Candidate Name (as it appears on the ballot): Richard S. Gordon

Office Seeking: California State Assembly

District (Senate and Assembly): Assembly District 24

Hometown: Menlo Park, CA

Candidate Campaign Website and Contact Information (optional):

www.richgordon2014.com

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:

   As a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors I worked to support San Mateo County Center for Independence of the Disabled. The County provided additional funding for CID. As a member of the Assembly I have worked to provide support for the disability community. I voted to support a funding increase for Regional Centers.

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 fully support maximum independent living. I support funding for housing options. I carried legislation this year that will allow disabled veterans to live in foster home situations as a transition to independence.
3. How will you support students with disabilities to receive an equitable, quality education if you are elected? Answer:

I will advocate for additional funding for special education. As a member of the San Mateo County Board of Education I worked closely with our special education department to assure maximum access when funding cuts threatened to close a facility.

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:

The State needs to take responsibility to fully fund the IHSS program. As a County Supervisor I worked with the IHSS community to increase funding and provide additional support to IHSS workers.

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

I founded the Housing Trust Fund in San Mateo County to leverage public and private funding to build affordable housing. Consideration was always given to projects that provided supportive services. Last year I successfully carried legislation that allowed state dollars to continue to flow to local housing trust funds.

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:
As a member of the San Mateo County Transit Authority I worked with the Authority’s paratransit advisory board to maximize access. I support legislation that would require all public transit agencies to have advisory bodies representing the disability community.

7. What would you do to increase job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
   Answer:
   
   I believe that there are opportunities to increase training opportunities as the state works with regional consortia to reform adult education. Next spring when the final report on adult education and community college training programs is finally issued, I will advocate for additional training options.

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:
   
   There is a movement toward elections utilizing “all mail” ballots. I will support legislation that assures that the elimination or reduction of polling places does not disenfranchise people with disabilities.

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 have been focused on access to care as a member of the Assembly Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection Committee. With more Californians now holding health insurance, we must make sure that everyone maintains the ability to get care. I support efforts to assure that individuals do not lose access to an existing health care provider when their policies change under the Affordable Care Act.
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:

Disastrous cuts were made during the recent recession and we have not fully restored funding. California was not spending enough to support people with disabilities prior to the recession, so we are still providing inadequate resources. As the economy has been improving, I support a re-investment and increase in funding for the most vulnerable Californians.

Richard S. Gordon

California State Assembly

Assembly District 24