



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?

No, I have only dealt with person's with IDD professionally in my role as a Registered Nurse.

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 was very disheartened to learn the difficulties that parents of children with IDD have in caring for their children and caring also for themselves. I was disappointed to see the legislation being introduced and having passed the house and passed through committee being denied a vote in the Senate. I will definitely work to make sure that legislation passes when it is reintroduced.

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 Healthcare, Housing and Affordability. We have so much opportunity to save money by reforming how we pay for healthcare. I believe that everyone, including persons with IDD, will benefit directly from this savings.

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

I have appreciated very information that I have received from participating in past candidate interviews with Snohomish County ARC and also in meetings I have had with PEPWA.org (Parents Empowering Parents of WA) They have serious needs that can and must be addressed by our state legislature.

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?

I believe that we should be increasing both supports to Families and also to Adult Family Homes to adequately care for people with IDD over their lifespan. I attempted to open an adult family home that unfortunately coincided with COVID-19 and I saw first hand how even the state does not respect the care provided by adult family homes to persons with IDD let alone that they do not offer adequate assistance to parents of minors with IDD. We can afford to care for everyone by taking back corporate profits being extracted from our healthcare system.

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

I made a commitment when I became a nurse to care for all patients equally and to respect their autonomy and control over their lives. I can make this commitment to parents of and persons with IDD to advocate for them as equal participants in our community. (Can I add a video later from this form? I would like to get this sent so that I don't forget, but I am not in a place to make a video at the moment)