

2004  
Special Election  
Information

Candidates for  
President  
Governor  
Congress

Answer disability-related questions

# Presidential Candidates

If you are elected/re-elected what will be your top three priorities during your first 100 days in office to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities living in the U.S.?

## John Kerry

- Will appoint a national bipartisan Community First Commission made up of distinguished Americans, including people with disabilities, who will identify short and long term policy reforms that could and should be pursued to:
  - Guarantee that all Americans with disabilities who can live in their community with affordable supports have equal opportunity to do so regardless of age, disability, state of residence, employment status, or necessary form of assistance.
  - Create a greater federal role in equitably financing and enhancing the quality and appropriateness of long-term services.
  - Eliminate the institutional bias in Medicaid and Medicare that robs millions of Americans of their most basic freedoms, dignity, and daily independence.
- Will reinstate the executive order by President Bill Clinton to hire 100,000 qualified individuals with disabilities as federal employees over five years.
- Will promote creative solutions to address the transportation, technology, and housing needs for individuals with disabilities.
- Committed to fully funding IDEA.
- Nominate an Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice and a Chair to the EEOC who will make enforcement of the ADA a top priority.

## George W. Bush

- Will continue to pursue the policies I proposed in the New Freedom Initiative
  - Increase access to assistive technology
  - Expand educational opportunities
    - Increase funding for IDEA.
  - Increase the ability of Americans with disabilities to integrate into the workforce
    - Expand telecommuting
    - Swift implementation of “Ticket to Work”
    - Full enforcement of ADA
    - Innovative transportation solutions.
  - Promote increased access into daily community living
    - Promote Home ownership for people with disabilities
    - Swift implementation of the Olmstead decision
    - National Commission on Mental Health
    - Improving access

\*Answers from the presidential candidates were taken from the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Website.

*What ideas do you have for bringing our four largest federal programs (Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Security Income, and Social Security Disability Insurance) in line with the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act (equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency)?*

### **George Bush**

- ADA is an excellent start in affording everyone an equal chance at success, more must be done.
- Commitment to 20% of Americans with disabilities is demonstrated in my New Freedom Initiative (Increase access to assistive technology; expand educational opportunities; increase the ability of Americans with disabilities to integrate into the workforce; expand telecommuting; promote increased access into daily community living; and improving access).
- Created Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities (June 2001) directing states to place qualified individuals with mental disabilities in community settings, rather than in institutions.
- Administration working to address improvements to enable adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their community. Recommendation from the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

### **John Kerry**

- Firmly opposed to the Bush administration's proposal to turn Medicaid into a block grant program.
- Strengthen Medicaid by:
  - Passing the Family Opportunity Act
  - Fully implement the Olmstead decision
- Work with Community First Commission to determine how we can best implement MiCASSA and Money that Follows the Person Act.
- Eliminate the two-year waiting period to become eligible for Medicare.
- Provide real prescription drug relief through Medicare.
- Ensure that seniors and people with disabilities on Medicare can choose their doctors instead of forcing them to join an HMO.
- Federal government must play a far greater role in ensuring that workers with disabilities have the insurance coverage they need to be as independent and productive as possible.

For more information on the candidates positions on disability issues go to:

### **John Kerry:**

[http://www.johnkerry.com/communities/awd/awd\\_vision.html](http://www.johnkerry.com/communities/awd/awd_vision.html)

### **George W Bush:**

[www.whitehouse.gov/news/freedominitiative/freedominitiative.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/freedominitiative/freedominitiative.html)

The candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties for governor (ND) and congress (MN & ND) were all sent the same five questions. Those responding were: John Hoeven, Joe Satrom, and Byron Dorgan.

## **ND Governor's Race**

- 1. When our organization goes out to get input from people with disabilities on what they need to be more independent, transportation usually is among the most vital issues. What do you propose that the state (federal) government do to increase transportation options for people with disabilities, both in rural and urban communities?**

### **Governor John Hoeven**

A Transportation Module is now being developed with vision of a system that allows people to plan a trip or find local transportation services within a city, county, region, or statewide by using the Internet. This was created by the Region VII Children's Services Coordinating Committee and is now managed by Community Connections, Inc. a 501C3 nonprofit organization with Northland Healthcare Alliance as the fiscal agent. The module is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This Module promotes transportation in rural and urban areas by:

- Creating one-stop resource (Web site) for information on transportation resources
- Enabling people to find transportation by searching by organization name, type of transportation (bus, taxi, air charter, airlines, emergency services, home delivery, etc.), city, county, region, state of destination and keywords
- Helping professionals who work with clients who need transportation to locate and schedule transportation services
- Providing information to enable users to plan trips, determine size and weight limits for shipping and freight, explore payment options and reservation requirements, identify ADA accessibility and other amenities like bike racks, etc.
- Providing information including maps and schedule section for fixed route or regularly scheduled services

### **Joe Satrom**

As Governor, I will support programs that provide free transportation on public systems and workable private transfer services for people with disabilities in more urban settings. I do not know how to meet the needs of disabled people who live in rural settings where no public systems exists, but I am open to proposals that might meet this need.

- 2. A recent national survey found that only 35% of people with disabilities work either full or part time. This percentage has not changed significantly in over 20 years. What do you propose that the state (federal) government do to increase the employment rate of people with disabilities?**

### **Joe Satrom**

I am not sure, but as Governor I would be open to programs that are working in other states or developing model programs here in North Dakota. I remember reading that employment opportunities for the disabled are dependent on one's willingness to engage in truly creative and experimental thinking. I would welcome that type of thinking in dealing with developing these types of programs. I have a niece who has disabilities and I would like nothing better than for North Dakota to be a model for how to think and deal with these types of challenges and opportunities.

### **Governor John Hoeven**

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is launching the Rural Initiative this October to assist our citizens in the agricultural community continue their livelihood even after they encounter a permanent illness, injury or impairment.
- Continue VR's Interagency Project for Assistive Technology (IPAT), which provides consultation and training in the use and procurement of assistive technology services and devices.

- Transition Services - More awareness among school administrators, parents, front-line educators and community agencies about the process of transitioning students with disabilities into post secondary training, education and employment.
- More collaboration between public and private entities to ensure the successful employment and community supports for people with disabilities.
- Medicaid Buy-in - People who are on Social Security disability and work may lose Medicaid coverage. We support allowing them to be able to stay on Medicaid by paying a premium while they work, thereby bettering themselves and improving their quality of life. This is good for the individual and good for North Dakota.

**3. The issue of healthcare; whether it be the price of prescription drugs, availability and affordability of medical treatment, or access to home-based personal care, is a big concern in our country and state. People with disabilities report a higher rate than the population in general of not receiving adequate health care services in the past year. What do you propose that the state (federal) government do to increase the access to and affordability of healthcare, medications, and home-based personal care?**

**Governor John Hoeven**

- PACE Program - A process that allows an entity to contract with Medicaid and Medicare to provide overall care to individuals in need of long-term care services. The entity receives a monthly per member per month payment and manages the total care of the individual. The goal is to provide these services in the least restrictive environment possible, which keeps enrollees at home for longer periods of time in a cost effective manner. It is my understanding that Northland Health Care Alliance may be interested in starting a PACE program in ND within the next year or two.
- One stop shopping and availability of case managers – We must develop a process for individuals who need long term care services to enter the long term care continuum through one process in each geographic area. The process must be streamlined so that individuals using this process have true access to services in a timely fashion. This means that case managers must be available 7 days a week to deal with immediate situations such as discharges from hospitals.
- If the one stop shop is to be successful there must be available home and community based services for individuals needing services. While this will be a major challenge given the rural nature of our state; we must have those services available. Nursing facilities and other entities must be willing to step up to the plate and develop a network of service providers who can meet this need.
- We must review current restrictions on delivery of home and community based care including the Nurse Practice Act and the availability of individuals to choose non-professional caretakers to provide necessary functions as long as those individuals understand and accept the risks associated with those decisions.
- We will need to establish a different way of providing case management services that can deliver services in a timely manner. We need to find a way to have a delivery system for home and community based care so that individuals interested in obtaining services have access to those services. We need to have a payment process that will encourage enough providers to enroll as QSPs Qualified Service Providers.

**Current Initiatives:**

DHS is working in partnership with many agencies and organizations in regard to long term care system reform, including the Long Term Care Association, AARP, The Graying of North Dakota Coalition, the Governor's Committee on Aging, the North Dakota Disabilities Consortium, and many others. Examples include:

- The Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division is facilitating a broad based work group as follow-up to SB 2330 (Money Follows the Individual). The group will make recommendations regarding home and community based options.
- The Department of Human Services has applied for several grants and a state plan amendment that would enhance options for persons seeking long-term care:

- a. Alzheimer's Demonstration grant which will allow greater coordination between the medical community and community services; training for the medical community regarding early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease; providing respite care; and a public education campaign.
- b. DHS, in cooperation with AARP and the North Dakota Disabilities Consortium, submitted a grant application for a Real Choice Systems Change grant - Rebalancing Initiative. This study grant would be the beginning of a single point of entry for individuals seeking long term care options.
- c. The Department has submitted a state plan amendment that will allow the delivery of personal care services in home and community settings. The plan has not yet been approved although it was submitted over a year ago. Currently, the only way individuals can receive personal care services are through the current waivers or if they reside in a basic care facility. The amendment will eliminate the need to qualify for a waiver to access this service through Medicaid. It will make it easier for individuals to access these services before they actually need nursing facility care and will assist in allowing individuals to remain in their own homes or community settings longer.

### **Joe Satrom**

I support using all available forms of leverage including buying drugs from Canada and elsewhere in order to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for Americans. This has been part of my campaign since the Fall of last year when I began to run for the office of Governor. Furthermore, I believe that North Dakota needs to aggressively fund home health care and assisted care so that we can keep people in their chosen living environments for as long as possible to meet their needs for independence, dignity and self determination.

#### **4. The Individuals with Disabilities education Act (IDEA) has been in effect for well over 25 years. It is up for reauthorization in the Congress. What is your position on this act and on special education in general?**

### **Joe Satrom**

I support the reauthorization of the Americans with Disabilities Act and special education programming that allows for broad opportunities and the fullest possible development of people with special needs and disabilities. My choice of words here may not fully express my feelings but I want the best possible, fullest lives possible for everyone and in our nation and state, I believe we should make every effort possible to provide these opportunities.

### **Governor John Hoeven**

Every child is entitled to a good education, and the Act should certainly be reauthorized. Currently, however, the federal government funds Special Education at levels far below the level they committed to. They need to step up and fund this at appropriate levels to ensure that all children get a quality education to begin life.

## **For more information:**

Senator Byron Dorgan  
3333 East Broadway Ave,  
Suite 1204  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-221-9644 (phone)  
701-250-6750 (fax)  
[info@dorgan04.com](mailto:info@dorgan04.com)  
<http://www.dorgan04.com/>

Hoeven for Governor  
P. O. Box 952  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
Telephone: 701-258-8968  
Fax: 701-255-7513  
<http://www.hoevergovernor.com/>

Joe Satrom  
3333 East Broadway, Suite 1206  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
Phone: 701-223-2259  
<http://www.satromforgovernor.com/>

**5. In 1999 the US Supreme Court issued a ruling commonly called the Olmstead decision. It mandated that states provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate within funding constraints. Efforts are underway by disability advocates to have other legislation passed which would assist in the efforts of people with disabilities to live in the homes of their choice and receive appropriate services. What is your position on the role of the state(federal) government in providing for people to receive services in their own home versus institutional settings?**

**Governor John Hoeven**

Supports:

The 2003-05 Governors' budget increased funding for home and community based services by \$5.1million or 19.7%.

In August of 2001, the governor established an Olmstead Commission made up of advocates, consumers and staff from state agencies. This commission applied for a federal Real Choices Systems Change grant and was awarded \$50,000 Starter Grant award and \$900,000 Systems Change Grant. The commission held focus groups in 20 communities to gather input and identify service gaps. Currently, the commission is in the process of monitoring several pilot projects that would meet the Olmstead decision objectives. Recommendations will be made to the governor and legislature upon completion and a review of the outcomes of these pilot projects.

**Joe Satrom**

My previous answer may have answered this question. I probably am not fully aware of the implications of this question but I want to assure you that, as Governor, I would work very hard to serve the needs of disabled citizens and their rights to live in home settings, work and realize the rewards of being part of communities and our society as a whole.

## ND Senate Race

As a member of Congress, I have supported many efforts to increase accessibility and fair treatment for the disabled. In 1990, I was a proud supporter of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Now, we need to do more to keep the promise of that legislation for those who depend on it.

More recently, I was proud to have been a cosponsor on the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act—passed by Congress in 1999—which addresses some of the work disincentives that the disabled face. North Dakota recently implemented the Medicaid “buy-in” program authorized by this law so that the disabled who return to work don’t have to lose their medical coverage. I am hopeful this program will help to expand the percentage of the disabled who are able to work.

In the area of health care, I also believe that we need to provide a range of health care options to best meet the needs of patients. For many people with disabilities, this means improving access to home- and community-based care. I have also fought to put downward pressure on the price of prescription drugs. I have supported drug reimportation, which would allow Americans to access FDA-approved drugs from countries where the prices are just a fraction of the prices they pay at home.

The Olmstead Decision was a historic milestone because the Supreme Court ruled that people with disabilities should be placed in the most integrated settings possible – in many cases that means in their communities, not in an institution. The states have the primary responsibility for implementing this policy, and I will be closely monitoring North Dakota’s actions to comply with this decision.

Finally, I have been a supporter of adequate public transit funding. These funds are particularly important to those with disabilities. I have also supported the Section 5310 program, which provides capital assistance to organizations providing transportation services. This program is especially helpful in areas that are too rural to be served by transit. The program is used to purchase buses, vans, and wheelchair lifts.

Thanks again for what you do. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to work with you in the coming years.

Sincerely,  
**Byron L. Dorgan**

# Information on candidates who did not respond

## **Minnesota US Representative, 7<sup>th</sup> District**

Collin Peterson  
<http://www.petersonforcongress.com/>  
PO BOX 265  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502

218-844-6117

David Sturrock  
<http://www.sturrock2004.com/>  
P.O. Box 547  
Marshall, MN 56258

651-261-2182

---

## **North Dakota US Representative**

Duane Sand  
<http://www.duanesand.com/>  
1 N. 2nd St. Suite 212  
Fargo, ND 58102

701-237-6700 (w)

Earl Pomeroy  
<http://www.pomeroyforcongress.com/>  
74 Broadway  
Fargo, ND 58102

701-235-1747

---

## **US Senate, ND**

Mike Liffbrig  
<http://www.mike4senate.com/>  
PO Box 1433  
Bismarck, ND 58502

(701) 250-7322