



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. Through my work in labor and community organizing, I have worked alongside individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their family members, and the caregivers who support them. As an organizer for SEIU 775, I have seen firsthand the vital role that caregivers play in helping people with disabilities live safely and independently in their communities.

These experiences have reinforced my belief that every person deserves dignity, self-determination, and the opportunity to fully participate in

community life. They have also shown me how difficult it can be for families to navigate fragmented systems, long waitlists, and workforce shortages. Those experiences have strengthened my commitment to building a state that invests in care, accessibility, and inclusion.

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 directly impacted by Medicaid and Apple Health eligibility, Home and Community-Based Services waivers, special education services, employment supports, transportation, affordable and accessible housing, and the availability of direct support professionals and caregivers.

As a legislator, I would have a responsibility to ensure these systems are adequately funded, accessible, and centered on the needs and voices of people with disabilities and their families. I believe lawmakers must remove barriers to services, address workforce shortages, and make sure state policies promote independence and inclusion rather than institutionalization.

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

1. Affordability and Economic Security

Families caring for loved ones with disabilities often face significant financial challenges. I will work to make housing, healthcare, and daily living more affordable and support policies that help families achieve economic stability.

2. Strengthening Healthcare and Long-Term Care

I support expanding access to healthcare, behavioral health services, and long-term services and supports. Investing in the caregiving workforce and reducing barriers to care will directly improve the quality of life for people with IDD and their families.

3. Building Stronger Communities Through Public Investment

I believe in making meaningful investments in education, transportation, and community infrastructure that are accessible to everyone. Inclusive communities benefit when people with disabilities can fully participate in school, work, and civic life.

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

The most important experts are people with intellectual and developmental disabilities themselves and their families. I also value the perspectives of self-advocates, disability rights organizations, caregivers, educators, healthcare providers, and organizations that provide services and supports to the disability community. Good policy is created by listening to the people most directly impacted.

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 to expand investment in home and community-based services and prioritize helping individuals with IDD live in the setting of their choice. Community-based services are consistent with civil rights principles, provide better outcomes for many individuals, and make more effective use of public resources.

Over the next five years, the state should:

Reduce waitlists for services and supports.

Invest in recruiting and retaining direct support professionals and caregivers through better wages, benefits, and training.

Expand access to supported housing and employment services.

Increase respite services and supports for family caregivers.

Ensure that transitions from institutional settings to community-based services are person-centered, voluntary, and adequately supported.

Savings achieved through reducing reliance on institutional care should be reinvested into strengthening community-based services and expanding access for individuals and families who are currently underserved.

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

I believe that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve the same opportunities as everyone else, to live with dignity, make choices about their own lives, participate in their communities, and have access to the supports they need to thrive.

As your State Representative, I will approach disability policy with humility, listen to self-advocates and families, and work to ensure Washington is a state where every person, regardless of ability, can live safely, independently, and with opportunity.