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**COMPLETE**

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**Q1 Candidate's Name**

Stephanie Kifowit

**Q2 Candidate's District**

84th IL House District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**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**

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## 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?

I think education is the key, and penalties against people who engage in harmful manners. Everyone should feel welcome and I am looking forward to working with you on legislation to address this.

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

We took a step by passing education funding reforms; but we need to continue to increase funding for our public schools in the future to meet the students needs.

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

I will be happy to work on legislation that will help with this effort. I think evaluating our current process and looking at ways we can make it better should be the first step.

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

We need to properly fund services, which due to the budget impasse negatively affected the State of Illinois financial position. I passed legislation in the past to help individuals on the list, and look forward to continuing to help in this matter.

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

I recently advocated our congressmen in Washington to not weaken the ADA; unfortunately they voted in favor of reducing the ADA. On the state level we need to make sure businesses are accessible to all customers.

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

I think there are serious issues with our public transportation in IL. First, the PACE bus does not look at their route structure based on the individuals they are picking up with disabilities. Many time my residents are on the bus for over an hour without the bladder capabilities or the ability to sit that long. The public transportation system is underfunded and I fought when Gov Rauner proposed cutting it more. In addition, the systems only run county wide; so individuals with disabilities have been dropped off at a connection point between counties without proper facilities or sitting areas. (I could continue on and on on this subject).

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

I've voted to increase wages and will continue to do so.

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## Candidate's Questionnaire 2018

**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?

I will support any proposals that will help our residents get the services they deserve. Currently the State of IL underfunds these services and unfortunately under the budget impasse our finances have gotten worse; but we need to work out a plan to meet the needs of these individuals.

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