



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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Legislative District: 32

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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?

Through my work over the last 5 years with PTAs, I have met many members who have children with IDD in their families. We have shared those stories with legislators in Olympia and talk about the impacts in our local and regional PTAs. We have worked hard to include these students in our education advocacy. In addition, my daughter's best friend has a brother with Fragile X Syndrome. We have been side by side by this family

as they have navigated systems to provide him care, support, and opportunity.

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?

Through the cuts at the state budget, and the federal budget, important interventions for families that include individuals with IDD have fewer and fewer opportunities to access programs and support services that have been proven to be effective. If elected, I would want to work with Rep. Farivar and Rep. Taylor on making sure we do not leave people with IDDs, or their families behind.

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

Fully funding education and finally delivering on Washington's paramount duty to provide and ample education to ALL Washington's students is one of my top priorities. I will continue to work to make sure ALL students are included, that paraeducators are being fairly paid, hired, and trained. This includes education interventions before and after kindergarten. There will always be room for families to participate in my policy development.

Second, building a fair economy is one of my top priorities. This includes not letting companies to collect or purchase personal data to charge unfair prices. This can include using sensitive health data to gouge prices from vulnerable people or their families. This would most certainly include folks with IDD.

Third, I want to ensure we have responsible technology. This includes preventing privacy, fostering innovation, and making sure there are guardrails online, especially for vulnerable populations. I spent 20 years as an anti-monopoly and consumer protection attorney and I have seen first-hand what happens when information asymmetry leads to exploitation of all of us, but seriously harms and preys on certain populations including youth, seniors, and folks with disabilities of all types. I will work to prevent extraction and exploitation of consumers, workers, and citizens. This is not

something our legislature is working on yet and I bring missing experience for that urgently-needed work.

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

I have been learning from moms, I have been looking at the work and reading the words of key legislators who champion this work. And, now I am excited to learn more with ARC too.

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 should explore evidence-based approaches to develop policy goals. This process need to have contributions from workers (unions like SEIU), independent financial calculations that include costs at all levels, including externalized prices caused by some prices, input from those who need this care and the caregivers and families who live them, and making sure private equity is not involved in schemes to profit off those who need healthcare in our state.

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

I have spent 10 years leading the Antitrust, Consumer Protection, & Unfair Business Practices section of the Washington State Bar Association. This

experience makes me uniquely qualified to come into the legislature and help make informed, principled legislation to help as the data-driven economy increasingly makes business models that are used to exploit all of us. Thanks for considering my application!