Candidate Name (as it appears on the ballot): Mark Stone

Office Seeking: Assembly District 29

District (Senate and Assembly): AD 29

Hometown: Scotts Valley, CA

Candidate Campaign Website and Contact Information (optional):
www.FriendsOfMarkStone.org

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 the Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee I have worked to ensure that the disability community receives the rights and dignity that it deserves. I served on the task force looking to address the issues with the Developmental Centers and the move to bring services into the community so that people can live with or near their loved ones with appropriate services. I have been named the legislator of the year by the San Andreas Regional Center.

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 do. The state needs to ensure that there are resources in the community for people to live independently and join the workforce. We also need to expand the role of IHSS workers to assist individuals with disabilities.
3. How will you support students with disabilities to receive an equitable, quality education if you are elected?
Answer: All public schools need to be ADA compliant and have educational opportunities for all people with disabilities. Not all school districts have programs to give growth and educational opportunities to the disabled, especially the severely disabled. Others are doing a good job. Under the Local Control Funding Formula, the state still needs to set standards for services against which school districts can be held accountable to their disabled population.

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: First we need to recognize the professionalism and the importance of these workers. They are often treated as adjunct workers without all of the same rights as other workers. They need a living wage and respect in all of our communities.

5. What would you do to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to affordable and accessible housing?
Answer: With the loss of redevelopment funding, local jurisdictions are not able to continue with the kids of housing programs we had seem in the past. I am working with the Speakers office on housing issues, especially transitional housing for the disabled, foster youth and others who need to be able to transition safely into our communities.
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: Much of the planning happens on the local or regional level. ADA laws require the disabled to be accommodated in public transportation. Each agency needs to have a disability advisory group to ensure that the needs of the disabled are accounted for in all decisions. I served on Santa Cruz Metro for nine years before I was in the legislature. We developed a robust and effective specialty transportation service for the disabled and worked to ensure that, even during times of budget cuts, we were providing those services.

7. What would you do to increase job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities?
Answer: There were several bill last session to ensure that the disabled are accommodated in the workforce. They came through my committee and we worked together to try to get them passed. Employment does not mean token jobs at low wages, but real opportunities to be a part of the workforce and enrich their own lives and those of their coworkers.

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: In Santa Cruz County, where I was on the Board of Supervisors, we ensured that all polling places are ADA compliant and that there is assistance available for all voters. Poll workers will even go to someone’s house to collect ballots if necessary. Expanding vote by mail opportunities and electronic voting are important components of ensuring that the disability community has a voice in elections.
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 are watching the implementation of the Affordable Care Act closely. Part of the answer is giving appropriate authority to the Insurance Commissioner to represent the interests of the people of California. We also need to ensure that there are adequate numbers of providers for all of the people now accessing the insurance. The disability community are an important part of the health care system and need to be considered.

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: We are spending too much on the Developmental Centers and not enough in our communities where the care is compassionate, dignified and closer to home.