



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: 18th Pos 1

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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?

No, I do not have a personal connection. I have learned about those with disabilities through your visits to my office which I am most grateful for so I can learn what the challenges are and I have made a visit to see how your program arranges jobs at a local nursery.

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 know that there are a variety of non profits that are supported financially by the state and offer services.

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

From my meetings with those in the disabled community, there is a resource concern. Whether the state is falling short in funding for these non profits to keep up or those that are reaching out for these services are not getting what they need.

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

Your organization or a local disabled constituent I know is who I would reach out to.

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?

Well, I've seen success in my district for a youth mental health facility that is a public private partnership and can point to other partnerships like these

that are more successful than state run programs. I would research this option with stakeholders.

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

I really enjoyed my onsite meeting to see how a local business offers opportunities for those with developmental disabilities a job. The enthusiasm and joy I witnessed was heartwarming. I would love to see this program grow.