



Frequently Asked Questions

What is The National Forum on Disability Issues?

The National Forum on Disability Issues is an historic nonpartisan event. The 2012 event builds on the success of the first ever forum organized by the disability community in 2008. The forum will feature the 2012 presidential candidates. Candidates for the U.S. Senate seat from Ohio will also be invited to participate. The candidates will be given the opportunity to provide their positions on a wide variety of disability issues directly to the disability community. We anticipate that 100 local and national organizations will co-sponsor the forum. Over 500 individuals, primarily Ohio voters, will attend the forum. A live internet stream of the event will be broadcasted nationally with organized viewing parties. It will be the only national event to focus specifically on disability issues.

Why Columbus, Ohio?

The state of Ohio has historically played a crucial role in presidential politics. What better place to have a forum to discuss disability issues than the state that is in the political and media spotlight. Ohio was also the location of the first ever presidential forum on disability issues held in 2008.

How Can I Attend?

The National Forum on Disability Issues is free and open to the public. However, there is only space for 500 individuals to attend the forum in person. There will likely be many more people who will want to attend. Some spots will be reserved for organizations that co-sponsor the forum. All remaining spots will be distributed through a fair process. An electronic registration form will be launched in the coming months. This will allow you to enter for a chance to attend the event in person. However, please only enter if you can make a commitment to attend the forum. We want as many people as possible to attend. Only individuals who are selected and receive a confirmation e-mail and ticket will be admitted to the forum.

How Can I Participate if I Cannot Attend in Person?

The National Forum on Disability Issues will be streamed “live” via the Internet. The entire recorded program will also be available to watch following the event. In many cities across the United States, organizations are planning webcast “viewing parties.” We encourage you to host a viewing party and to let us know about it.

Will The Event Be Closed-Captioned?

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) service will be provided during the entire live event on screens in the room. The live webcast will also carry over the CART to the national viewing audience. In addition, American Sign Language interpreters will also be signing the entire event live.

Why Should I Co-Sponsor the Forum?

The National Forum on Disability Issues is only possible through the combined efforts of the disability community. It is important to demonstrate the power of the disability vote and the ability of the community to come together. The combined efforts of the disability community will help get the candidates to attend and promote disability issues. Sponsorship is open to local and national organizations and individuals. We encourage organizations to provide as much financial support as they can. All funding goes directly to the forum to pay for the venue, staging, internet stream, accommodations, media communications, and other associated costs. However, we also recognizing that some organizations can give more than others. Therefore, there are a number of affordable co-sponsor opportunities.

What Do I get if I Co-sponsor the Forum?

Platinum Level Hosting Sponsor (\$10,000 minimum)

- Special acknowledgement at the forum.
- Full page advertisement in the program.
- Guaranteed four seats at the forum.
- Logo will appear prominently at the forum.
- Ability to display information about organization on a table at the forum.
- Invitation to reception with other leaders in the disability community and campaign staff.
- Listed in the forum program and press materials.
- E-mail updates about the forum to keep networks informed.

Gold Level Hosting Sponsor (\$5,000 minimum)

- Special acknowledgement at the forum.
- Full page advertisement in the program.
- Guaranteed three seats at the forum.
- Logo will appear prominently at the forum.
- Ability to display information about organization on a table at the forum.
- Invitation to reception with other leaders in the disability community and campaign staff.
- Listed in the forum program and press materials.
- E-mail updates about the forum to keep networks informed.

Silver Level Hosting Sponsor (\$2,500 minimum)

- Half page advertisement in the program.
- Guaranteed two seats at the forum.
- Logo will appear prominently at the forum.
- Ability to display information about organization on a table at the forum.
- Invitation to reception with other leaders in the disability community and campaign staff.
- Listed in the forum program and press materials.
- E-mail updates about the forum to keep networks informed.

Hosting Sponsor (\$1,500 minimum)

- Guaranteed two seats at the forum.
- Logo will appear prominently at the forum.
- Invitation to reception with other leaders in the disability community and campaign staff.
- Listed in the forum program and press materials.
- E-mail updates about the forum to keep networks informed.

Supporting Sponsor (\$500 minimum)

- Guaranteed one seat at the forum.
- Listed in the forum program and press materials.
- E-mail updates about the forum to keep networks informed.

Individual/Contributing Sponsor (\$100 minimum)

- Listed in the forum program and press materials.
- E-mail updates about the forum to keep networks informed.

What Questions will be Asked at the Forum?

A fair process will be established to solicit recommendations for questions from the disability community. Co-sponsors can suggest questions. However, being a co-sponsor of the event does not guarantee that any recommended questions will be asked at the forum. An open process will be established that will allow anyone in the disability community to submit their recommendations for questions via an electronic submission. All information received will be compiled and summarized in a document that will be provided to the moderator. The moderator will have discretion over what questions are ultimately asked. The moderator will ask fair and balanced questions of the candidates. Candidates only have approximately 30 minute time slots including their opening remarks. Therefore, only a limited number of questions can be asked. Questions most likely to be asked will focus on “big picture” issues facing the broad disability community on such major areas as employment, health care, long-term community-based supports and services, education, transportation, housing, and research.

How Can I Help with Planning and Promoting the Forum?

We need everyone’s help!!! There are many things you and your organization can do to help make the forum a success.

These are just some of the things you can help with:

- *Help Get the Candidates to Attend.*
 - Send invitations to the candidates (we can provide you with a draft letter).
 - Use personal relationships you have with the candidates and the campaigns to let them know about the forum and encourage their participation.
 - Attend town hall events where the candidates will be and invite them to attend the forum.
 - Use social media to encourage the candidates to attend (Facebook, Twitter, You Tube).
- *Help Promote the Forum*
 - Share information about the forum on your websites, in your newsletters, and at conferences.
 - Share information with other local and national organizations and encourage them to become a co-sponsor.

- Share information about the forum through social media.
- Volunteer communications staff support to help gain media attention about the forum.
- Host a viewing party and let us know about it.
- *Provide Ideas for the Program*
 - In addition to the candidates the forum will feature keynote speakers, celebrities, and artists from the disability community to celebrate disability culture and pride. Please share any suggestions you have?

How Do I Stay Informed?

More information is coming about the forum, including a website with information about registering, submitting suggestions for questions, and accessing the webcast. The best way to stay in the loop is to become a co-sponsor of the forum. You will receive e-mail updates with information about the forum to keep your networks informed.

To become a co-sponsor please contact Kate Josephson at 202-776-0406 or kjosephson@ucp.org.

For any other questions about the forum and ways you can help make it a success please contact Sue Hetrick at (866) 575-8055 or shetrick@abilitycenter.org.