



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*

Name: Jake Fey

Position: House

Legislative District: 27th

Email: jakefey@outlook.com

Website: jakefey.com



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?

No, I do not. My former Legislative Assistant and friend, Anna Nepomuceno joined NAMI, and I have made a point to attend their events and hear their advocacy. Furthermore, throughout my time in the legislature, I have had many opportunities to speak with people with disabilities and their family members. They have provided important insight into numerous debates throughout my time in the legislature.

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 the severe backlog of services for people with IDD, from children to adults. I also believe all of our systems impact the lives of people with IDD and their families, and their needs must be taken into account when determining if a system works.

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

Fixing the transportation budget – Transportation that works for those with IDD has been a priority of mine, and I have supported funding for services that help transport disabled folks wherever they need to go. Fixing the budget is key to making sure our transportation system can remain accessible and efficient.

Funding for services for those who have the greatest needs – I believe that we can ensure a basic quality of life for all Washingtonians, and it is up to us to provide the necessary funding and resources. Folks with IDD often require higher amounts of medical services and educational attention, which require durable funding systems.

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

I trust voices from groups like Disability Rights Washington to aid in creating effective and ethical policy. I also make a point to reach out to constituents and individuals who have first-hand experience with IDD in order to hear stories from people who do not feel historically represented in the legislature.

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?

Community-based services and care should be prioritized, and we must bolster our budget in order to properly fund them. We must have easy routes for family members of people with IDD to become licensed caretakers, and caretakers must be paid a fair wage. I believe the evidence is clear that institutional settings are far inferior to (and can be more expensive than) community-based service.

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

During my 14 years in the legislature, I have always appreciated the events and information brought together by disability advocacy groups during the start of session.