2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities

Name: Tim J Hickey

District: 48th Legislative District

Position: State Representative Pos. 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?

I have and have had a number of personal experiences with students and friends with developmental disabilities.

How they have impacted me? That's a great question.

I have always been impacted personally in a very positive and deep way in terms of personal growth. In each case I've learned so much about myself and more importantly about my friends with disabilities.

Presently I am involved helping a 44-year-old blind man. I occasionally take him fishing and we correspond a lot. We walk and talk about life and keep each other great company.

About twenty-two years ago I held a class in tap dance for a group of boys. One had ADHD, two were children with autism and another with an unidentifiable disability/challenge. This class taught me patience and in the end we had an excellent time!

Back in the mid-nineties I had a tap dance student named Ashlee. She was deaf at childbirth with 'cookie-bite hearing loss'. She was an amazing dancer and her parents helped me learn Exact Sign Language with books and practice.

I created an entire language of tap-dance terms so we could communicate, and Ashlee changed my life forever. I choreographed a dance for her with a live band to L.O.V.E. and her mom signed during part of the piece. It was a benefit performance for Kirkland Performance Center. It was an amazing and emotional experience.

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

My top three legislative priorities will be:
Recovery from the economic Corona-Virus pandemic without raising taxes;

The safety of our children and senior citizens in regard to their health, and well-being including access to needed health care and improvement in school environments;

The improvement of our transportation system and roads.

I can see how my 1st and 2nd priorities will help contribute to the well-being of people with developmental disabilities as it should help the supportive family and friends directly and indirectly with transportation.

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

This I will have to study, as I have no direct information regarding this question. That being said, I will work diligently to protect all citizens of the 48th and King County.

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

I thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to serving you in the House of Representatives in Olympia, WA.