



Many Voices / One Vision



2026 Legislative Candidate Survey

*Questions for Legislative Candidates – The Arc of Washington
The Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities
The Children's Campaign Fund*

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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has an intellectual/developmental disability (IDD)? If yes, would you describe its impact on you and your candidacy? If not, what have you learned about people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and how has it impacted your candidacy?

I interact regularly with constituents with IDD. I have learned that folks with IDD are an integral part of our community and we must treat people with IDD with dignity and respect. I am a member of the Democratic party because I believe that just because someone doesn't look or act like me, doesn't mean that they should be discounted or brushed aside. I have spent my entire career listening to constituents, organizations, and experts in fields that I am still learning about and in the State Senate I will remain

committed to listening and learning about the best ways to serve our neighbors with IDD.

2. What policies and systems are you aware of that impact the lives of people with IDD and their families? If elected, what responsibility would you have to change those policies or systems?

I am most aware of school programs geared towards assisting students with IDD and providing them with accommodations and modifications to help them achieve. These programs, in tandem with trained staff, are paramount to creating a learning environment that is approachable and productive for students with IDD.

As an elected official, I have voted for and helped pass policies that strengthen anti-discrimination and hate crime laws, make housing more accessible and affordable, and increase healthcare access for all Washingtonians, including those with IDD.

3. If elected, what are your top three priorities, and how would people with IDD and their families benefit from each priority?

1. Addressing affordability in the 32nd District and across the state: Housing costs continue to rise faster than wages do, which makes it difficult for working families, seniors, independent-living IDD population, and young people to stay in the communities they call home. I will prioritize increasing investments in affordable housing construction, supporting housing options for all income-levels, reinforcing rent cap and stabilization measures, and creating stronger pathways to housing stability and homeownership. I want to make living in Washington more affordable for working families by increasing access to affordable childcare and reliable transportation. Families shouldn't have to choose between paying for childcare, commuting to work, or attaining basic necessities.

Affordability impacts all Washingtonians, but it can be especially challenging for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who often face additional expenses related to healthcare, supportive services, transportation, and other essential needs. As a result, policies that address affordability statewide can have an even greater positive impact on communities with IDD.

2. Fully funding our state's public education system, including special education: In the State Senate, I will make sure we fully fund Washington's public education. Every student, regardless of income, background, ability, or ZIP code, deserves access to a high-quality public education and the opportunity to succeed. Paying teachers and school staff fair wages with strong benefits respects their profession and creates stable classroom environments where all students can learn and thrive. By investing in teachers and ensuring our schools are fully funded and staffed, we can provide students with the support, learning opportunities, and resources they need to enter high-skill, high-wage careers.

By fully funding our education system, public schools will have the resources, staff, and support services necessary to better meet the needs of students with IDD. These investments will help make sure every student receives the support they need to succeed in the classroom and pave roads into fulfilling careers in the workforce.

3. Increasing Washingtonians' consumer protection from predatory practices: Throughout my career, I have worked to make Washington more affordable for working families by championing legislation that holds corporations accountable and protects consumers from financial harm. I sponsored legislation signed into law to protect consumers from unclear and delayed ambulance billing and to ensure companies offering service contracts and extended warranties have the financial backing to honor their commitments. I helped pass legislation that significantly reduced catalytic converter thefts, protecting working families from costly repairs and financial hardship. In the Senate, I will continue working to lower everyday costs by cracking down on price gouging and unfair business practices, and strengthen consumer protections that help families build long-term financial stability.

My focus on consumer protection stems from my commitment to protecting communities that may be at higher risk to predatory practices. By strengthening laws that weed out fraud, increase transparency, and lower costs, folks with IDD will be in better situations than without regulations.

4. When you have questions about how to best support people with IDD and their families, what or who are your trusted resources?

As a State Representative who has served for 8 terms, I have been very lucky to have exposure to subject matter experts, advocates, and individuals who have been an incredible resource to learn more about the best way to serve folks with IDD. I have many friends and colleagues who serve on the House Health Care & Wellness Committee and the Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight who are always willing to provide learning opportunities and perspectives that better inform my view on how to best help our neighbors with IDD.

5. The national trend -- and legal mandate --- supports transitioning individuals with IDD out of institutional settings and into community-based care, which is not only the best practice but also the most cost-effective approach. Studies consistently show that community-based services cost significantly less per person than institutional care while providing greater independence and quality of life. In Washington the cost of care in a Residential Habilitation Center (RHC) is more than double the cost of equivalent services in community settings. Although Washington has made progress, continued efforts are needed to align with best practices, civil rights, federal priorities, and fiscal responsibility. Transitioning more individuals into community-based care will allow the state to reinvest savings into services for much needed community-based services. How do you believe Washington state should approach investment in home and community based services for people with IDD in the next five years?

We must ensure that the transition from institutional to community-based care for folks with IDD maintains the level of care that our family members, friends, and neighbors deserve. As the former Chair of the Housing Committee, I have been committed to reducing barriers towards affordable housing and making sure that the state and other public entities such as schools may surplus, buildable land towards housing development, including affordable housing for independent-living IDD clients.

I have supported the new nursing facility at Fircrest School to serve those who cannot live independently while also serving as respite beds for community-setting clients. I also support widening pathways for workforce

training of caregivers. Our mutual goals should be to best provide an environment for people with IDD to live with dignity and independence while having care services accessible, and I will be a voice to make sure we achieve this attainable goal in the next 5 years.

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

No response provided.