

The cover has a large red, blue, and black logo centered. It says:

“2018 Candidates Forum on Disability Issues.”

July 26, 2018

The 28th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Ohio State University Fawcett Event Center, Columbus, Ohio.

WELCOME

Greetings and welcome to the **2018 Ohio Candidate Forum on Disability Issues!**

What an appropriate way to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the signing of the *Americans with Disabilities Act!*

We wish to begin by thanking our sponsors. Without their generosity and commitment to the outcomes of this event, we would not be able to accomplish our goals. As a result of this Forum, and their support, it is our hope the disability community will make disability policy issues a foundation for deciding who is elected as our next leaders. We hope the information provided today allows you to make an informed decision about who will represent you when laws and policies are developed and decided. We also hope disability policy issues are elevated to a priority position on the radar of all candidates.

There is a saying, "If you don't vote, you don't count." At the time of the 2016 election, people with disabilities accounted for approximately one sixth (16.67%) of eligible voters, totaling 35.4 million people. However, only 16 million people with disabilities voted in that election. In the 2016 presidential election, the voter turnout rate for people with disabilities was six percentage points lower than that of people without disabilities. Had people with disabilities voted at the same rate as people without disabilities with the same demographic characteristics, there would be about 2.2 million more voters. *(Doug Kruse & Lisa Schur, Rutgers University.)*

We can do better! We simply must do better!

This forum is only the beginning. After today, you will have information. Contact the candidates. Tell them your stories. Tell them what people with disabilities need in order to live their lives in the community with the same opportunities afforded to those who do not have disabilities. If you can, contribute to the campaigns of those who listen, even if only a few dollars. Be engaged in the process! Your vote is your voice! After the election, pay attention to how your elected officials are voting. Have they kept their promises? What impact have their decisions and votes had on you?

It was Justin Dart, Jr., the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act who reminded us, "Vote as if your life depends on it, because it does!"

It really, really does.

Sincerely,

The Forum Organizing Committee:

Ohio Association of Centers for Independent Living
The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Disability Rights Ohio
League of Women Voters of Ohio
The University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD)
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)

TODAY'S FORUM AGENDA

12:30 - 12:40	Welcome/Overview <i>Kara Ayers, Ph.D - Emcee, Associate Director, UCCEDD</i>
12:40	Introduction of Keynote Speaker <i>Tim Harrington, Executive Director, The Ability Center</i>
12:40 - 1:10	Keynote Address <i>John Kemp, Esq. - (see Bio, next page)</i>
1:10	Introduction of Moderator <i>Kara Ayers, Ph.D - Emcee, Associate Director, UCCEDD</i>
1:15	Ground Rules for Interviews <i>Alan Johnson</i>
1:20 - 2:00	Republican Senatorial Candidate - Jim Renacci
2:00 - 2:40	Democratic Senatorial Candidate - Sherrod Brown
2:40 - 3:00	Break (If needed)
3:00 - 3:40	Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate - Richard Cordray
3:40 - 4:20	Republican Gubernatorial Candidate - Mike DeWine
4:20 - 4:30	Wrap Up <i>Kara Ayers, Ph.D - Emcee, Associate Director, UCCEDD</i>

HONORING OUR SUPPORTERS

The organizers of this Candidates Forum on Disability Issues wish to express gratitude to those individuals and organizations who supported the event. These supports are represented by the logos on the banner behind our speakers, the Ads in this program, and at display tables out in the foyer.

Please take time to visit their tables to see their information and to thank them for their support.

IMPORTANT: IF YOU ARE NOT YET REGISTERED TO VOTE, YOU CAN DO SO TODAY IN THE FOYER.

MODERATOR

After 44 years as a journalist, much of that as a reporter for the Columbus Dispatch, Alan Johnson retired in September of 2017 to further pursue a higher calling. Graduating in 2014 with a Master's Degree in Religion from Ashland Theological Seminar, Mr. Johnson is currently in the Doctor of Ministry program there.

As a journalist, Alan Johnson covered many issues pertinent to Ohioans with disabilities: politics, mental health and developmental disabilities, corrections (including capital punishment), alcohol/drug addiction, poverty issues, human trafficking, internet cafes, and prescription drug abuse.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

As a person with a disability who uses four prostheses, John D. Kemp, Esq. inspires others to achieve the impossible through knowledge, experience, vision, personality, and persistence. He is widely respected for his many achievements, both in the corporate and non-profit worlds.

Mr. Kemp has more than 50 years of direct experience in the disability rights movement, and has partnered with, worked for, and served as Board Member/Chair or CEO of some of the leading disability and nonprofit organizations such as: United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Very Special Arts, HalfthePlanet Foundation, Independent Sector, The Abilities Fund Inc., Disability Service Providers of America, Easter Seals, Goodwill Industries of America, U.S. Business Leadership Network, and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities.

Mr. Kemp co-founded the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), and later became a partner of the Washington, D.C. Law Firm of Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, P.C., where he developed an active federal legislative and lobbying practice. He has served on the Medicaid Commission and the U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities. In 2012, he joined the NYS READY Commission, established by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of critical infrastructure and key service providers in the case of natural disasters.

In 2006, Mr. Kemp received the Henry B. Betts Award, widely regarded as America's highest honor for disability leadership and service, presented by the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and the AAPD. In 2014, he received one of eight David Awards, bestowed upon 'Renaissance men' of Long Island by Networking magazine who have excelled in business or academics and also accomplished outstanding heroic and humanitarian acts. That same year, he was selected by Senator Bob Dole to receive the Dole Leadership Prize from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas, joining a group of international recipients that includes Nelson Mandela, former President George H.W. Bush, and former Ukrainian president, Viktor Yushchenko.

Mr. Kemp was recently inducted into the National Disability Mentoring Coalition's Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame, in honor of Susan B. Daniels, for his demonstrated commitment to mentoring those in the disability community.

Currently, John Kemp is president and CEO of The Viscardi Center, a non-profit organization that provides a life span of services that educate, employ, and empower people with disabilities in 2011.

This page contains a single full-page ad for Disability Rights Ohio. It says:

Disability Rights Ohio operates a Voter Hotline every Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If you have questions or believe your right to vote has been violated, call us.

614-466-7264 or 800-282-9181, TTY 614-728-2553 or 800-858-3542.

Our address: 200 Civic Center Dr, Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio, 43215-4234

Our website: disabilityrightsohio.org

Disability Rights Ohio. We have the legal right of way.

On this page there are two half-page ads. The top ad is for the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio and their “Ohio Votes” program. It says:

Election Day is Near! Free Trainings, Posters, and Election Toolkits available.

We’ll help you build a “Get Out the Vote” program that best fits your nonprofit organization for free.

For more information, visit: ohvotes.org or email: mariabruno@cohhio.org.

The second ad is a half-page ad is for Down Syndrome Awareness Ohio Collaborative. It says:

The Down Syndrome Ohio Collaborative is proud to support the 2018 Candidate Forum on Disability Issues.

This page contains a full-page ad for ADA Cleveland. It says:

ADA Cleveland is proud to support the Ohio Candidate Forum on Disability Issues by providing a Facebook live stream of the event.

ADA Cleveland seeks to celebrate the ongoing legacy of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

ADA Cleveland seeks to lead in ensuring access, increasing awareness, promoting independence, and providing opportunity.

ADA Cleveland seeks to engage our community as advocates for positive change.

ADA Cleveland members include:

Achievement Centers for Children
The Arc Of Greater Cleveland
Art Therapy Studio
City of Cleveland Department of Aging
Cleveland Hearing And Speech Center
Cleveland Sight Center
Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
The Dancing Wheels Company and School
Easter Seals Northern Ohio
Linking Employment Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio
New Avenues to Independence, Inc.
Rec to Connect Foundation
Services for Independent Living
UCP of Greater Cleveland
Welcome House
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging
and Youth Challenge.

Learn more at: adacleveland.org

Email us at: ADAINCLE@gmail.com

This page has four quarter-page ads. The first is for the League of Women Voters. It says:

League of Women Voters. Making democracy work in Ohio since 1920.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) is a nonpartisan membership organization that empowers voters and defends democracy.

For more information, call 614-469-1505 or check us out at lwvohio.org.

Find our online Voter's Guide at VOTE411.org

Link to us on Twitter at: twitter.com/lwvohio.

Our Facebook page is Facebook.com/lwvohio

The second ad is for Ohio Olmsted Task Force. It says:

Advocating for Ohioans with disabilities to live, work, and participate in community life. For more information, visit: ohioolmsted.com.

The third ad is an ad for the Center for Disability Empowerment. It says:

Providing resources and advocacy for community living in Central Ohio. We provide:

Information And Referral

Independent Living Skills And Community Connections

Advocacy

Benefits Counseling

Transition Services

Ohio Temporary Ramp Program

Ohio PCA Program

Speak Up/Stay Safe Training

Access Ohio.

Our address is 510 E. North Broadway, Columbus, OH 43214

Our phone number: 614-575-8055

Our webpage: disabilityempowerment.net

The fourth ad is for Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc. It says:

Advancing independence every day.

Your vote is your voice! Exercise your right to vote!

Our address is 520 South Main St. Suite 2501, Akron, Ohio 44311.

Our phone number is 330-762-0007.

Our website is: tcilc.org

On this page is an ad for Buckeye Health Plan. It says:

Choose Buckeye Health Plan. The Medicaid plan that works for you.

Choose the plan that makes Medicaid easier. Buckeye connects you to healthcare experts who care about you and are focused on your health.

Buckeye is proud to be a sponsor of the Ohio Candidate Forum on Disability Issues.

To learn more, call 1-866-246-4358 or visit BuckeyeHealthPlan.com.

On this page is a full-page ad for The Ability Center of Greater Toledo. It shows a photo of Justin Dart, Junior. It says:

On this, the 28th Anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we take time to honor the man called the "Father of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

"Vote as if your life depends on it, because it does."

a quote by Justin Dart, Jr.
Patriot, Mentor, Leader, American with a Disability
1930 - 2002

The Ability Center

abilitycenter.org

This last page of ads has three ads, two quarter-page ads, and one half-page ad.

The first quarter-page ad is for CRN Consulting, LTD. It's says:

Providing government advocacy.

CRN Consulting has been fighting for justice for ALL Ohioans since 1999.

Connie Nolder, CRN Consulting, LTD.

614-329-6100

Connie@CRNconsulting.org

Website: crnconsulting.org

The second quarter-page ad is for Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Office on Aging. It says:

Making a difference in the lives of our older adults.

We provide:

Information and Assistance

Adult Day Health

Caregiver Support

Home Delivered Meals

Community Care Registry

and Minor Home Repair.

Our Senior Options phone number is 614-525-6200.

Our Adult Protective Services phone number is 614-525-4348.

You can reach us online at: officeonaging.org.

The final ad in the program is a half-page ad for Ohio Statewide Independent Living Counsel. It says:

Promoting independence, empowerment, and inclusion in Ohio.

Your voice always matters. Use it. Get registered. Get informed. Get to the polls and vote.

Our address is: 670 Morrison Road, Suite 200, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

Our phone number is: 614-892-0390.

Our web address: ohiosilc.org

A big Thank You to our “In-Kind” Supporters:

Deaf Services Center *for providing the Interpreter Services*

The Center for Disability Empowerment *for Organizational and Coordination Support*

Tri-County Independent Living Center *for Coordination of Fiscal Support*

Ohio Association of County Boards of DD *for providing the Photographer*

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo *for Graphic Design Support*

A few important websites:

Should you or someone you know wish to register to vote in Ohio, please visit the Ohio Secretary of State’s Voter Registration page:

<https://olvr.sos.state.oh.us/>

For all kinds of Disability-Related Voting Information and Tools, please visit AAPD’s “REV-UP!” resources page:

<https://www.aapd.com/advocacy/voting/rev-up-images-and-toolkits/>

On behalf of the Forum, the Forum Planning Committee, the Sponsors, and all Ohioans living with disabilities, thank you again for participating today, for adding your voice and body to the day. You made it a success!

Now go make a difference in the world! And remember to vote!