



Essential Advice for Running for Office With a Disability

If you're an activist looking for a way to make a bigger, positive impact on your community, you might be considering a [run for office](#). But if you have a disability, you may be especially worried about navigating the campaign process. It's true that candidates with disabilities may have to face some tough scenarios while campaigning, but this does not mean you have to put your dreams of a political career on the backburner. These tips will help candidates with disabilities run successful campaigns for political office.

Hire a Fantastic Team

No political candidate runs for office alone! Before you launch your campaign, you'll need to hire several experienced people for your team. For example, you'll want to work with a [fundraising](#) consultant, a communications pro, and a social media manager. You should also plan to hire a web designer, who can set up a slick [campaign website](#) with an intuitive user interface. To find a professional for this project, you can hire freelance web designers for [contract work](#) through online job boards like Upwork. Check out examples of their previous work to see if you like their style!

Develop Your Platform

Before you really kick off your campaign, you'll need to write up your official platform so that voters know exactly [what you stand for](#). Think about the values you hold dear and how you want your campaign to reflect those values. After doing some brainstorming, outline a document that emphasizes the major issues you would focus on in office. Explain exactly how you plan to address those issues in specific terms. If you feel that it's relevant, you may want to acknowledge how your disability has motivated you to fight for a better world for everyone. This is your opportunity to let voters know what your priorities are.

Establish a Virtual Presence

Once you have your website set up with a page for your platform, it's time to focus on other aspects of your virtual presence. Today, political candidates cannot afford to ignore the power of social media when it comes to [advertising](#) their campaigns and connecting with future voters! [Social Media Today](#) recommends asking your followers about the issues they care most about and giving them the opportunity to interact with you. You may want to work on promotional efforts with local disability rights organizations that could be open to supporting your candidacy.

Schedule Accessible Events

Finally, it's time to start planning some events that will allow you to connect with your constituents in person! You'll need to be on the lookout for accessible venues to host your events. Depending on where you live, you may need to give your team some extra time to find spaces that are open to accommodating the needs of people with disabilities.

[Rooted In Rights](#) suggests looking for buildings with ramps and wide doorways for wheelchair access and working with a third-party vendor that can loan out temporary mobility aids if necessary. The venue should also allow service animals to accompany their owners.

Campaigning is never easy, and as a candidate with a disability, there may be times when you feel discouraged as you try to work within a system that was not necessarily designed with your needs in mind. But by working with a great team, establishing a persuasive platform, and making your own events accessible to all, you can convey your message to your future constituents and earn a victory on election day.

Photo via [Unsplash](#)