



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?

My most direct experience came through an ARC buddy program in high school, where I had the opportunity to spend time with and learn from individuals with developmental disabilities. That experience stayed with me and helped shape my understanding of the importance of inclusion, dignity, and community participation.

Later, while serving on the Richland Planning Commission, I reviewed Community Development Block Grant applications, including requests from

organizations serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. That experience reinforced how important community-based services and support systems are to helping people live independently and participate fully in community life.

These experiences have strengthened my belief that public policy should focus on removing barriers and expanding opportunities for people with IDD and their 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?

People with IDD and their families are affected by policies involving education, healthcare, Medicaid services, housing, transportation, employment, caregiver support, and community-based programs. Access to these services can significantly impact a person's independence and quality of life.

As a legislator, my responsibility would be to listen to self-advocates, families, caregivers, and service providers, understand where barriers exist, and work to improve policies that expand opportunity and access. I believe government should focus on removing barriers.

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 housing affordability, workforce development, and improving government's ability to deliver results.

Housing affordability benefits people with IDD and their families by expanding access to stable, accessible, and community-based living options.

Workforce development benefits people with IDD by creating more pathways to employment, supporting inclusive workplaces, and strengthening the caregiver and direct support professional workforce that many families rely on.

Improving government effectiveness means reducing unnecessary barriers, listening to families and service providers, and ensuring programs

and services are accessible, responsive, and accountable. People with IDD and their families deserve systems that work for them, not systems that create additional challenges.

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

When making decisions that affect people with IDD and their families, I believe it is important to listen first to those most directly impacted. My most trusted resources would be self-advocates, family members, caregivers, direct support professionals, educators, healthcare providers, and organizations such as The Arc of Washington and the Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities.

I would also seek input from local service providers and community organizations serving individuals with IDD. Good policy is built by listening to people with lived experience and understanding how decisions affect their daily 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?

Washington should continue investing in home and community-based services so people with IDD can live as independently as possible and participate fully in their communities. Over the next five years, I would prioritize reducing waitlists, strengthening the direct support workforce

through better recruitment and retention, and expanding access to housing, transportation, and employment supports.

As we make these investments, we should focus on outcomes and individual choice. Families and individuals have different needs, and policy should support a range of options while ensuring quality care and accountability. When public dollars are invested, we should measure results and direct resources toward programs that improve independence, stability, and quality of life.

Strong community-based services benefit not only individuals with IDD but also families, caregivers, employers, and the broader community.

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

My experience with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is not as a provider or specialist, but through community service, volunteer work, and local government. Those experiences taught me that the people most affected by policy decisions should have a meaningful voice in shaping them.

If elected, I will approach issues affecting individuals with IDD and their families with humility, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to learning from self-advocates, families, caregivers, providers, and organizations like The Arc. My goal is to support policies that expand opportunity, strengthen independence, and improve quality of life while ensuring public resources are used effectively and responsibly.

Every Washingtonian deserves the chance to participate fully in their community, and I will work to ensure those voices are heard in Olympia.