



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*

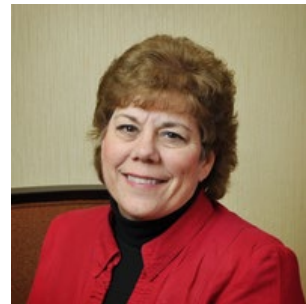
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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has an intellectual/developmental disability (IDD)? If yes, would you describe its impact on you and your candidacy? If not, what have you learned about people with intellectual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

Yes. Throughout my career in public education and community leadership, I have worked with many individuals and families affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities. During my 20 years serving on the Central Valley School Board, I regularly worked with students receiving special education services, their parents, teachers, and support staff. These experiences gave me a deeper understanding of the challenges families

face in accessing appropriate educational opportunities, therapies, support services, and long-term resources.

I have seen firsthand the determination of individuals with IDD, the dedication of their families, and the importance of creating opportunities that allow every person to reach their fullest potential. Those experiences reinforced my belief that government policies should promote inclusion, independence, dignity, and access to quality services while ensuring resources are used effectively and responsibly.

As a candidate, these experiences have strengthened my commitment to supporting individuals with IDD and their families. I believe we must continue to improve access to education, workforce opportunities, healthcare, housing, and community-based services while listening to the people most directly affected by these policies. My goal is to be an advocate for practical solutions that help individuals with IDD live fulfilling lives and participate fully in their communities.

In addition my niece is development challenged and my husband bosses son is development challenged. All of these children have enriched my life and made me a better person.

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?

Yes. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families are affected by policies involving special education (IDEA), Medicaid and waiver services, employment supports, Social Security disability programs, accessible housing, transportation, and caregiver services. I am also aware of challenges such as long waitlists, workforce shortages, and difficult transitions from school to adulthood.

If elected, I would have a responsibility to listen to individuals with IDD, families, educators, and service providers and work to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, improve accountability, and ensure resources reach those who need them. My goal would be to support policies that promote dignity, independence, educational and employment opportunities, and access to

quality community-based services while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

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

1. Strengthening the Economy and Lowering the Cost of Living

Families of individuals with IDD often face significant financial challenges. By promoting economic growth, controlling inflation, reducing unnecessary taxes, and creating good-paying jobs, families will have greater financial stability and more resources to meet their loved ones' needs.

2. Improving Government Efficiency and Accountability

People with IDD and their families frequently navigate complex systems to access services and support. I would work to reduce bureaucracy, improve transparency, and ensure taxpayer dollars are directed toward effective programs, making services easier to access and more responsive to individual needs.

3. Expanding Opportunities Through Education and Workforce Development

I believe every individual deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. Supporting quality education, vocational training, and employment pathways can help individuals with IDD develop skills, gain independence, and participate more fully in their communities and the workforce.

These priorities are rooted in my belief that individuals with IDD deserve dignity, opportunity, and access to services that help them lead fulfilling lives while ensuring government programs remain effective and sustainable.

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

When I have questions about how to best support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families, I believe the most important resources are the individuals directly affected and the people who work with them every day. I would seek input from individuals with IDD,

family members, caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, direct support providers, disability advocates, and community organizations.

My experience serving on the Central Valley School Board taught me the importance of listening to those closest to an issue before making policy decisions. I also value data, research, and evidence-based practices to help ensure policies achieve meaningful results.

If elected, I would continue to engage with disability advocacy organizations, service providers, and families throughout the district to better understand their needs and ensure their voices are represented in the policymaking process. My goal would be to make informed decisions that promote opportunity, independence, and quality of life for individuals with IDD and their families.

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?

No response provided.

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

I believe Washington should continue expanding home and community-based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a way that is high quality, accessible, and fiscally responsible.

Community-based care often allows people with IDD to live more independently, stay connected to family and community, and receive services at a lower cost than institutional care. Over the next five years, I would support efforts to reduce waitlists, strengthen the direct support workforce, expand housing and employment options, and improve transportation and other community supports.

At the same time, we must recognize that some individuals have complex needs and may require specialized care. Any transition should be carefully planned, voluntary whenever possible, and focused on health, safety, and well-being.

My goal is to support a system that promotes independence, dignity, and community inclusion while using taxpayer dollars effectively.