

2026 Disability Rights Candidate Questionnaire



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dralegal.org/staff-members/michele-lee/

One in four American adults lives with a disability. Our issues decide elections when we're asked about them. I'm asking every candidate on my ballot to go on the record. Your answers, or your silence, will be published in a disability voter guide shared with voters across the Valley.



Monica Alponse

Libertarian Candidate, House,
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1. Making ends meet.

Life costs more when you're disabled, and most of us live on fixed incomes. Meanwhile the benefits we depend on keep getting threatened. Will you fight cuts to Medicaid and disability benefits, fix the delays and wrongful denials, and back policies that make life affordable? (Yes / No, and tell me how)

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Yes:

In 1989, Congress set a limit that a disabled person receiving SSI can have no more than \$2,000 in assets to qualify for benefits. Unfortunately, Congress has never increased that limit to keep pace with inflation and the rising cost of living.

I will support legislation which would raise the limit indexed to inflation and cost of living, like the "SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act" (H.R. 2540 and S. 1234) so a disabled person can save for a wheelchair without their benefits being canceled. Also, in many states, SSI eligibility is directly linked to Medicaid eligibility, so losing SSI can also put Medicaid coverage at risk.

I will support legislation that would protect disabled Americans from SSI overpayment errors and wrongful benefit cuts, like the bipartisan "Social Security Overpayment Relief Act" (H.R. 2142 in the House and S. 1023 in the Senate).

A good place to start would be ensuring the Social Security Administration has enough qualified staff to answer calls, process claims, and resolve errors promptly. IT modernization is also needed, but technology should help employees do their jobs more efficiently, not replace them. Many of these calls require human judgment and personal assistance and should never be delegated to AI.

2. Living at home, not in a facility.

Will you protect funding for home caregivers and community services, and push for more housing that disabled people can actually live in and afford? Nobody should end up in an institution just because there were no other options. (Yes / No, and tell me how)

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Yes:

First, I will explore bills already introduced¹ to protect and expand funding for home care and community-based services, and bills that address housing for people with disabilities. I will help identify where these bills need to be strengthened, where loopholes need to be closed, and whether any provisions may actually weaken protections. I will work across the aisle—in a bipartisan fashion—to build support for effective legislation and help get it passed.

It's imperative disabled people have a real choice to live in their own homes with the help they need, instead of being forced to move into a nursing home or facility because they have no other option. This is practical and will also significantly reduce care costs. I will push for more accessible, affordable housing and work across the aisle—in a bipartisan fashion—to build support for solutions that help disabled people live independently.

I will also question whether lawmakers are refusing to fund home care because they are prioritizing military and war-related spending over funding for disabled Americans: A question of priorities!

¹ Disability bills already introduced (partisan and bipartisan):

- “Home and Community-Based Services Access Act” (H.R. 8540 & S. 5321)
- “Home and Community-Based Services Relief Act of 2025” (H.R. 4029 & S. 2076)
- “Home and Community-Based Services Worker Protection Act of 2025” (H.R. 5228)
- “Eleanor Smith Inclusive Home Design Act of 2026” (H.R. 9932 & S. 5125)
- “Home Accessibility Improvements Inclusion Act” (H.R. 10572)
- “ROAD to Housing Act of 2025” (S. 2651)

3. Getting around.

Paratransit is underfunded, accessible Ubers are nearly impossible to find, and self-driving cars are hitting the streets with no room for wheelchairs. Will you fully fund paratransit and accessible transit, oppose service cuts, and push Uber, Lyft, and the self-driving companies to serve wheelchair users? (Yes / No, and tell me how)

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Yes:

EQUAL RIGHTS, EQUAL ACCESS, AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM! I will support legislation to bring America up to date to ensure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as other Americans to travel safely and independently.

I will work across the aisle—in bipartisan fashion—to build support for safe, accessible transportation, including paratransit, rideshare services, and self-driving vehicles. I will push for wheelchair access that recognizes that “NOT ALL WHEELCHAIRS ARE THE SAME SIZE!”

My cousin Lidia is deaf and she was hit by a bus backing up because she couldn't hear the warning beeps. Millions of Americans have significant hearing impairment, making visual warning systems on buses and other vehicles an important safety consideration. Flashing lights are already used in equipment for the deaf and hearing-impaired, like for telephone and doorbell alerts. We should explore using similar visual warnings on buses and other vehicles.

I will support policies that encourage the scientific community's innovation and inventions that make transportation safer for everyone by unleashing free markets, cutting red tape, and providing tax relief to encourage scientific progress.

We are spending \$3 billion dollars a day on war. The funding needed is less than the cost of just ONE DAY of war!

4. Jobs.

Disabled people want to work, but the employment gap is still huge. What's your plan to change that?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

I will support legislation that protects equal rights, individual liberty, and free markets to expand employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for people with disabilities, and I will work across the aisle—in a bipartisan fashion—to build support for effective legislation and help get it passed. ²

² Disability employment and entrepreneurship bills (partisan & bipartisan):

- “ThinkDIFFERENTLY About Disability Employment Act” (H.R. 1634)
- “Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Reporting Act of 2025” (H.R. 1621)

Disabled Entrepreneurs

I will explore sponsoring the “Libertarian Autonomy and Financial Freedom Conservatorship Act” (LAFFCA), a “tri-partisan” bill to reform conservatorship laws and protect entrepreneurs with disabilities and independent disabled people subject to financial conservatorship.

- Protect their right to control their own money, property, and financial decisions; start and own businesses; earn income; build wealth; and experience the rewards of success or the consequences of failure.
- Establish objective criteria for judges to use when deciding whether to restore financial rights. A disability diagnosis alone should not justify continuing financial restrictions.
- Protect their right to choose and appoint a preferred financial conservator, including a state-employed conservator or a person of their own choosing.
- Prevent financial exploitation by financial conservators, e.g., professional fiduciaries, attorneys, accountants, trust companies, or banks that charge exorbitant fees, derive ongoing financial gains from managing a disabled person's money and property, and have financial incentives to maintain indefinite financial conservatorship.

5. Staying accountable.

If you win, will you sit down with disabled constituents and report back on what you've actually done? (Yes / No)

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

Yes. Whether or not I win! I also plan on continuing to build relationships with the disability community (disability advocates, caregivers, and disabled people) and keeping in touch with Raising Voices Coalition.

At the nonpartisan Disability Community Town Hall hosted by Raising Voices Coalition on October 6, 2026, I learned a lot from advocates and caregivers and had the opportunity to meet disabled children and their parents. The experience inspired me to continue building our Seniors, Vets, Disabled Taskforce, which we have incorporated into our campaign. I will continue to develop our task force, reach out to invite the disability community to our quarterly Libertarian meetups, and report on our progress in our quarterly newsletter, Libertarian Voice.

Anything else (optional): What do you want disabled voters to know about you?

CANDIDATE RESPONSE

I am a Libertarian running for Congress in Arizona District 1. Libertarians range from progressive to conservative. As we say, we're "not left, not right, just free." Libertarian philosophy crosses both major parties.

My personal experience with disabled people centers around my 3 deaf cousins; caring for my mom with terminal cancer and my father with dementia. This gives me some understanding of the challenges faced by disabled people and their families.

George Washington said that if we could have peace for twenty years, we would have a very prosperous nation. If we stopped wasting trillions of dollars on foreign wars, we could use that money to help seniors, vets, and the disabled.

As a general rule, Libertarians think assistance shouldn't come from the state and that it should be left up to charities and voluntary actions. Back in the 1970s and 1980s, help for the disabled did come primarily from volunteer action and churches. But the fact is that today, charity and voluntary action alone cannot address the challenges facing our disabled community. So I commend all advocates, now and through the years, who have dramatically shaped policy and rights for the disabled by shaping the system rather than just working within its constraints.

My campaign's "Seniors, Disabled, and Vets" Taskforce wants to learn from the disabled community to determine what legislation is needed to best address the challenges disabled people face and protect their rights and liberties. I am both a senior and a vet.