

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: John Stafford

District: 37

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?

As a teacher of 20+ years, I have some professional experience working with students who have had a wide range of development disabilities. The impact of my experiences could perhaps best be summarized by my observation at how much a comprehensive approach--where government, institutions, families, and individuals all work together--makes a difference.

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

Public Health -- The Pandemic.

Economic - The Pandemic-Driven Recession.

Social -- The Public Health Crisis and the Economic Recession are both disproportionately impacting low-income and minority communities, creating a social crisis.

Budgetary -- The state faces a large decline in state revenues (estimated at over \$7 billion over four years) due to a decrease in tax revenue (mostly sales taxes) due to the recession. It also will see a number of expense categories increase (e.g., public health expenditures, unemployment benefits, etc.) due to the pandemic. The combination of these factors will create a large budgetary crisis in Olympia - exceeding the magnitude of the crisis during the 2008 Great Recession.

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

*Support a single-payer health care system at the state level (and eventually the federal level) to provide universal coverage, better outcomes and lower cost.
Support Cascade Care -- the state's somewhat scaled-down public option.*

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

As I'd said earlier, I believe in a layered support structure--with government, institutions, professionals, families, and individuals.

Campaign Website: <http://www.staffordforstaterepresentative.org/>