

## 2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

**Name: Liz Berry**

**District: 36**

**Position: State Representative Position 2**

**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 mom was a special education teacher at a public school in Phoenix. Growing up, I loved accompanying my mom to her classroom, and meeting her students. She always brought home stories of her students to the dinner table and when out in public always went out of her way to greet and interact with any child with a disability. Its effect was that I grew up in an environment where there was no stigma around people with disabilities. It shaped my view on how to build a better world for all people, and in particular, people with disabilities.*

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

*If the devastating effects of COVID-19 in our community has taught us anything, it's taught us that it's finally time to prioritize people. Working moms like me, families, people with disabilities, working people, students, kids, retirees. We need to be uplifting the people who have uplifted us during this crisis like our healthcare workers, grocery workers, sanitation workers, transit workers, farmers, childcare workers, teachers. This is what this race is about for me and why I am running.*

*It's about rebuilding an economy that works for everyone.*

*It's about making childcare affordable for all working families.*

*It's about building a world-class public education system.*

*It's about making critical investments in health care for all.*

*It's about putting our planet first.*

*It's about making our region affordable for everyone to thrive.*

*All of my priorities have shifted to thinking about what lawmakers need to be considering to rebuild healthy communities, shore up our broken economy and get people back to work. Now is not the time for austerity measures. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create an economy that works for all of us. This will be my top priority in the State House.*

*First, I believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and I will fight to make health care affordable and accessible to all. Like many, my family has been denied basic health care coverage by our insurance company too many times to count. Twenty-five percent of our population in America are delaying getting medical help because of the skyrocketing cost of healthcare. As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us, we cannot continue to cut critical funding for public health services. Additional investments in preparedness and accessibility to services like testing are essential. It's time that we stand with workers on the frontlines who are standing up for us during this unprecedented time. They deserve hazard pay, adequate personal protective equipment, and additional paid sick leave*

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

*Our state budget is facing a \$7 billion+ shortfall, and now is NOT the time for austerity measures. A decade ago, the Legislature implemented devastating budget cuts to essential programs and services, and we are still digging out of that hole today. This*

is unacceptable to me as a solution to this economic emergency. I will protect DDA and the other services that people with I/DD and their families need. I have experience responding to an economic crisis as Legislative Director to Congresswoman Gabby Giffords during the Great Recession. The stimulus saved jobs and created new ones while making investments in infrastructure, education, and health. What didn't work was sending billions of dollars to bailout the big banks when they used the money to enrich themselves instead of keeping the credit flowing to small businesses, families and important human services programs. These are important lessons learned that must be applied to our current economic crisis. I believe that this economic crisis creates incredible momentum to balance our upside down tax code and bring in new progressive revenue.

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

I've spent much of my adult life supporting and recruiting women to run for public office. Now I'm taking my own advice. I am running to fight for fairness, lift up working families and children, and bring affordability back to our region. I will stand up for the progressive values that have guided me my whole life as a working mom, nonprofit leader, and champion for creating pathways for women to have a seat at the table. I am excited and proud to be running for the State House of Representatives to represent you in Olympia.

I am proud of the breadth and depth of the support our campaign has received. We have received endorsements from many notable organizations including: SEIU 775, SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW, SEIU 925, UFCW 21, Washington State Labor Council, Teamsters Joint Council, Machinists, Washington State Nurses Association, FUSE Washington, Washington Stonewall Democrats, Moms Demand Action, Alliance for Gun Responsibility, National Women's Political Caucus of Washington, Win With Women, Young Democrats of Washington. We also have the support of many elected officials including: Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib, King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmembers Joe McDermott and Claudia Balducci, State Senator Rebecca Saldaña, State Rep. Nicole Macri, Seattle City Councilmembers Teresa Mosqueda, Lorena González, Tammy Morales and Debora Juarez, Seattle City Council President Zachary DeWolf, and so many more. View my full list here: <https://lizberry.com/endorsements/>.

I am a proven progressive leader who will fight for all of us. I will always look to the issue experts-- like Arc of Washington- when making a decision that would impact people with I/DD and their families. I would be honored to earn your vote in the August 4 primary election.

My Campaign Website: <https://lizberry.com>