

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: *

Mayor John Cranley

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? *

Affordable housing is a great need in our community and I am proud that I have worked with Vice Mayor Mann and Councilmembers Flynn and Sittenfeld this year to create a long-term funding stream for affordable housing. At the same time, when we renewed our Community Reinvestment Act program, I supported Councilmember Flynn's proposal to further incentivize visitability in new developments and, particularly, in renovations. Through this program we will be able to work with and encourage developers to incorporate accessible options for Cincinnatians with disabilities.

Lastly, I was happy to support the city's adoption of visitability standards in 2014, which some industry experts have called a "national model."

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

I have a long history of fighting to maintain affordable, accessible transportation options for Cincinnatians with disabilities. When I was on Council, Metro attempted to triple the cost of the Access program fare. One of the proponents of the increase even called Access constituents a “burden” to the system. We successfully fought back against that unfair policy change to keep accessible transportation affordable.

However, we must find a better solution to fund public transit and to create a robust accessible transit system. I have spent my time as Mayor appointing members of the SORTA board who share this vision and the commitment to building a system that works for all and connects our residents to the jobs they need. I have publicly stated my support for a countywide sales tax levy that would increase the amount of money allocated to SORTA by 50%. This would allow us to add service and increase accessibility in the system significantly. I also am working with members of the business community and rideshare services to discuss ways to build public-private partnerships that would increase accessible options for riders.

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

The role of CABA in advising the City administration on issues of accessibility across our city is incredibly important and I have sought to appoint members of the CABA board who are committed to bringing thoughtful conversations and recommendations to the City Manager. Additionally, I am proud that our administration recently added a Chief Advocacy Officer for Aging and Accessibility who is primarily focused on those issues that affect Cincinnatians with disabilities the most. Over the next four years, the Chief Advocacy Officer for Aging and Accessibility will actively engage CABA and work hand in hand with the board to create policies to increase ADA compliance across the City and to make Cincinnati a truly accessible city for Cincinnatians with disabilities.

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

As outlined above, I believe there are many ways that we can make Cincinnati a more livable and inclusive place for Cincinnatians with disabilities and their families. As an older, historic city, we must acknowledge that this means addressing physical structures, including through incentives but also through ADA compliance measures. I support increasing the number of city facilities, and particularly our recreation centers, that are ADA compliant so that those with disabilities can utilize the same services that other families do. I also believe that we need a better mechanism through which to listen to Cincinnatians with disabilities and their families, which is why a large component of the work the Chief Advocacy Officer for Aging and Accessibility is tasked with is to engage in outreach to the community and to work with the CABA board to hear its recommendations.

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

I have been a proud supporter of Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled, including as a sponsor of the ReelAbilities Film Festival for multiple years.

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