Candidate Name (as it appears on the ballot): Brian Caples

Office Seeking: CA State Assembly

District (Senate and Assembly): 6

Hometown: San Diego

Candidate Campaign Website and Contact Information (optional):

1. In which ways have you supported the disability community in the past, and how do you plan to continue your support in the future?  
   Answer: I am a part of the disabled community. I have peripheral neuropathy from Chemotherapy. There was a period of my life where I could not walk. I am very close to the disabled community and I will support the needs of the community.

2. Do you support the right of a person with a disability to live independently in the community? If so, what would your approach be to ensure people can transition from nursing homes to living on their own?  
   Answer: I support equal rights to all people. It should be up to the person to choose how they will live. We can work within our communities to promote a safe transition.

3. How will you support students with disabilities to receive an equitable, quality education if you are elected?  
   Answer: We do not allow discrimination based on disability. I am surprised to hear that students of any kind are not receiving a quality education. Education should be a right in this country, and I will fight to make sure that our schools are appropriately funded to educate all children.
4. How would you propose to build the capacity of the In Home Supportive Services program to sustain opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities to live independently in their communities. 
Answer: IHSS is a great program. When I worked at the council on aging in Santa Clara County I was able to see first hand the benefits of IHSS. The answer is really up to our seniors and disabled. What do they need? What would benefit them the most? That would be my approach to improving IHSS services.

5. What would you do to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to affordable and accessible housing?
Answer: I do not know, many people have problems affording housing. This is a symptom of a bigger problem in California. The increased cost of living is having a negative impact on affordability. Solving this problem will take more than just addressing the needs of the disabled population. I understand the importance for all people to have the basic necessities of life, at a cost that is affordable.

6. What will you do to ensure that people with disabilities are part of the planning and oversight systems for upgrading public transportation systems in California?
Answer: We can empower people to live a life outside of their disabilities. Public transportation can be accessible to all, we have the technology. It is a matter of investing the time and resources. As a person who has dealt with various levels of disability I can understand the challenges we face.
7. What would you do to increase job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
Answer: I believe every person has a role in society. Finding that role, and filling it, are a challenge for many people. The problem now is the lack of jobs. I will work to build an economy based on green energy and sustainable living. When there are abundant jobs, then there will be opportunities for every one.

8. What would you do to protect the rights of people with disabilities to have access to elections and cast an independent and private vote?
Answer: I am open to suggestions. I am not fully aware of the scope of this problem. I would like to learn more about how I can advocate for responsible voting laws that protect all citizens rights to vote.

9. What will you do to ensure that upcoming changes in healthcare delivery for people with disabilities will maintain the integrity and consistency of care on which they have relied? I would fight for the single payer initiative we all thought we were getting with ACA. I have seen the increased out of pocket expenses with the new plans, we have Dave Jones Proposition on the ballot and I hope that can address the rising costs of healthcare. Until we fix the cost issue we will never truly fix this issue.

10. In your view, do you think CA is spending too much, too little or just the right amount of its resources to support people with disabilities? Please explain.
Answer: I think we spend a good amount both on a statewide level, and federal level. When I worked at SCCCOA, many programs were available, but not used, and had surplus funds. This tells me our outreach could be improved. We need to do more to inform people of their options. I would support a balanced approach to making sure people know about the resources, and providing adequate funding to support our needs.