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**House District 3 position 1**

***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 was the City Council President for 8 years. We had many I/DD organizations that we worked with. There were also individuals with I/DD who liked to attend City Council Meetings and be involved in city government. I even attended one individual's naturalization ceremony because we became good friends. I am currently the Executive Director of the Low Income Housing Consortium and the ARC was a member for many years. Due to high housing costs the ARC has had an issue keeping housing available for individuals with I/DD in our community.

Folks with I?DD are just like everyone else in our society, they may just need a little more support than other folks. I am more aware of how I deal with people because of my interactions but most importantly I know first hand they are just like everyone else and deserve all the services and especially respect that everyone does.

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

1) Housing - I/DD housing often is not funded. We need to ensure there is set aside dollars like has happened the last few years. But we also need to ensure that there are developers for DD housing. Technical assistance can help with that.

2) Mental Health - There needs to be enough services in homes and in the community.

3) Special Services in Education - We need to not only fund special needs at a level. If there are more they should be 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, the way to achieve this is to revamp our tax system. We have a regressive tax system and we want a progressive tax system. This will create more revenue to prioritize I/DD individuals.

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