



Top Tips for Aspiring Politicians with Disabilities

By: Ed Carter

Are you ready to make a difference for people with disabilities? It always helps to have people in leadership positions who are advocating on behalf of a worthwhile cause, and whether your disability is at the forefront of your campaign or just a side note, it's prime time to stretch your wings in the political arena.

Here are the basics you need to win your first election.

A Campaign Manager

Getting elected to public office starts with the right campaign team, and before you look for anyone else to fill out your roster, you should hire an experienced campaign manager. As Campaigns & Elections explains, [this individual](#) will be your go-to person for guidance over the coming months, so make sure you hire someone you can trust. Then you can work together to assemble the rest of your team; this might include such roles as a fundraising director, treasurer, scheduler and volunteer coordinator.

Campaign Funds

Most people think it takes millions of dollars to run a successful campaign but this simply is not true. While the Federal Election Commission's statistics show that running for high stakes

political roles, like the presidency and congressional offices, does indeed require deep pockets, getting elected to local offices doesn't have to.

Discuss financial needs with your campaign manager to get an idea of how much to spend, and do some fundraising as needed. There are plenty of effective ways to drum up needed funds, like hosting events and going door-to-door, and you can even put a virtual [donation box](#) on your website.

Committed Volunteers

Finding the time to campaign can also be important, but you don't have to take on every task on your own. Mobilize points out that you can [recruit volunteers](#) to organize phone banks, door-to-door canvassing and other efforts that will help you get elected. Ask your friends and family members to help out or consider reaching out to your chosen political party to get volunteers to help your campaign.

Candidate Training

Having access to some funding can help your election chances, but there are quite a few political tools that you can access for little cost. One such tool is candidate training, which will teach you the ins and outs of running for office, as well as tips for succeeding in that office. In order to encourage citizens to run for office, many organizations even provide free training.

A Solid Platform

What is driving your campaign? Your passion should spill over into your political agenda, so if you haven't identified specific ideals, it's time to do so. For instance, perhaps you plan to advocate for improved [accessibility](#) on websites. Have a plan of action and the knowledge to discuss your goals with confidence. It could mean taking [some classes](#) or talking with area experts to get a better understanding of what your aspirations entail, but a sound, well-thought-out platform is a must-have for future success.

Convincing Speeches

If you want to be good at politics, you need to get better at public speaking. If writing compelling speeches really isn't your thing, you can always use job boards to find a freelancer who can [write speeches](#) for you. Of course, how you deliver those speeches is equally important. So in addition to participating in political candidate trainings, see if you can find tools that will help you improve your public speaking capabilities. This can include groups and online resources like [Toastmasters](#) and [TED Talks](#).

Stepping into an elected position can give you the power to create significant change for others who are living with disabilities. Not to mention that you could end up inspiring younger

generations to reach for dreams they may never have thought were possible. So run for office, and use the tips above to run a successful campaign. You've got this!

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