

Cincinnati Mayoral and City Council Candidates Questionnaire on Disability Topics

The survey questions below are intended to gauge the mayoral and City Council candidates' interest in and understanding of key issues that impact the lives of Cincinnatians with disabilities. The University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD) developed these questions through dialogue with collaborating partners across the city, professionals who work in the field of disability, and members of Cincinnati's disability community. We aim to collect these results and share them with voters through local media outlets. For purposes of publication, we ask that you keep your responses to around 50 words. We truly appreciate your time in completing this survey and will do our best to share your responses widely so Cincinnatians can learn more about your views related to disability.

Please submit survey responses by the 4:00EST on Friday, October 27 so they can be included in our dissemination of results.



Name of Candidate: *

Michelle Dillingham

Will you support the strategic effort to make all Cincinnati Recreation Centers physically accessible to all people? Only 12 out of the 23 Recreation Centers are accessible (does not include aquatic, athletic, and outdoor facilities)? *

Yes

No

Will you support the expansion of the City's hiring goals for minorities to include an aspirational hiring goal of 7 % for people with disabilities? The current standard for cities that receive federal grants is 7%. *

Yes

No

If you'd like to add more to your responses to the yes/no questions, please do so here:

In what ways will you use City resources to create housing options that are affordable AND accessible for Cincinnatians with disabilities? *

My professional career shows that I have been a years-long advocate for affordable housing. I worked for the Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) where I wrote a regular column on affordable housing policy and edited the first ever "State of Affordable Housing in Hamilton County" report. Later I served as the Director of Education for the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless where I edited the report, "How to Overcome Local Opposition to Affordable Housing". If I am elected I will continue my policy advocacy for proven, best practices solutions to the affordable housing crisis in our city. This includes supporting a variety of funding allocations for affordable housing such as CDGB and HOME, the Local Affordable Housing Trust Fund, supporting applications for affordable housing tax credits, and other funding "tools" that are available such as rapid rehousing funds. Other strategies include working collaboratively with CHMA and other affordable housing developers, and building in "inclusionary zoning" where possible. I have great respect for the work of People Working Cooperatively and would like to expand their work to serve more Cincinnatians who need support to make their homes more accessible.

What are your goals for increasing affordable and accessible transportation options for Cincinnatians with disabilities? *

As a city council member I will take leadership on this critical issue by requesting to be appointed to council committees that handles transportation legislative items. I will serve as an active member to address METRO's lack of adequate transportation options for persons with disabilities. I will advocate from a place of personal experience, as I used METRO for school and work and our son is a lifelong wheelchair user who has used the ACCESS para-transit. I will work with my peers on council, Hamilton County leaders, METRO, and community groups to work towards funding solutions to expand affordable and accessible options.

In what ways will your office work with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA) to increase ADA compliance in businesses across the city? *

I will take whatever action is necessary to increase ADA compliance in businesses across the city. Our son is a wheelchair user and we have experienced 21 years of limitations for persons using wheelchairs. I am well aware of the loss of access and potential revenues for businesses who are not ADA compliant.

How can the City of Cincinnati be more inclusive of people with disabilities and their families? *

The City can ensure inclusivity for people with disabilities and their families by ensuring both physical access (sidewalks, curb-cuts, ramps, general access), access to accessible housing (including visitability and affordability), jobs (I served as a Statewide Commissioner for OOD where I worked on increasing inclusion in our local businesses), and recreation (our CRC Therapeutic Recreation is among the best in the country and we need to continue to support them), just to name a few.

Please feel free to share any other statements concerning issues affecting Cincinnatians with disabilities.

Our son uses a wheelchair and augmentative communication device, so I am very sensitive to the challenges special families face. I look forward to the opportunity to help promote a more inclusive Cincinnati with your vote!

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