

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Joy Stanford

District Number: 26

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?

Over the years, both here in Washington state and in California, I have had the opportunity to be around friends, neighbors and family members who have developmentally disabled children. My hope is that my interactions were just as any other child I interact with. These children are some of the smartest, loving people I have had the pleasure of knowing. As a member of the School District Re-opening committee, many times we as a group have reminded folks that it is important to consider the kids in the developmentally disabled class and how the re-opening is affecting or will affect them. For me, it's about making the "new normal" accessible and equitable for all students.

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

In addition to ensuring that our state makes a strong economic recovery post-COVID, my three main priorities involve housing, health care and education. Moving forward from this crisis we must be committed to improving our public health system, educational system, and start to create affordable, safe housing for all Washington State residents. Thus, my top three priorities include:

- counselors, and nurses for all students to ensure we are building a generation of healthy children. Investing in our students with Early Learning, and throughout their K-12 career, and once they reach higher education levels will continue to help us build a strong economy in our area.

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

I will bring more I/DD voices to the table. I believe that as we proceed through post-COVID economic recovery, income inequality through the lense of our education system will be the defining issue of our time. Millennials and Generation Z have decided that they get a voice in their education, advocating for issues such as housing, healthcare, and school affordability, and for common-sense gun control that would protect students by limiting circumstances that lead to mass shootings. I think we are standing on the brink of education reform that would make higher education affordable or free for all students who want it, and provide more career training options after high school. In office, I will champion programs to make higher education affordable, give young people more opportunities to achieve economic stability, and push us towards a future where every single person—regardless of income or disability—has a fair shot at economic security.

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

I am running because our community deserves a representative who puts all our children and our economy first, and right now that's not happening. As a longtime resident of the 26th district, and with my background of servicing the community, I understand what we need and value. I am the only candidate who is committed to

bringing every voice to the table to find solutions and put working families first. Through my work and advocacy I have found that many of us are living in a state of fear. Whether that's a fear of securing affordable and sustainable healthcare, a concern our students aren't getting a high-quality, fully-funded education, or the common worries about our ever-growing need for transportation solutions in our region. I believe these issues have real impacts on the quality of our lives, and right now the voices of children, seniors, and working families aren't being represented in Olympia. I believe that by working together we can make real progress for families.

Campaign Website: [www. joyforwashington.com](http://www.joyforwashington.com)