

## 2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Jim McCune

District: 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

Position: State Senate / Open Seat

**1. *If you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a developmental disability, would you describe its impact on you?***

I do have a personal connection with someone who has a DD. In my experience, a person with a DD wants to be treated just like anyone else and possess the same needs for human interaction as anyone else. As for the impact on me personally, I can honestly say that I feel very blessed to have been born healthy. My faith teaches that I am to honor and care for God's creation.

**2. *What are your top three legislative priorities and how would you help people with developmental disabilities in them?***

#1: Reduction of property taxes. Life is not fair and it is not easy. I am not aware of anyone who begrudges tax exemptions for those who were dealt unavoidable obstacles in life. I would introduce, or co-sponsor, full property tax exemptions for the DD community (including disabled veterans) whose income is \$60,000 or less/year.

#2: Public Safety. Crimes against the DD should carry a greater penalty. Like for people who park in handicap parking places.

#3: Increase commerce and recreation. There is a high demand for recreational opportunities, particularly access to public lands. I would look for opportunities to consult with the DD community to assess needs that are not met in order to expand their access to public lands.

**3. *With the current economic crisis, how would you protect services that people with I/DD and their families need?***

This is a very difficult subject. I know of no one who wants to deny needed services to the DD community. My approach would be to prioritize government services that stand to protect the lives of the vulnerable. A county/state can be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable. In 2008, I fought against cuts to the mental health funding.

**4. *Is there other information you'd like constituents with developmental disabilities and their family and friends to know?***

Government doesn't have all the answers to today's problems. This state has not been a good steward the public's trust by its irresponsible spending. I will do my best to preserve the services that taxpayers want so much to be available to the DD community and I will work hard to make sure taxpayers have more discretionary income available for personal giving to those in need.