

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Laurie Dolan

District: 22

Position: Representative

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

My masters degree is in special education. I have a lifetime of experience with people with developmental disabilities. I taught special ed and supervised special ed staff (teachers, ed specialists, school psychs, OTs, PTs, CDS). Most recently I suggested that the Olympia Rotary Club work with adults with developmental disabilities by having them be greeters at Rotary meetings. Working with people with developmental disabilities brings joy to my life. They are good workers who typically show up on time and try their best.

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

Passing a capital gains tax for more progressive revenue.

Getting a K-12 salary schedule back in place.

Figuring out how to fill the 4 billion hole in the state budget with the least amount of trauma.

People with disabilities need funding for special programs and excellent classroom teachers.

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

I am hoping that some federal money may still be coming to backfill what the state has spent on COVID-19.

The Governor has asked each state agency to prepare new budgets that cut 15%. We can put bills on hold that have not yet been implemented. Ultimately, we probably can't solve such a big hole without furloughing state employees for a certain amount of time, but that would be my last choice.

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

Improving life for people with disabilities has been one of the main themes of my life's work.