

# John Dickinson - Candidate for Legislative District 37, Position 1

## 1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a developmental disability?

In 2004, I visited Jack Block park and was amazed with its potential. Working with PerformingHearts.org with a mission to bring live music to our friends, neighbors, family and community who might be bound by transitory restrictions, I developed a plan to bus them to this park to enjoy an hour or day of live performances. I got the permission to use the park, first time permission had be granted by the Port of Seattle, for a Fourth of July weekend of performances. I got the insurance, designed and had manufactured in China the tents and stage drops. I cast all the performers, got volunteers and vendors, donations of food and drink and equipment, and I left the work of contacting all the homes for developmentally disabled, Alzheimer, old age, nursing assisted, mentally disabled etc, etc., including any group needing assistance, to another person. We couldn't begin contacting until signed papers were in hand, and they were not received until one month before the fourth. Nevertheless the tents and stage were designed, made and sent. Everything was completed but the number of people committed to bringing the audience in we not committed, so only a few vans appeared. One brought old age assisted care folks who were thrilled beyond belief. One brought Alzheimer afflicted, and they were thrilled. But the bus that brought in the developmentally disadvantaged was the biggest surprise. Those folks had the largest appreciation for what we did for them, and likewise brought the largest satisfaction to us for what we did. They made us realize that all people are from the same community. All people are our brother and sisters, friends and neighbors, all from the same community of the world. Please go to these two links and see the pictures of the days at the park specifically put on for especially your clients.

[http://worldperc.com/forum/index.php?app=calendar&module=calendar&cal\\_id=1&do=showevent&event\\_id=7](http://worldperc.com/forum/index.php?app=calendar&module=calendar&cal_id=1&do=showevent&event_id=7)

[http://worldperc.com/forum/index.php?app=calendar&module=calendar&cal\\_id=1&do=showevent&event\\_id=29](http://worldperc.com/forum/index.php?app=calendar&module=calendar&cal_id=1&do=showevent&event_id=29)

## 2. What are your top three legislative priorities?

1. Broaden the safety net for all citizens
2. Open, transparent and accountable governance

<http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2014/06/27/who-thought-it-was-a-good-idea-to-wear-google-glass-to-a-stranger-endorsement-interview>

3. Education, fully funded but with a paradigm shift to focus on the child the day after maternity leave ends.
4. Nation status for the Duwamish, Chief Seattle's Tribe.

**3. What area of expertise, experience or personal interest will you bring to office?**

BS, MPA SU '92, '95 from the Jesuits, years for community activism in the most ethnically diverse zip code in the US.

**4. What solutions do you have for ensuring that people with disabilities are able to get the services they need?**

I will tirelessly work to broaden, expand and keep funded the safety net with special attention to those in our most important community, those who need our help the most.

**5. If you were to reduce spending or face a revenue shortfall, what would you specifically seek to cut from state government?**

Waste, and the misuse of our resources. I would make it mandatory that all public buildings be converted to extreme energy saving technologies to the potential that is available today. Just changing the lighting would save 100's of millions. While working at the Lighting Design Lab we used to say that if only the commercial sector would change to energy efficient lighting we could save more than all the nuclear plants produce. <https://www.lightingdesignlab.com/>

**6. With the McCleary court decision requiring our state to better fund education, how would you propose to get the funding for that purpose (be specific please)?**

Education is in my DNA. Mother a teacher for 25 years, father a graduate from Kings Point academy. And I with a Masters in Public Administration. I would shift to privately funded programs within the system while completing a paradigm shifting of our entire educational system to focus on children from the day after maternity leave ends. One such privately funded class in middle school would be gun safety and marksmanship funded by the NRA. Gun violence and many contributing factors, especially when it happens during an aberrant and seldom time in our schools. The press has made untold millions running stories on every channel about school shootings. This has contributed to copy cat shootings by

people looking to top the coverage given. Another contributing factor to gun violence is lack of education about gun safety and use. Another is mental illness. All factors must be addressed. I have a plethora of ideas to reduce the costs and increase the funding for education.

**7. Would you support the consolidation of state institutions that support people with developmental disabilities and provide the residents with community alternatives that meet their needs, but at less government expense?**

If it were shown to me that there would be a reduction of costs and an increase in attention and care for developmentally disabled citizens, yes. Any reductions in services would get a strong no vote.

**8. What would you recommend to serve the thousands of individuals who have been waiting (some for years) for community services?**

I would recommend a loud voice through crowd sourcing techniques like <https://www.loomio.org/>

If you are not familiar with the power of many voices then get on board with <http://avaaz.org/en/> or moveon or one of the many other sites.