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: Funding of IHSS was a top priority for me. In this year's budget, the legislature restored the 7% cut in hourly pay and the restriction on overtime. I also supported raising the Medical reimbursement rates for home and community care services.

2. Do you support the right of a person with a disability to live independently in the community? Yes
   If so, what would your approach be to ensure people can transition from nursing homes to living on their own?

Answer: We must address the housing needs of all individuals. We need to fund affordable housing that works for people with disabilities. We need to find ways to restore funds for affordable housing. I will be working with Speaker Atkins to develop new sources of funding.

Funding of IHSS has been a top priority for me. In this year's budget, the legislature restored the cut in hourly pay and overtime. Next year, I will also insist on raising the Medical reimbursement rates for home and community
care services. These rates need to be comparable to rates for people with similar needs who are in institutions.

We also need to fund community based services instead of institutional care for those who prefer independent living.

3. How will you support students with disabilities to receive an equitable, quality education if you are elected?

Answer: I support restoration of funding for:
- Community College Disabled Student Program and Services
- Early Start for children with disabilities to pre-2009 eligibility and funding levels.
I also support promoting competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. There needs to be an emphasis on delivery of special supportive services for youth with disabilities and students with disabilities.

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: We need to extend the sick leave benefit that we have given to private sector workers to IHSS workers. Add reading services to IHSS for people who are blind, visually impaired, or have a disability that affects their ability to read.

5. What would you do to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to affordable and accessible housing?

Answer: We need to find ways to restore funds for affordable housing. I will be working with Speaker Atkins to develop new sources of funding.
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 must require agencies to survey consumers requesting para- and/or public transit travel training services to determine the nature of service required and make sure that outreach to all communities is taking places.

7. What would you do to increase job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities?

Answer: We must provide support for the following:

- Transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services.
- Assistance to individuals with significant disabilities that are at risk of entering institutions so that they may remain in the community.
- Transitions of youth who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life, including employment.
- Placing a significant focus and emphasis in setting higher expectations for services and supports to promote competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities, including the delivery of special supportive services for youth with disabilities and students with disabilities.
- Early intervention in obtaining vocational rehabilitations, internships, job training and other services and support.

Traditionally many people with disabilities are working in sheltered workshops and are paid subminimum wages. The segregation of people
with disabilities in sheltered workshops does not promote the independent living philosophy or create real employment opportunities. Changing this policy will be difficult, but it must begin reexamining the policy and work to change it by raising expectations and improving training and placement policies, particularly by emphasizing early intervention in obtaining vocational rehabilitations, internships, job training and other services.

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: Technology can be part of the answer. We need electronic systems that can be used by people with any disability. Internet voting would allow those with transportation issues to vote from home. I have requested that the Assembly form a select committee to determine how to initiate internet voting.

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?

We must have independent and person-centered assessment with a centralized, single point of entry to services that could conduct an assessment process that is independent of the providers.

There should be a State planning process that includes an analysis of the disabled population’s behavioral health needs, disparities, gaps in services, a detailed array of services to be offered and financing to adequately address identified needs.

Providers must certify that they shall fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in all areas of service provision, including communicating information in alternate formats, and shall develop a plan to encourage its contracted 10
providers to do the same. Providers must further certify that it will provide an operational approach to accomplish this.

The state should develop performance measures requiring service timelines to reinforce quality and performance, including full compliance with all state and federal disability access and civil rights laws.

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: California needs to provide more services to allow independent living and employment for people with disabilities. In the long run, this will save money for the state.