



Name: Tiffany Mitchell

E-Mail: VoteTiffanyMitchell@gmail.com

Website: www.votetiffnymitchell.com

Video Response

District 26 Position 2

Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has an intellectual/developmental disability? (I/DD) If so would you describe its impact on you? How would it affect you in this job?

I do not have a personal connection to someone with an intellectual or developmental disability. That said, equity and valuing all people is incredibly important to me. It's a part of my values to finding a place in our society in which all people feel valued and can contribute. People with intellectual or developmental disabilities often just want that opportunity--and we should work to create a more inclusive society that gives them all the opportunities to do that.

What are your top three priorities and how would you ensure people with developmental disabilities and their families are included in them?

One of my top priorities is to support reproductive healthcare, especially for women--which I think, if anything, this is something that people with developmental disabilities and their families are likely intimately familiar with. For ages, societies fearing people "passing on mental deficiencies" has led to countless people being forcibly sterilized. This should NEVER happen, and I feel like we can include people with developmental disabilities in this platform by asserting their rights on this issue.

Housing is another major priority for me. It's too expensive for many, taking up more than half of the income of some and making general living almost untenable. I can't imagine how much more difficult the situation is for people who experience developmental disabilities and their families that may support them. By supporting legislation that fully funds services to these communities, including housing supports, is hugely important to me.

Finally education. We do not properly fund education in our state to begin with, and especially not special education. To ensure that everyone gets the educational opportunities they deserve, we need to ensure that special education services and supports are funded.

Washington is 38th in the Nation for per-capita spending for individuals with I/DD. Would improving this statistic be a priority for you, and if so, what would your strategy be?

Yes, this is absolutely a priority. My strategy would be for listening to people within this space about their needs and what resources they need to be successful and to support their lives, and then acting as an advocate in the legislature for this population and bringing an equity lens to budget discussions to ensure that we can reverse this statistic.

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

No matter what--this is an incredibly important topic to me. If I am lucky enough to be elected, I hope that you know my door will always be open--and please, come to me with any concerns.