



*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?**

While I do not have a single defining personal experience that shaped my understanding of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), I have learned a great deal through my service in the Washington State Legislature and through ongoing engagement with individuals, families, advocates, service providers, educators, healthcare professionals, and organizations dedicated to supporting people with disabilities.

**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?**

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I recognize that policy is only meaningful when it is adequately funded and implemented. I have supported investments in healthcare, special education, behavioral health, housing, workforce development, and community-based services that help individuals with disabilities live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to working alongside advocates, families, providers, and community organizations to ensure Washington continues building a more inclusive state where every person has the opportunity to succeed and fully participate in their community.

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

My top three priorities are Heal One Washington, which will strengthen Washington's prevention recovery and aftercare infrastructure for Fentanyl addiction and the behavioral and mental health crises, Affordable Housing for All, which will ensure laws, regulations, and policies address the support for middle and low-income housing, and Protecting a Child's Constitutional Right to Education, which, amongst other essential services, invests in special education for ALL youth across the state. Our state has not met the persisting issues of fentanyl addiction, nor the behavioral health mental crisis. Members of the IDD community are at a heightened vulnerability of addiction, thus increasing the urgency for effective solutions. As a Native American Woman who has used my legislative authority to champion the issues most pressing on marginalized communities, I believe that a voice advocating for the overlooked, such as those affected by IDD, is essential to making sure that public health policy is not only successful, but far reaching. I will ensure that the IDD community is included and empowered as we mandate multi agency engagement and planning, with a cross local, tribal, and federal consultation with intent for collaboration tools and policies to work together to support the crisis in Washington. As for affordable housing, it is unacceptable that over 3/4ths of Washington

adults with IDD face housing insecurity. When I prioritize affordability for ALL, I'm including the IDD community in policies that rectify zoning laws and improve infrastructure, with important attention paid to housing unit production for IDD adults. A quality education tailored to one's disability is the best way to ensure a strong future for those with IDD, which is why I am prioritizing Washington children's constitutional right to education. We must invest in all models, programs, and services to uphold our responsibility, specifically Free School Breakfast, Snack and Lunch Meals for all Youth (K-12 and Higher Education), Free Tutoring programs for all Youth (K-12 and Higher Education) and investing in Special Education for ALL Youth.

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

Throughout my time in office, I have worked with statewide and local organizations that advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and caregivers. These conversations have helped me better understand the challenges many individuals face in accessing healthcare, education, housing, employment opportunities, transportation, respite care, and long-term support services. They have also highlighted the importance of self-determination, independence, inclusion, and ensuring individuals with disabilities have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

#### **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?**

Washington State should continue making significant investments in home and community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) over the next five years. Individuals with IDD deserve the opportunity to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities with the support and services they need to thrive.

I believe our investments should focus on expanding access to community-based services, reducing waitlists, strengthening the direct support workforce through fair wages and training opportunities, increasing access to affordable and supportive housing, improving transportation options, and ensuring families and caregivers have access to respite and support services. We must also continue strengthening healthcare, behavioral health, employment, and educational supports that promote independence and long-term success.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I understand that these priorities require sustainable funding and thoughtful implementation. I support budget investments that move services closer to communities, reduce disparities for rural and underserved populations, and ensure individuals with IDD can receive care in the least restrictive and most inclusive settings possible. Investing in home and community-based services not only improves quality of life, but also reflects our shared values of dignity, inclusion, equity, and opportunity for all Washingtonians.

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

If re-elected, I will continue to fight for the dignity of all Washington residents, particularly those with disabilities. My commitment to fighting for the IDD community can be seen in my 2025 voting record, which fully aligns with The Arc of Washington State's legislative priorities.