



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*

Name: Randi Knott

Position: House

Legislative District: 18th

Email: randi@electrandi.com

Website: electrandi.com



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?

Absolutely. I am many things but first and foremost I am an Autism Mom. I raised my child in another state because of the services that were available. When they were only 2 years old, we were told they would never speak, potty-train or live on their own. I didn't like that answer and thanks to advocacy and research, my daughter recently graduated from college and is giving back to her community. While my child was school age, I was appointed by 3 Governors and spent almost a decade on the CA State

Council on Developmental Disabilities including holding the position of Vice Chair and Chair of the Legislative Committee. Once my daughter was successfully living on campus, I moved to Washington State which had long been a dream of mine. I currently serve as an appointee of the Clark County Council to the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board and previously served for over a decade on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Sadly, it is there I learned that Washington is 33rd in the nation after Mississippi, in serving people with I/DD. That is disgraceful and we must do better. Our state still allows for restraint and seclusion which is abhorrent. This is a primary part of my platform.

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?

While access to the legislative process is better in Washington than most places in the country, the democracy we know today was not built to accommodate those with I/DD. We must work towards a version of state government that all Washingtonians have equal impact in. That's why I will fervently defend vote-by-mail and accessible voting options, fair representation for working parents, seniors, and people with disabilities, and electoral reforms that strengthen trust and participation. Democracy isn't about power — it's about accountability. I want to work with the ARC, parents and people with I/DD to address their greatest concerns. Further, I believe if more resources are available for early intervention, we would not need as much supported employment.

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

Abolish Restraint and Seclusion and provide teacher training for alternative deescalation. Working to create an entitlement for people with I/DD in the spirit of the Lanterman Act in California. Enacted by then Governor Reagan, this legislation creates a true system of support for individuals and their families from birth to death that is truly individualized to meet each person's needs.

Review policies that let students stay in high school until they are 22 years old. Work with students and parents to find better solutions and opportunities that are truly individualized.

Work to ensure that all students and parents have access to a case manager that can serve as an advocate at IEP meetings and when important decisions need to be made.

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

From my personal experience with neurodivergence, those living with I/DD and their caregivers will always be my primary resource in how to best support their community. Further, I will look to the ARC, Disability Rights WA, Autism Empowerment and other nonprofit organizations for additional guidance.

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 state needs to vigorously invest in home based community services over the next five years by establishing a permanent funding source for I/DD services, including housing, and by gradually moving funds from RHC's into community-based services. I will support all investments that move IDD services closer to communities, reduce disparities for rural and underserved populations, and ensure individuals with I/DD can receive

care in the least restrictive settings possible that also meet their individual needs.

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

I want them to know that I see them; I hear them; and, I will fight for them so more people have access to the care and services they need to have a fulfilling life.