities and work to shorten waitlists. Educational plans and services should be focused on what people CAN do rather than what they can't.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	The housing crisis in Kentucky has been made worse by the war in Iran, escalating fuel prices to manufacture and ship building supplies and unnecessary tariffs on building products from countries like Canada. While there is not much a state senator can do on the federal level, state legislatures can explore creation of public-private partnerships to incentivize construction of affordable housing. In Senate District 8, we have a shortage of ADA approved homes, starter and transitional housing, primarily because there is a higher profit margin in upscale housing.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	While the Kentucky supermajority has made small increases in funding for those with disabilities, there are still 19,000 Kentuckians on the waitlist. Why does the supermajority refuse to meet the needs of ALL Kentuckians with disabilities? The Kentucky legislature continues attacks on marginalized communities by not passing fairness legislation. Electing new representatives and senators with proven track records of working to balance the scales for those often neglected (or even targeted) would be a move in the right direction. I will work to protect those with disabilities and work to promote legislation that strengthens services and resources already in place.

Vicki Quisenberry continued

State Senate
(District 8)

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	As a candidate, I have spoken with multiple family members of those with disabilities to begin educating myself on their struggles and needs. Legislation should not be considered without hearing from those it will impact.
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	Creative solutions are needed to meet the needs of all Kentuckians. What educational programs can be funded that will identify marketable skills of the disabled to improve their ability to find meaningful work? What incentives can be provided to employers to encourage hiring and retaining those with disabilities? Let's get stakeholders in the room and discuss the possibilities!
Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?	I've spent the past decade and a half in non-profit work raising funds to make up for deficiencies in state and federal funding for those in need. I have friends who have disabled family members and a grandson with severe Epilepsy. I've listened to their struggles and understand the frustrations faced by families as they attempt to navigate the jungle of chaos to receive disability services and/or funding for their family members.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	Since most rural communities do not have access to all the medical care that those with disabilities may need I would ensure that they have safe, reliable transportation to and from medical care facilities for treatment, therapy and examinations. I would also ensure that qualified medical personnel are able to travel to patients to provide care.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	First, I would recommend to federal legislators that they continue to fund and expand programs like HUD Section 18 and housing choice vouchers. Programs that work for the VA (like adaptive housing grants) should be expanded to fit all disabled. As a state legislator I would make fully fund the Hart-Supported Living Program and the Modest Needs Living Grant.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	Again, as a state legislator I consider it my duty to speak to federal lawmakers and demand support for civil rights protections of the disabled. We also need to make sure that we have state laws and programs which, at a minimum mirror the federal protections and exceed them whenever possible.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	Since I am not disabled it would be much easier for me to travel to those wishing to provide input, rather than make them travel to Frankfort every year. Visiting the facilities and meeting with the disabled where they live would be the best way to learn their needs.

John Whipple continued

State House
(District 10)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

So many aspects of this survey rely on the federal government continuing to uphold their responsibilities. This year especially they have proven unreliable. We need to create and fund state programs to support our disabled since the federal government is often an unreliable partner.
One thing that needs to be fixed, and by fixed I mean ELIMINATED is the income and asset limitations from Medicaid and SSI. This is a huge drag on how much a disabled person may earn. There is no need for it, it does more harm than good, it is a bad policy and needs to go away. However, as a state legislator other than being a strong, outspoken advocate there is not much I could do in a situation like this.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

Because I believe that there will always be people with disabilities needing care and we need to invest in long term programs, with budgets that extend over decades, rather than making the disabled and their caregivers come to Frankfort every budget session and lobby for scraps. Many current policies, such as requiring constant recertification of disabilities, are unnecessary and demeaning. The disabled need to be looked at with respect and treated as partners, and that is my promise to them.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	This issue is personal to me. I have a grandparent who is disabled that has not met eligibility for Home and Community-Based Services despite declining health and progressing dementia. Families struggle under the weight of healthcare costs and the cost of care, not only financially but also physically and mentally. I would work to expand Medicaid waiver eligibility in Kentucky so that more families have the relief of support as they care for their loved one. For me, this is foundational to ensuring the protection of human dignity, regardless of zip code.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	In my research, there are higher rates of disability among people living in rural communities. Thus, the challenge is finding safe, accessible, and affordable housing. As a state, we need to consider creative efforts to diversify housing types, updating zoning to allow for that, and provide grant funding for updated infrastructure to mitigate the high construction costs that may impact rural areas. We also need to ensure that we are taking advantage of any federal support through rural development grants and partner with regional rural cooperatives that are also working in areas like rural health. Comprehensive solutions, not a one-size fits all approach need to be crafted WITH rural communities.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	My daughter is on the spectrum and first started receiving support in school under a 504 Plan before becoming eligible for an IEP. Further, professionally, I've worked in education policy nearly my entire career. Civil rights protections are about proactive systems and accountability. We need to make sure that we work with people with disabilities and advocates to design support systems that preemptively support the civil rights for people with disabilities. So often, consideration of need is contemplated after the fact. Additionally, we need to ensure that rights and protections afforded under the above-named legislation are enforced, and that begins with empowering families and individuals with disabilities to report and seek accountability when services and supports fall short. Reporting systems should be accessible and actionable, not a black hole that leaves families waiting for results.

Cassie Blausey continued

State House
(District 29)

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	I believe in crafting policy at the margins. This means that you consider, first and foremost, the people who may be least able to access the program, furthest away from the benefit, or other marginalization as core to the solution design. That way, the system is designed with the person at the margins, which ultimately is good for everyone. Professionally, I've done this in advising nonprofits, as a nonprofit executive, and as a classroom teacher.
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	I'm the current executive director for the Louisville Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and have regularly had conversations with business owners about workforce needs. As a legislator, I believe it would be my responsibility to bring these conversations to business owners and chambers of commerce. In researching Employment First, the information detailing Myths is an important step in creating clear and shared narratives about what Employment First is and isn't. This is, in part, overcoming bias and also logistically connecting employers with the right information and confidence to not just seek out opportunities to expand competitive, integrated employment but also share their learning and confidence with their peers.
Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?	I'm close to, and love dearly, family members that are disabled. Further, as a former inclusion teacher, I've professionally advocated for students with disabilities nearly my entire career. The rights and well-being of Kentuckians with disabilities is incredibly personal to me. It's important to know that I am not only an advocate, but I've taken action throughout my career to create policies and practices that include all people, regardless of ability, so that all are included. I believe that's how we build a stronger Kentucky.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	We need to do a much better job of prioritizing who can be on a waiting list and who should receive services immediately, or at least much quicker. I am not an expert in the waiting list, but it seems that it should be more on need than it is now. And, of course, we need to focus more of the funding on the traditional population.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	In the past Rep. Nima Kulkarni and I had a bill that would allow a tax credit to retrofit a home that would be appropriate for a person with a disability. So something like that comes to mind. But I am open to additional suggestions. I generally do not support tax credits unless the activity that would receive a tax credit is going to bring new revenue to Kentucky, but this is an exception for me because we need to do more to make Kentucky a friendly state for our families and neighbors with disabilities.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	We recently passed a state law that updated and improved our state's version of the ADA. I am not personally aware of additional laws that need to pass, but I am open to hearing about them if they do need to pass. I want Kentucky to be a leader for persons with disabilities. Just this past session I passed a bill that significantly improved our laws related to mental health. I'd like to do more of that for all types of disabilities.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	I already do that by reaching out to friends in the disability community when bills come up that impact their lives. But I believe there should be more of an organized effort. The nurses and realtors, for example, have a liaison for every member. That might be an idea in this space as well to ensure that legislators understand the issues and how bills impact persons with disabilities.

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	I don't think enough employers are knowledgeable about the benefits of employing persons with disabilities and are not aware of the Employment First initiative. I think educating employers is the most pressing consideration. With the gap between persons without disabilities and persons with disabilities who want to work being so large in Kentucky, I believe this is an issue that we need to take up. Frankly, I was not aware that we had such a large discrepancy until I read the information that is linked to in this question. I am open to working on this issue as a member of leadership of the majority party in the House of Representatives.
Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?	When called upon by the disability community I have joined the effort and even led on a few things. Also, while I am not an expert in this space I want to get more involved in moving our state forward for persons with disabilities. I have done that recently with HB 485 (which was passed by being rolled into SB 122), which was a bill designed to get persons with mental health conditions more help than they previously had received, up to and including--where appropriate--hospitalization to get them healthy. That bill resulted in our state moving from the middle of the pack to the state with the best scores in the nation on civil commitment for persons with mental health conditions, as scored by the Treatment Advocacy Center.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	People with disabilities should be able to live, work, and participate in the communities they choose, not be forced into institutional settings simply because community-based services are unavailable I would work to strengthen funding for Medicaid waivers and home and community-based services, reduce waiting lists, and address the shortage of direct-support professionals by improving wages and workforce stability. We also need to make the system easier for families to navigate.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	I would support more affordable and accessible housing across Kentucky, including in rural areas. I would also support incentives for developers to build accessible homes and apartments and encourage partnerships that create more housing options for people with disabilities and people with limited incomes.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	I would oppose efforts to weaken protections provided by the ADA, Section 504, voting-access laws, or other disability civil rights protections. At the state level, I would work to make sure public buildings, programs, transportation, voting, education, websites, and government services are accessible. I also believe Kentucky should identify barriers before someone is forced to file a complaint or lawsuit to have them corrected. Accessibility should be part of how government operates from the beginning and not an afterthought.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	My child is developmentally delayed, so this issue is very personal to me. I believe people with disabilities and their families should have a direct role in shaping the policies that affect them. I would support including people with disabilities on advisory groups, in legislative hearings, and in the development of programs and services from the very beginning.

Jennifer Hardin continued

State House
(District 33)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

Kentucky's Employment First policy is a good start, but we need to remove the barriers that still keep people with disabilities from working. I would support job coaching, vocational services, transportation, and protections so people are not afraid of losing essential Medicaid supports when they work. Everyone who wants to work should have the opportunity to earn a fair wage and build a meaningful career.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

Because I will listen, show up, and make sure people with disabilities have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Disability policy touches nearly everything state government does. Health care, education, housing, employment, transportation, voting, and access to our communities. I believe people with disabilities deserve the same opportunities, independence, choices, and dignity as every other Kentuckian.

Mary Lou Marzian

State House
(District 41)

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	Continue to support sufficient funding for waivers. Increase funding to abolish waiting lists
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	Fund AHTF)Affordable Housing Trust Fund) adequately. Support/sponsor legislation that creates housing that is affordable. Incentivize public/private partnerships to build housing
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	Speak out in support on House floor. Op-Ed's
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	Listen to folks who are in the trenches, the advocates who actually know what is needed. Attend forums that address issues of disability communities
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	Make sure there are incentives to employ people with disabilities. Also-reserve spaces in work force training programs. And of course-I am more than happy to listen to disability community with ideas!
Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?	In my years in the KY General Assembly I have always supported and advocated for folks with disabilities. My door is always open.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	Invest in them! Just because someone has a disability does not mean they are not a Kentucky citizen or, in some way, something "less." We should be investing our tax dollars in services that help those in need. Waivers help provide needed services in-house, avoid institutionalizing those that don't need to be, saving the state money, and provide more opportunities that save lives.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	Pass policies that provide incentives for developers & builders to increase supply, first-time home buyers and citizens with extra challenges to increase opportunities and a chance to build asset equity.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	The "key" here is educating the state lawmakers that create and amend policy. Creating opportunities and equal protections for people with disabilities is non-partisan and must be understood. A few years back I created the bi-partisan Engage & Empower Caucus among state legislators to discuss & address all issues related to Kentuckians with Disabilities. We were the 1st state to do this. We must continue that work, build upon it, and expand on the Caucuses' effectiveness. The foundation has been laid to do special things - now it's time to grow this mission.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	First and foremost, each legislator must be accessible to their constituency. They take an oath to do so when they're sworn in. If they are not, vote them out. The Engage & Empower Caucus needs to continue to improve its communications with advocacy groups and state cabinet leaders to stay educated and abreast of our state's disability needs. Sweeping changes and state Medicaid cuts brought on by recent federal policy (HR 1 - Big Beautiful Bill. or perhaps the "Big Ugly Bill" as it pertains to healthcare service cuts for Kentuckians with Disabilities) have left us with big financial challenges that must be addressed to avoid having many in need being left behind. The Caucus can play a vital role in seeing this through.

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

Well, it's certainly NOT what the Republican majority did in banning all programs, and even mentions, of anything providing extra opportunities under diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. People with disabilities fall directly under the "INCLUSION" portion of those initiatives. That must be redressed.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

Because I'm one of them!! In 1993, at age 28, I lost my dominant arm and nearly my life in a workplace accident. I didn't quit, I adapted and continue to do so every day I get up. I not only established the first Legislative Caucus in the nation that focused on all disability needs, but I've created 4 non-profit entities (locally, nationally, & internationally) that uses a sport (golf) as medicine for people with disabilities. The United States Adaptive Golf Alliance started 12 years ago with 6 charter organizations of Alliance members that teach or host golf tournaments for people with disabilities. We now have 62 Alliance member organizations. In 2025 alone, we collectively gave over 50,000 free golf lessons to people with disabilities and hosted 47 tournaments nationwide. We've not only saved lives, but we've created heroes and new leaders in the communities where these individuals reside. I have a physical disability myself and I'm a bonafide and proven leader not only in this state, but nationwide in "Adaptive Golf." I will continue to lead in the KY General Assembly educating members about disability issues.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	We need to fund these programs in ways that remove barriers and do not create them. Funding for additional waivers is necessary to help reduce and eventually eliminate long waitlists. Also, Kentucky needs to expand services to keep families together. We need to listen to these families and be creative to find solutions and funding. I have a neighbor who could not get services at all for her daughter in Kentucky and had to send her daughter to Kansas and struggles with the state constantly around funding for her daughter. The systems and processes are cumbersome. We can have accountability for funds without creating excessive administrative burdens for everyone.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	I would look to see if home modifications are possible for existing homes, particularly in rural areas so that people do not have to relocate to have accessible housing. Additionally, I would support creating funds targeted at the county level to fund specific projects based on the needs in those counties for housing modifications or creation.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	When reviewing or voting on legislation, I would turn to local experts in these specific fields and advocacy groups to ensure that whatever policy we are enacting is going to be helping people and not hurting them. Listening to those who may be impacted helps provide context for the legislation that policymakers do not always consider.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	I am not yet elected and I have already sat down and listened to the concerns of my neighbors related to cuts to Medicaid and issues with the Michelle P. Waiver. I have attended a rally in Frankfort to hear more from families. I plan to continue to do the same when elected.

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

I am an educator so I would definitely lean into ensuring that students with disabilities are provided career development opportunities through our schools. These programs require proper funding and staffing to be successful for students. I would also support legislation that promotes inclusive hiring practices and training for people to understand how to implement reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities at their workplace. Finally, if transportation serves as a barrier, it is important that we study feasibility to modify public transportation or expand transportation services. Again, I would listen to people with disabilities and learn about what barriers impact their employment and research ways to address those particular barriers as they arise.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

I am a teacher and I support young people in their endeavor to be productive adults. Students with disabilities deserve the same opportunities to live a fulfilling life. Also, as a cancer survivor, I am compassionate towards those who are living with disabilities and I want them to be able to thrive.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	We need to vigorously defend the long-accepted interpretation of the Olmstead Decision that provides the foundation for providing home and community-based services (HCBS), that support individuals with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses living and working within their own homes or local communities.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	Affordable housing is an issue, these days, for everyone in and out of the disability community. Prioritizing financial resources that specifically address assessability and safety issues within the existing homes and community of individuals with disabilities would be my first priority. The cost of institutional placements far exceeds the costs involved in providing home and community supports.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	Vigorous advocacy that emphasizes to the voting public both the proven cost savings to state and federal governments of empowering ALL members of society to reach their maximum level of productivity and self-sufficiency; and by phrasing this as not just something that affects "others" but something that could by birth condition, injury, sickness or aging, affect any of us or our families at any random time - appeal to their morality and their self-interest in that at any moment, it could be you or yours needing and relying on these civil right protections.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	If they are making their own decisions, obviously I would speak directly with them. If they have a legal guardian, I would still include the individual as much as possible. If possible, the person with disabilities should be present during all decision-making events.

Wilanne Stangel continued

State House
(District 69)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

Under the current political circumstances, when landmark court decisions that protected the special needs and disabilities community are under attack and threatened with partial or full removal, this issue becomes even more problematic. Programs, plans, and procedures that allow for incremental step-back, rather than "all or nothing" governmental safety nets are needed, as are increased mandates for accommodations. However in these times, I fear that these issues are going to become more, rather than less, problematic. I think more people will be limited to the substandard wages of sheltered workshops, but even those options are likely to be negatively impacted by cuts to Medicaid. Efforts in the near future will need to be focused on "holding the line" in hopes of making some political progress that enables further strides in advocacy.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

I am the legal guardian of my adult son who is on the autism spectrum and currently attends Medicaid funded programs and works in a sheltered workshop setting. I was also the only child of my mother who passed away after a decade-long decline due to Alzheimer's. I have spent almost my entire adult life fighting for those within the special needs and disabilities communities. The concern I feel for these issues, especially under the threats that are currently manifested in this country, is one of my primary motivations in running for office.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	By fully-funding and expanding access to Medicaid, people with disabilities can receive the support they need to thrive in the communities and housing they want and deserve. When Medicaid is fully-funded, hospital budgets can be stabilized to improve patient care and improve staff retention to prevent provider shortages and long wait lists.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	Last session, my colleagues and I filed Homenibus 2.0 to stop large corporations that own 50+ rental homes in Kentucky from buying additional inventory and to appropriate additional investments in affordable housing while providing tax credits for renters and first-time home buyers. While this legislation did not pass, I plan to continue pursuing policies to address the shortage of available housing across the Commonwealth.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	Our public agencies must be held accountable when barriers to services and resources for people with disabilities remain. I have and will continue to support legislation that expands access to public services, education, and housing. Every Kentuckian deserves the opportunity to participate fully in their communities and I will oppose efforts to weaken protections for people with disabilities.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	Our state has several advisory councils, such as the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation, that include leaders and advocates with disabilities. I believe that seeking advice from leaders within these councils and other advocacy organizations is imperative before making decisions that affect their lives.
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	Every Kentuckian deserves the opportunity to pursue meaningful, competitive employment that provides a livable and comfortable wage. To address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining integrated employment, I would support expanding access to vocational rehabilitation, job training, transportation, and other public services and policies that help people with disabilities enter and remain in the workforce. People with disabilities bring valuable skills and perspectives to Kentucky's workforce and when barriers to opportunities are removed, we can begin to ensure that competitive, integrated employment remains possible.

Lindsey Burke continued



State House
(District 75)

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

As a former social worker who now runs a low-cost legal clinic, I am committed to pursuing initiatives that create stronger, more equitable communities. I believe that people with disabilities deserve access to well-paying jobs, healthcare, safe and affordable housing, and the public services necessary to thrive. I am committed to continuing to support legislation that makes Kentucky a better place to live for every member of our communities.

Anne Gay Donworth

State House
(District 76)

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	In office, I have fought for full funding to Kentucky's Medicaid system, to get coverage for constituents who have existing Medicaid coverage, and for expanded waivers - especially the Michelle P Waiver. Institutions should be the last resort, only when an individual truly needs a higher standard of care.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	I support initiatives to form land banks, revolving loan funds for affordable housing developers, and tax credits for individuals with disabilities who need to retrofit their homes in order to stay in place, among many other things!
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	I believe in protecting civil rights for all people and have fought all efforts to dilute individual protections in the State Legislature. At a basic level, I have filed legislation to prevent partisan gerrymandering to ensure that all Kentuckians have fair representation. I believe in fully funding the agencies designated to enforce existing protections, including but not limited to our human rights commissions.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	I am always committed to listening to those most impacted by proposed legislation and regularly reach out to impacted groups for feedback on bills. As part of the Engage & Empower Caucus, I commit to learning more about all forms of disability and how we can make Kentucky a more inclusive place where everyone can thrive.
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	We need enforcement mechanisms for individuals who believe they have been discriminated against due to a disability. In Lexington, I have been inspired by O.W.L. (Opportunities for Work & Learning) which empowers those with disabilities with job training and experience as well as DV8 Kitchen, which offers second-chance employment for those in recovery. Both organizations focus on building job experience and skills which are transferrable to other roles. We need more employers in this space throughout the Commonwealth.

Anne Gay Donworth continued



State House
(District 76)

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

I frequently say that I'm a jack of many trades, master of none -- but I know who to ask! I am committed to listening to people about their concerns, finding common sense solutions, and proposing policies or convening partnerships to address them. My office is always open to constituents and advocates alike, and I look forward to working with groups like REV UP! to make Kentucky more inclusive.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

Home is where the heart is. I see this with my own family, some of whom have had the luxury to age in place and also others who have not had that opportunity. Taxpayers shouldn't pay more for worse outcomes. Institutional care typically costs far more per person than home and community-based services (HCBS), and most people with disabilities and their families prefer home. Yet because institutional care is a Medicaid entitlement while HCBS is largely optional, the system tilts toward the expensive option. The goal is to fix that incentive problem while respecting state flexibility and fiscal discipline.

I would suggest moving toward ""money follows the person"" as a permanent, national feature. The demonstration program showed that when funding travels with the individual, people transition out of facilities successfully and states save money. Make it a standing option rather than a periodically reauthorized pilot. Give states a financial reason to rebalance. Offer enhanced federal matching funds tied to measurable shifts in spending toward HCBS, and reward states that shrink waitlists, not just those that spend more.

How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

I'd start with what I've learned since joining the Habitat for Humanity board in 2019: housing is a supply problem, a cost problem, and a workforce problem, and no single level of government can fix it alone. In rural Kentucky (where I'm from) it's worse. Builders are scarce, lots lack water and sewer, appraisals come in below construction costs, and a family's paycheck hasn't kept up with materials. Government can't solve that alone, and the private market has trouble solving it alone. It takes both, and it takes people who are willing to sit at the same table. That's what I've tried to do. Habitat works because it doesn't hand out housing. It creates a path to ownership: a family puts in sweat equity, takes on an affordable mortgage, and becomes a stakeholder in the community. That model, built on responsibility, partnership, and local volunteers, is one conservatives should be proud of. It's also why I've been able to bring the Kentucky Realtors, Kentucky Bankers Association, and Kentucky Association of General Contractors into my campaign as supporters. When the people who sell homes, finance them, and build them all support a solution, it's practical, not partisan. In short, here's what I would focus on: 1. Cut the red tape that inflates costs; 2. Fix rural infrastructure, the hidden barrier; 3. 3. Use private capital, not just public dollars.

Hannah Beth Rivera continued

State House
(District 93)

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

These laws reflect a bipartisan tradition. The ADA was signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 with broad support from both parties, and the Voting Rights Act has been reauthorized by Republican presidents. Civil rights protections shouldn't be up for negotiation. The ADA and Section 504 are why a person can enter a courthouse, ride public transit, attend a public school, and work alongside neighbors. I'd oppose efforts to weaken them and support strong enforcement through the Department of Justice and the Office for Civil Rights.

I think it's important we try to help small businesses and local governments comply before problems arise - as doing it right from the start is always cheaper than redoing a mistake. I'd also like to ensure that the vote remains accessible. I've heard of some polling places not being outfitted for accessibility. That's a problem. Additionally, we need to strengthen Vocational Rehabilitation and supported employment, and reduce the ""benefits cliff"" that penalizes people who take a job and lose Medicaid or SSI. We should support people trying to get off system benefits, not penalize them.

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

I've spent most of my career at the Capitol, advocating for community college students - to ensure their education is affordable and accessible all over Kentucky. I have built an extensive network of business partners, stakeholders, community advocates, etc. over the years. I personally serve on nonprofit boards to better our community. I KNOW the best legislation comes when everyone is at the table, has a voice, and can offer their own experiences. My door will always be open. Further, I would encourage this group to do regular things like "advocacy days," "bill updates," and "follow a legislator" to have more of a role in the process.

Hannah Beth Rivera continued

State House
(District 93)

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

Kentucky's Employment First law, signed in March 2022, makes competitive integrated employment the first and primary option for working-age people with disabilities who want to work. The state's own infographic shows the gap: Kentucky has among the highest rates of disability in the nation and among the lowest employment rates for people with disabilities, a 38.5% gap that ranks us 48th. Based on that, it seems like there are people who want to work, employers who need workers, but a system that hasn't connected the two.

The #1 thing we must do is fix the benefits cliff - the biggest barrier is often fear: a raise or a few extra hours can mean losing Medicaid, SSI, or housing help, and the math can leave a person worse off for working. In schools, we need to make sure IEP transition plans include real employment goals, with work-based learning, internships, and paid summer jobs before students leave high school. We should expand Pre-Employment Transition Services through Vocational Rehabilitation, and strengthen partnerships between school districts, area technology centers, and community colleges. We should build a business-to-business network through the Kentucky Chamber, local chambers, and industry groups, with employers teaching other employers how they hire, accommodate, and retain workers with disabilities. Peer credibility beats a government brochure. Lastly, we have to address the infrastructure barriers. by supporting rural transit and ride-share partnerships, including options that fit shift work and non-metro counties, and flexible use of transportation funding. We should expand remote and hybrid work opportunities, backed by rural broadband investment, which can open jobs to people with mobility or health limitations.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

As someone who lives with autoimmune diseases, a husband with Type 1 diabetes, and parents suffering with various age-related problems, I understand how hard living with disabilities can be. But it's only part of the story - not the full book! I want to help Kentuckians write their own success stories by ensuring we do everything we can to support them from the state level.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?

We must also address the shortage of direct-support professionals by improving wages, benefits, training, and working conditions. I would support affordable, accessible housing; reliable transportation; respite care; and resources for family caregivers.

Most importantly, people with disabilities and their families must have a seat at the table when policies affecting their lives are developed. Community-based care is not only more cost-effective than institutional care—it gives people the opportunity to remain close to their families, participate in their communities, and live with dignity and choice.

How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?

Every Kentuckian deserves a safe, affordable, and accessible place to call home. I would support investments and incentives to build and renovate affordable housing, with clear accessibility requirements so people with disabilities are not left behind.

Rural communities need solutions designed for rural realities. That includes helping local governments and nonprofit organizations secure housing funds, encouraging the rehabilitation of vacant properties, expanding accessible rental assistance, and improving transportation and infrastructure near housing.

I would also support programs that help seniors and people with disabilities modify their existing homes with ramps, wider doorways, accessible bathrooms, and other necessary improvements. People with disabilities should be included in housing decisions from the beginning. Accessible housing cannot be treated as an afterthought, it is essential to independence, dignity, and full participation in community life.

How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?

Civil rights protections are only meaningful when they are fully enforced. I will oppose efforts to weaken the ADA, the Voting Rights Act, Section 504, or Kentucky laws protecting people with disabilities.

I would support strong accessibility standards for government buildings, schools, transportation, voting locations, websites, communications, and emergency services. I would also work to ensure that state and local agencies receive proper training, respond promptly to accessibility complaints, and are held accountable when barriers are not corrected.

Every eligible voter must be able to register, receive reliable information, enter a polling place, cast a private and independent ballot, and have that ballot counted. Accessibility should never depend on a person's ZIP code.

Most importantly, people with disabilities must have a meaningful voice in developing the laws and policies that affect them. I will listen to disability advocates, include them in the decision-making process, and work to ensure that equal access, opportunity, and dignity are protected throughout Kentucky.

How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

I believe strongly in the principle of “nothing about us without us.” People with disabilities must be included from the beginning—not asked for feedback after decisions have already been made.

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How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?

I would establish a regular disability policy advisory council made up primarily of people with diverse disabilities, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental-health disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, and people who use different forms of communication. The council would meet quarterly, publish recommendations, and review major legislation before I introduce or vote on it. I would also hold recurring listening sessions throughout District 96 and across Kentucky with people with disabilities, families, caregivers, direct-support professionals, and advocacy organizations. My office would maintain a public disability-policy agenda and explain how community recommendations influenced my positions.

I would seek input before introducing or voting on legislation that affects people with disabilities, including through accessible bill briefings, draft reviews, and opportunities to suggest amendments. When legislation moves quickly, I would provide a clear summary of its potential effects, consult disability advocates as early as possible, and publicly explain any decision to reject or modify their recommendations.

Appointments are another important way to ensure representation. I would actively recruit qualified people with disabilities for state boards, commissions, task forces, and advisory groups; maintain an outreach list of interested applicants; and encourage agencies to remove unnecessary barriers in application and selection processes. I would support clear representation goals, accessible applications and interviews, compensation for participation when permitted, and public reporting on the disability representation of appointed bodies.

Participation must also be accessible. That means offering accessible meeting locations, virtual options, plain-language and alternative-format materials, captioning, interpreters, communication supports, accessible websites, and adequate time for public input. My office would provide multiple ways to participate, including phone, email, online forms, and in-person testimony, and would make reasonable accommodations available without requiring people to repeatedly explain their needs. Public meetings would include advance notice, accessible agendas, and a process for submitting comments after the meeting.

Lived experience is expertise. People with disabilities deserve a genuine seat at every table where decisions about their lives are made, along with the resources and authority needed to participate meaningfully.

How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?

I would strengthen Kentucky's vocational-rehabilitation and supported-employment services, reduce delays in receiving assistance, and improve coordination among schools, employers, workforce-development programs, and Medicaid waiver services. Students with disabilities should begin receiving individualized career exploration, work-based learning, and transition planning well before they leave high school. Adults should have access to job coaching, assistive technology, skills training, and continued support after they are hired.

I would support ending subminimum-wage and unnecessarily segregated employment while ensuring that affected workers receive the services necessary to transition successfully into competitive, integrated jobs. State-funded programs and contracts should be held accountable for measurable outcomes, including wages, hours, job retention, advancement, and employee satisfaction—not simply the number of people placed.

We must also address the practical barriers that prevent people from working. I would support reliable accessible transportation, affordable childcare, high-speed internet, workplace accommodations, and flexible or remote-work opportunities, particularly in rural communities. I would advocate for benefits counseling so people understand how employment may affect Medicaid, Social Security, or other essential supports and are not discouraged from working by fear of suddenly losing healthcare or services.

Employers also need clear guidance and support. I would promote disability-inclusive hiring, accessible application and interview processes, reasonable accommodations, and education about available incentives and resources. At the same time, Kentucky must enforce protections against workplace discrimination.

People with disabilities want the same opportunities as everyone else: meaningful work, fair pay, economic security, and the chance to contribute their talents. I would work directly with people with disabilities to identify barriers, measure Kentucky's progress, and ensure Employment First delivers on its promise.

Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?

Disability rights are deeply personal to me. My mother lives with a disability, several people I love and value have disabilities, and as a public-school teacher, I have spent years teaching and advocating alongside students with disabilities and their families. These relationships have helped me see both the tremendous abilities people bring to our communities and the unnecessary barriers they are too often forced to overcome.

I would never claim that these experiences allow me to speak for people with disabilities. They have taught me the importance of listening, believing lived experience, and ensuring that people with disabilities speak for themselves and have genuine power in the decisions affecting their lives.

My commitment is to protect disability civil rights, strengthen community-based services, expand accessible housing and transportation, support competitive and integrated employment, and make government participation truly accessible. I will be honest, available, and accountable—and I will ensure that people with disabilities are included from the beginning, not consulted as an afterthought.

For me, “nothing about us without us” will be more than a campaign phrase. It will guide how I listen, lead, and serve every Kentuckian.

How would you ensure that people with disabilities have the ability to live in their chosen communities rather than costly institutions?	Continue advocating for that goal. We're working toward this goal in the General Assembly now.
How would you address the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Kentucky, especially in rural areas?	This is a goal that we as the General Assembly are addressing currently. I have a bill in to cut some red tape and remove restrictions for home owners.
How would you help ensure these vital civil rights protections for people with disabilities remain strong and effective as intended?	We need to stand behind what we have in place. We need to keep advocating for their rights and priveleges.
How would you include people with disabilities in decision-making?	I feel they need to work closely with the Family Health Committee who oversees the regulations for those with disabilities.
How would you address the barriers people with disabilities face to obtaining and retaining competitive, integrated employment?	Strives are being made daily to help those with disabilities. We need to stand strong and advocate for more to be done.
Why should Kentuckians with disabilities vote for you?	I have, and will continue, to advocate for Kentuckians with disabilities.