



*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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**Name:** Mark Klicker

**Position:** House

**Legislative District:** LD16

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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 am fortunate to live in Walla Walla County where we have a strong Disability Network that allows me to volunteer and assist with programs. I have participated in self-esteem programs and weekend retreats. I understand the importance of support organizations for all 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 will always support policies that the republican party introduces that support IDD and their families. I open to hearing from your organization on upcoming policies.

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

If I am re-elected, I will advocate for lower taxes for families, safe communities and that our state manages the budget efficiently. All these will benefit IDD and their families.

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

Rep. Travis Couture, Rep. Josh Penner, the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network, and The Arc of Tri-Cities.

**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?**

Continue to bring forth legislation ideas that support community-based care.

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

Thank you for this opportunity.