

# 2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



Name: Natalie Poulson

District Number: 3

Position: Representative, position 2

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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a intellectual/developmental disability (IDD), and if so, would you describe its impact on you? If not, what impact do you want to have for people with IDD and their families?

Yes I do. As a special education teacher I have been fortunate to have a vast experience with students with disabilities and their families. I was the resource room teacher at Balboa Elementary and Stevens Elementary. The DI teachers and myself would often teach together or share students for different lessons. When I was a 6th grade teacher, my students who I shared with the DI teacher, were included in as many activities and lessons as possible. Many relationships have lasted through my students graduating from high school. I also had the pleasure of working for TRS with the city of Spokane for over 10 years. Alice Busch was my supervisor and friend.

2. What are your top three priorities and how would you ensure people with developmental disabilities and their families are included in them?

My number one priority would be honoring The Arc's vision, "for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to be valued members of their communities with the opportunity to realize their full potential and a future that is secure."  
I am a firm believer in challenging students to be their very best selves. My second priority would be The Arc's value of employment in order to support individuals find and keep jobs and contribute to our economy.  
The third priority would be to advocate for community residential services for individuals who need supervision and supports.

3. If cuts became necessary due to a recession or economic downturn, how would you protect services that people with IDD and their families need?

I would start with awareness. Often there are decisions made without facts or experience working with a certain population. Every decision needs to be made with the people in mind and how those decisions can impact constituents.

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

My life has been positively impacted and enriched by my interactions with members of my community whom have developmental disabilities. I have life long relationships with many families I have had the joy of interacting with.

Your Campaign Website

<https://friendsofnatalie.com/>