



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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Legislative District: 48

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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, I have spent years volunteering with the Special Olympics both in Ohio growing up as a teenager and in Wellington, New Zealand as an adult. I understand the power that providing a safe encouraging environment can

have on a person's life. I will work to ensure I am bringing the voice and concerns of the IDD community to my work.

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?

There are many outdated policies in place that work against people in the IDD community. Policies about lower wages, income levels to be able to receive benefits, even the possibility of losing benefits if you marry. These are all outdated policies that need to be fixed and I look forward to partnering with you to fix them.

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

Housing affordability at ALL income levels so that everyone has access to a safe space to live.

Climate Change solutions are at the forefront of all I do because the impacts of climate change disproportionately impact marginalized communities.

And fully funding education and all special programs and language programs so that everyone in our community can thrive, regardless of their zip code.

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

I lead with a 'nothing for us, without us' mentality. That means that I'll seek guidance from the IDD community directly. In the past I've relied on my connections with the Special Olympics communities I once served and friends and family members with IDD members in their households.

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?

At the State level, we can incentivize cities to build or transition homes into community-based care settings. We can cut red tape on permitting and streamline the process to make a conversion project easier. And we can provide families with streamlined processes and information so they can make the best decision for their loved one.

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

I will be a strong advocate for the IDD community and ally at every step of the way. Too often the IDD community is overlooked and that is not good leadership. The best leadership asks who is being left out and why, and that is always how I enter any policy conversation.