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Q1 Candidate's Name

Gregg Johnson

Q2 Candidate's District

State Senate 36

Q3 Will you support closure of any State Operated Developmental Centers and shift corresponding resources toward integrated, community-based living options? **Yes**

Q4 Would you support legislation to eliminate the subminimum wage for workers with disabilities in Illinois? **Yes**

Q5 Do you support per-beneficiary funding caps in the Illinois Medicaid system? **No**

Q6 Should Illinois Medicaid and SNAP benefits have a mandatory work component? **No**

Q7 Would you advocate raising Medicaid reimbursement rates for home-based nursing services? **Yes**

Q8 Do you support a fair (graduated) income tax? **Yes**

Q9 Will you demand improved disability access to the State Capitol complex and General Assembly, including but not limited to a formal reasonable accommodation request process for public proceedings, provision of key materials in alternate formats, and captioning of floor proceedings? **Yes**

Candidate's Questionnaire 2018

Q10 What will you do to ensure people with disabilities, who identify as members of other marginalized communities (e.g. black/brown, LGBTQ, immigrant, etc.) know they are welcome to live and pursue their full potential in Illinois? In other words, how can you address systemic oppression against multiply marginalized disabled people?

We can ensure that there are protections in place that allow them to not be taken advantage of and pursue legislation that guarantees equal rights for all. I will give those that have been marginalized a voice at home and in Springfield. I will listen to those that have felt ignored for too long, and encourage my communities and colleagues to change a system that has for generations alienated marginalized communities.

Q11 How will you ensure a free and appropriate public education for Illinois students with disabilities?

I will be an advocate for full public education funding. For nearly 20 years, Illinois has cut public education funding, and students with disabilities have felt the effects of this more than anyone else. By creating opportunities through increased investment, we can give students with disabilities a place to learn and grow. Making sure that schools are wheelchair accessible, have elevators, wheelchair ramps, railings, and playground equipment is a good first step.

Q12 How will you work to expand affordable, accessible, integrated housing options in Illinois?

We need to shift money away from institutional care and provide funding to group homes and community-based living facilities.

Q13 What would you do to make Illinois more compliant with the Ligas, Williams, and Colbert Consent Decrees?

Many people with disabilities prefer to stay in their own home, but because the state has historically invested in institutional care, that can be difficult. We must fully fund home and community based services.

Q14 How will you play a role in making business accessible to all customers with disabilities?

The most important point is to encourage and push businesses to comply with ADA regulations. If needed, Illinois should take further steps to make all businesses accessible to everyone.

Q15 What will you do to provide full and equal access to public transportation in Illinois?

By allocating money to public transportation services, they can invest in wheelchair accessible bus stations and ramps.

Q16 How can wages for Illinois' Personal Assistants, Direct Support Professionals, Community Care Program and Homemaker service providers be improved and/or stabilized?

I would advocate to increase the minimum wage to 15 dollars per hour and provide benefits to home health care professionals.

Q17 Illinois has 19,000+ residents with disabilities on the PUNS (Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services) waiting list. Thousands more are waiting for DON (Determination of Need) assessments to become eligible for home and community-based care. What concrete steps will you support to reduce these backlogs and improve Illinois' laggard status (we rank #47) when it comes to home-based disability services for eligible Illinoisans?

We need to fully fund our home and community care programs while streamlining the DON process to reduce the backlog.
