

2022 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire



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Legislative District: 38th LD

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1. Do you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has an 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?

In the legislature, I hope to drastically increase funding and resources for disability programs, healthcare, and housing to ensure that all people – including people with IDD have the resources they need to be safe and healthy, access to community, security, and a sense of belonging, and opportunity to succeed. I am interested in learning from people with IDD in my community to craft legislation that accurately serves their needs. I hope to be a partner and a resource in the fight to end the stigmas around IDD and increase accessibility.

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

Fully funding education: I believe that our education system is inadequately and inequitably funded in many areas, and we must work to correct these inequities and create a school system where every child has access to the resources they need to succeed. Schools are underfunded and understaffed, and educators are often underpaid. Because of this, children with IDD often do not have access to the resources they need and their developmental disabilities may even go unnoticed by overwhelmed educators. This has to change.

Workforce Development: I strongly support apprenticeship programs and I believe widening the scope of apprenticeship programs to other sectors would allow for more employment opportunities and training. We can support our vulnerable population by addressing the root cause. We are all interconnected and to address the issues we see; we must identify the intersectionality and build a stronger workforce. As state representative, I will champion and sponsor bills that support and create apprenticeship opportunities through means such as tax incentives, grants and procurement.

Affordable Housing: I believe there is a need for programs that allow those who live and are from the area to stay here. They are the fabric of our community, and we must do what we can to support them. I will work to address the urgent need to invest in housing for our vulnerable populations and long-term equitable and affordable solutions. I will work to increase funding for affordable housing, and decrease the red tape around permitting.

All of these issues intersect with the interests of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and I will work to ensure that these individuals are not left behind in our fight for these issues. I believe that we can build a workforce that is inclusive of all abilities, so that everyone has the opportunity to earn a living wage. We also must create more opportunities for affordable housing and ensure that these opportunities are accessible for everyone.

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?

Particularly in times of economic downturn, I believe it is important that people in our state have access to the services they rely on. I will protect people with IDD in our state and will not support any reduction in services.

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

I want you to know that I will fight for you, I will listen to you, and I will keep my promises. I am running a strategic and competitive campaign for this office and I genuinely believe that I have the experience and skills needed to represent the 38th district.

Your Campaign Website: www.electjuliocortes.com