



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. Someone in my immediate has ADHD, which has given me a personal perspective on the challenges and opportunities that can come with a developmental disability. It has helped me better understand the importance of support systems, educational opportunities, and creating environments where individuals can thrive.

As President of the Kennewick School Board, I have also worked closely with students and families receiving special education services. Those experiences have reinforced my belief that every person has value and deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As a State Senator, I will support policies that help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independent, successful, and fulfilling lives while ensuring families have access to the resources and support they need.

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 of several systems that directly impact individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, including special education services, Medicaid waivers, employment and vocational programs, housing assistance, respite care, and long-term support services.

If elected, I believe my responsibility is to listen to individuals and families who rely on these programs, ensure services are effective and accessible, and advocate for policies that improve quality of life while using taxpayer dollars responsibly. Every person deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, and government programs should be focused on helping make that possible.

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 public safety, affordability, and education.

Public Safety: Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community. Strong public safety policies help protect individuals with IDD, who can often be among our most vulnerable citizens, and provide peace of mind for their families.

Affordability: Rising costs impact everyone, including families caring for a loved one with a disability. I will work to reduce the tax and regulatory

burden that drives up the cost of housing, energy, healthcare, and everyday necessities.

Education and Workforce Development: Every individual deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. I will support strong educational programs, career training, and employment opportunities that help individuals with IDD gain independence and meaningful participation in their communities.

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 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, I believe the most important thing is to listen to the people directly impacted. That includes individuals with IDD, their families, caregivers, educators, service providers, and advocacy organizations like The Arc.

As a school board member, I've learned that the best policies come from listening first and understanding real-world experiences. If elected, I would continue to seek input from those closest to these issues before making 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?

Over the next five years, Washington should continue investing in home and community-based services that help individuals with IDD live as independently as possible while remaining connected to their families and communities. For many individuals, these services provide a better quality of life and can be a more efficient use of taxpayer resources.

At the same time, I believe we need to ensure families have choices. Every individual has unique needs, and some may require higher levels of care. My focus would be on reducing waitlists, improving access to services, supporting caregivers, and making sure funding follows the needs of the individual rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

The goal should be simple: provide compassionate, effective support that maximizes independence, respects individual and family choices, and uses public resources responsibly.

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

I want individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to know that they will always have a seat at the table. Some of the best decisions I've made as a school board member came from listening to the people most directly affected by those decisions.

Every person has value, dignity, and unique talents to contribute to our communities. If elected, I will work to ensure that individuals with IDD and their families are heard, respected, and included in the policymaking process. My goal is to support policies that expand opportunities, promote independence, strengthen families, and improve quality of life while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Most importantly, I will listen first and lead with compassion, respect, and common sense.