



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*

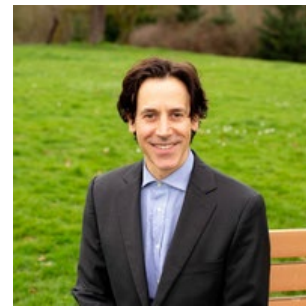
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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has an intellectual/developmental disability (IDD)? If yes, would you describe its impact on you and your candidacy? If not, what have you learned about people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and how has it impacted your candidacy?

Yes. I have a cousin with autism, although we are not especially close and only see each other occasionally. While that has provided some personal awareness of developmental disabilities, my perspective has been shaped more by listening to families, advocates, and community members who navigate these challenges every day.

One lesson that has stood out to me is that even well-intentioned systems can be difficult for families to navigate. Accessing services, coordinating

care, and finding the right supports can be complicated and time-consuming, particularly for families already balancing significant caregiving responsibilities.

As a licensed nutritionist and attorney, I have developed a deep appreciation for the importance of individualized, person-centered support. No two people have the same needs, and successful programs should empower individuals and families while respecting their goals, choices, and independence.

This has reinforced my belief that Washington should continue working to improve access to services, support family caregivers, promote community inclusion, and ensure that public programs are accountable for delivering meaningful results. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve the opportunity to live safe, fulfilling lives and participate fully in their communities.

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 intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are affected by many state systems, including the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Medicaid-funded services, special education, housing programs, employment supports, behavioral health services, and family caregiver supports. The effectiveness of these systems can have a significant impact on quality of life, independence, community participation, health outcomes, and opportunities for employment and education.

I am aware that many individuals and families face challenges navigating these systems. Long wait times, workforce shortages, administrative complexity, and gaps in services can make it difficult to access the support people need at critical moments in their lives.

If elected, I believe my responsibility would be to listen to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, advocates, and service providers, and to ensure that state policies are helping people achieve meaningful outcomes. Legislators should not only ask how much

money is being spent, but whether services are accessible, responsive, and producing results for the people they are intended to serve.

I believe people with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve the opportunity to live with dignity, exercise meaningful choice, participate fully in their communities, and pursue their personal goals. As a legislator, I would work to support policies that strengthen those opportunities while improving the effectiveness and accountability of the systems that serve them.

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 Accountability, Affordability, and Health.

Accountability:

Families should be able to trust that the programs and services they rely on are working as intended. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families often depend on state systems for support, and government has a responsibility to ensure those systems are delivering meaningful results. As a legislator, I would support efforts to improve transparency, reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, identify service gaps, and measure success by outcomes that matter to individuals and families—not simply by how much money is spent.

Affordability:

Washington's rising cost of living affects everyone, but it can be especially challenging for families caring for a loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability. Many families face additional expenses related to healthcare, caregiving, transportation, housing, and other supports. Policies that improve affordability and economic opportunity can help reduce financial stress and make it easier for families to access the resources they need.

Health:

As a licensed nutritionist, I believe health policy should focus on improving quality of life and helping people access the care and support they need. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve access to

quality healthcare, behavioral health services, and community-based supports that respect their individual needs, preferences, and goals. Better health outcomes can help increase independence, participation, and overall well-being.

While these priorities benefit all Washingtonians, they are especially important for many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families who support them. My goal would be to ensure that state government delivers real results that improve quality of life, expand opportunity, and strengthen communities.

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

When I have questions about how to best support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, I believe the most important voices are those with direct lived experience. My first priority is to listen to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and caregivers to better understand the challenges they face and the opportunities they see for improvement.

I also value the expertise of service providers, educators, healthcare professionals, and organizations such as The Arc of Washington State and the Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities that work closely with individuals and families every day. These perspectives provide important insight into how policies function in practice and where improvements may be needed.

At the same time, I believe policymakers have a responsibility to evaluate evidence and outcomes. Listening is essential, but so is understanding whether programs are producing meaningful results and improving quality of life.

As an independent candidate, I approach issues with humility, curiosity, and a willingness to learn. My goal is to listen to those most affected, review the available evidence, and work collaboratively to advance policies that improve quality of life and expand opportunity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

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 for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities over the next five years. Whenever it is safe, appropriate, and consistent with an individual's needs and preferences, I believe people should have the opportunity to live, work, and participate in their communities with the support necessary to succeed.

Community-based services can promote independence, strengthen connections to family and community, and improve quality of life. They can also help the state use public resources more effectively when individuals are able to receive appropriate services in community settings rather than more costly institutional environments.

As the state continues this transition, I believe the focus should be on outcomes rather than simply moving people from one setting to another. Success requires a strong direct support workforce, adequate housing options, support for family caregivers, access to healthcare and behavioral health services, and ongoing oversight to ensure individuals are receiving high-quality, person-centered care.

If savings are realized through expanded community-based services, I would support reinvesting those resources into reducing service gaps, strengthening community supports, and improving access to services for

individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The goal should be a system that expands opportunity, respects individual choice, promotes inclusion, and delivers meaningful results.

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

I would like individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and friends to know that they deserve a meaningful voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

I recognize that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and service providers often have a deeper understanding of these issues than policymakers do. That is why I believe listening and learning are essential parts of effective representation. Some of the best policy insights come directly from the people and families navigating these systems every day.

If elected, I will work to ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have a voice in the legislative process and that their perspectives are considered when policies are developed, implemented, and evaluated.

At the end of the day, I believe every person deserves the opportunity to live with dignity, exercise meaningful choice, pursue their goals, and participate fully in their community. Those principles will guide how I approach these issues as your representative.