



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 do not want to overstate a personal or professional connection that is not directly mine. However, through my community advocacy and experience supporting families, I have learned that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve dignity, inclusion, respect, and access to services that allow them to live meaningful and supported lives. I believe support for individuals with disabilities should be one of government's highest priorities, especially when families are struggling to access care,

education, housing, employment opportunities, and long-term support. Too often, disability needs are overlooked while government focuses on more politically visible issues. This has impacted my candidacy by reinforcing my belief that government should be responsive, compassionate, and practical in supporting vulnerable individuals, caregivers, and families.

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 aware that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are impacted by many interconnected systems, including Medicaid and long-term care services, Developmental Disabilities Administration programs, special education and IEP services, respite care, housing, transportation, employment supports, behavioral health services, guardianship and supported decision-making, and transition services from school into adulthood. When these systems are underfunded, delayed, confusing, or difficult to access, families are often left carrying the burden alone.

If elected, I would have a responsibility to listen directly to individuals with IDD, parents, caregivers, providers, and advocates; support funding for essential services; reduce unnecessary barriers; improve transparency and accountability; and help ensure that people with IDD are treated with dignity and given meaningful opportunities to live, work, learn, and participate in their communities.

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

If elected, my top three priorities would be public safety, government accountability, and supporting families through better access to services and economic opportunity.

First, public safety benefits people with IDD and their families because vulnerable individuals must be protected in schools, public spaces, transportation, housing, and care settings. Families need confidence that emergency responders, law enforcement, and community systems are

trained, responsive, and able to protect individuals with disabilities with dignity and care.

Second, government transparency and accountability benefit IDD families because many families are forced to navigate complicated systems, waitlists, confusing eligibility rules, and inconsistent services. Government should be easier to understand, more responsive, and accountable when families cannot access the support they need.

Third, supporting families and economic opportunity benefits people with IDD by strengthening access to education, employment supports, housing, respite care, caregiver support, and community-based services. Families caring for loved ones with disabilities need practical policies that reduce burdens and help every person live with dignity, stability, and opportunity.

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

My most trusted resources would first be people with intellectual and developmental disabilities themselves, along with their parents, caregivers, families, and advocates who live these issues every day. I would also seek guidance from service providers, special education professionals, healthcare and behavioral health providers, disability-rights organizations, the Developmental Disabilities Administration, local community organizations, and legislative policy experts who understand Medicaid, housing, employment supports, respite care, and long-term services. I believe good policy should be shaped by the people directly impacted, not only by agencies or political decision-makers.

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 should make home and community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities a major priority over the next five years. I believe individuals with IDD should have the opportunity to live with dignity, independence, and meaningful support in their own communities whenever safely and appropriately possible.

The state should invest in reducing waitlists, expanding respite care, supporting caregivers, improving provider reimbursement, strengthening workforce training, increasing access to supported housing and employment, and making services easier for families to navigate. Families should not have to fight through confusing systems or long delays to receive basic support.

I also believe Washington should carefully review the cost difference between institutional care and community-based care and reinvest savings into services that directly benefit individuals with IDD and their families. This approach supports civil rights, fiscal responsibility, family stability, and better quality of life.

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

I want constituents with intellectual or developmental disabilities, along with their families and friends, to know that I believe their needs must be treated as a top priority over political agendas. People with IDD and their families often face lifelong challenges involving care, education, housing, employment, transportation, healthcare, respite services, and long-term support. These are urgent, real-life needs that affect dignity, independence, family stability, and quality of life.

Government must do a better job listening to families, reducing barriers, expanding access to services, and ensuring people with IDD are not

overlooked. Vulnerable individuals and families with lifelong needs deserve serious attention, practical solutions, and consistent advocacy.