

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Peter Abbarno
District: 20th Legislative District
Position: Position 1



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

As a volunteer, I support the Special Olympics of Lewis County, People First, and SPARC (Specialized Activities And Recreation) through Reliable Enterprises. I participate in many activities and events to promote the organizations.

As a Centralia City Councilmember, a priority of mine is creating a more accessible City and more accessible Parks for our children. I work with many families in the community to find areas that need greater ADA accessibility. This year, with the help of local families, the City of Centralia is installing our first handicap accessible playground.

In my profession as an attorney, I work with clients to establish mechanisms for handicap family members to be cared for in the event of a loss, and be protected from abuse and fraud.

My personal and professional experience has only been positive by reinforcing my belief that we must focus on abilities, not disabilities. The parents, caregivers, and volunteers are true unsung heroes in our community and I continue to advocate for a more inclusive and accessible community in my personal and professional capacity.

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

- *Greater consideration of accessibility in funding capital projects;*
- *Protecting the legal rights of individuals from fraud, abuse, and mistreatment; and*
- *Supporting community based long-term independent care.*

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

The State Legislature should focus on protecting the most vulnerable in our community, and that would include individuals with disabilities and their families. Protecting their services and funding should be a priority, since they feel the economic crisis and cuts the most.

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

I am committed to inclusion in our community and State. Personally I Ran 20 miles with a torch in my hand and jumped into 28 degree water to raise money and awareness to the Lewis County Special Olympics. Professionally, as an attorney I have

volunteered and delivered free legal service to those in need and their families. As a public servant, I advocate for, and delivered, ADA sidewalks and truly inclusive handicap accessible playgrounds. Individuals with disabilities and their family need to know they are not alone. Learn more about my campaign at www.ElectPeterAbbarno.com