

# 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: \*

Chris Seelbach

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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:

Boosting accessibility is as important as fighting any other form of discrimination. Many times the City forgets to see the needs of those with various disabilities. I see you and I will continue to be your advocate.

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

I will continue to champion visitable incentives, along with targeting a portion of our housing dollars to fully accessible projects and renovations. Further, we need to put more pressure on our city administration to follow the ADA. Lastly, we should work with seniors to provide low-cost options to allow for ramps and other accessibility improvements to their homes to further aging in place.

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

I continue to be a champion of an expanded Metro bus system. Additionally, we need to raise the bar for ACCESS riders and ensure that even once they are off the bus, sidewalks are clear and accessible for all users.

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**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 believe CABA should make frequent presentations directly to council and the Administration on the areas we are doing well, and the areas we aren't. Additionally, CABA can be a part of the review process for major developments and major law changes to ensure there is no negative impact to accessibility.

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

The City of Cincinnati, for the last 10 years, has been a beacon of hope for anyone experiencing discrimination. We have made dramatic improvements from where we were two decades ago on these issues. Yet, we aren't active enough in our recognition of the challenges and discrimination, intentional or accidental, faced by Cincinnatians with disabilities. The City can highlight this inclusiveness through programming efforts at Rec Centers, parks, our hiring and employment practices and our representation on city boards and commissions.

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

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