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Getting Started Running for Office as a Person with a Disability

A fifth of the American population consists of people who have disabilities. However, in elected office, people with disabilities lack adequate representation. You'll find that most of these people are often equipped with the right skills to become respected community leaders. They only need a nudge in the right direction to run for elected office.

As a person with a disability, a run for the local or state office is a great way to connect with society. It gives you a chance to create awareness and show the world that your differences can be empowering. To assist you to start planning your campaign, Here are a few important tips that will come in handy.

The Campaign Team

Running a campaign alone is next to impossible. You need a team that includes qualified personnel who share your passion. Some experts you will require are:

Campaign Manager

A campaign manager should be on top of your list. It's advisable to source for an organized person who also supports your political opinions. They will assist you in handling daily tasks and other major issues that will arise during your campaign.

The [campaign manager](#) should be familiar with the requirements of a person with a disability.

For instance, they are there to assess locations to ensure that you'll be able to access the venues considering your disability. They can check wheelchair access and organize the appropriate technology to assist you when the need arises.

Financial Manager

[Fundraising](#) is a challenging aspect of any given campaign, so you need the services of a financial manager. You will require a financial manager with adequate qualifications to raise funds to cover your campaign's costs.

Ensure that your manager sets fundraising goals and suggests various strategies to achieve those goals. Get in touch with organizations that are supportive of people with disabilities since they can [sponsor your campaign](#).

As your campaign team grows, coming up with payroll can be hectic. An integrated payroll system can assist you in creating your payroll quicker. It ensures more efficiency and security. When selecting the right payroll system, it's important to get one with time tracking and instantaneous report generation features to assist you in managing your team's timesheets.

If you have people canvassing neighborhoods or performing tasks outside the office for your campaign, field service management software may come in handy. Although this is typically used for service-based businesses, you could use features like instant updates from your teams and the ability to make schedules everyone can access. This software can help you [manage field personnel](#) without needing several different apps.

Social Media Manager

Today, [social media](#) is a powerful advertising tool that can build you or destroy you. Consider engaging a [social media expert](#) who can create engaging content, pull in new followers, and keep them informed.

Establish Your Platform

With your team in place, you can now start working on your campaign plan. Establish a detailed [platform](#), starting with the insights you've gained from your team. Your team members will assist you in understanding community needs.

Determine what the community expects from elected officials and get to know your limits. For instance, if you've noted an issue with public services for people with disabilities, you can get in touch with elected officials.

Find out if they're aware of the issues, their plan for the same, and what challenges they have that prevent existing problems from getting lasting solutions.

Running for office with a disability may sound overwhelming, and at first glance, it can be. However, with some careful planning a solid team by your side, you can embark on a campaign that will make those around you feel proud to be a part of it.

MORC is a human services organization that coordinates long-term support for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and the elderly in Southeast Michigan. Reach out to us today! 866-807-6940