

## View results

Respondent

3 Anonymous

25:39

Time to complete

1. Your name \*

Stephen Brown

2. Position you are running for \*

Seattle City Council - District 1

3. Your zip code \*

98116

4. Do you have direct experience with disability? \*

 Yes No

5. If yes, please explain

My son, Asher Brown, has profound cognitive global delays. He is an amazing man. Many of you have met him.

6. How do you define inclusion? \*

Reasonable universal access to all of life's richness for people of all abilities.

7. **FAMILIES:** How would you expand access to child care for children with disabilities?

Context: Quality, reliable child care is good for kids and families. But parents of children with disabilities are three times more likely to experience job disruptions because of problems with child care.

As a parent of a son with disabilities, I encountered the inequities you described repeatedly. Even when Asher was in his late teens (when other parents could rejoice and plan around their children's independence) Rose and I needed to know where Asher was at all times and be certain he had supervision. At least once or twice a month, some program of his would be cancelled and his mom or I would need to forgo work. There should not be a lottery mentality (well, it's just the luck of the draw that you have a disabled child), society should look after those who are least able to look after themselves. Vouchers, Training, Education of the general population, Normalization of disability are all part of the solution to child care access.

**8. HOUSING** - How would you help individuals and families with disabilities find and stay housed?

CONTEXT: Most people people in King County's annual homeless count are disabled, but neither Seattle nor King County have specific strategies to address their unique housing challenges.

- People with disabilities face high under- and unemployment, leaving them chronically housing unstable
- Parents who reduce hours to care for disabled loved ones face a lifetime of reduced income
- Many people with significant developmental disabilities live on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) of just \$914 a month – making them too poor to afford even extremely low-income housing.
- Federal housing vouchers help, but the waiting list can be years long and people still struggle to find appropriate and accessible housing

Section 8 system is ripe with Bureaucracy and inefficiencies. We were fortunate in our family to have two parents who were fluent in English and had high executive functioning. And even then, the system is so counter intuitive as to have us throwing up our hands in frustration often. Great societies take care of those who can't take full care of themselves. I want to help build a great society..

**9. SHELTER:** How would you ensure people with developmental disabilities have a safe place to sleep and stay?

CONTEXT: Homelessness services are often not accessible to people with disabilities.

- They can be too loud and chaotic for Autistic people; they may lack outlets for power chairs, or refrigeration for medication.
- Caregivers can be refused, especially if they are of a different gender; and trans and queer youth report discrimination.
- At the same time, people who live on the street can lose their belongings in sweeps and must contend with "hostile architecture" - that is, benches and alcoves designed to discourage sitting or sleeping.

The most highly leveraged solutions involve a collaboration with local and county governments with the best Permanent Supported housing providers (Plymouth Housing for example). When these entities work together, there is much opportunity for leveraging Federal dollars and private foundation dollars. I could be a very effective advocate for this effort. I am savvy about how to structure partnerships and I am a passionate spokesman for people with disabilities.

**10. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:** How would you ensure people significantly impacted by their developmental disabilities are receiving case management and the support needed to escape homelessness?

CONTEXT: People with developmental disabilities often lack access supportive housing options, which show the best results in reducing chronic homelessness.

- Supportive housing for adults is available to clients of the state's Aging and Long-Term Services Administration, but NOT the state Developmental Disabilities Administration.
- Adult family homes may be available, but most cater to aging residents. They also don't accommodate families.
- While there are community residential services through DDA that help individuals live independently, slots are capped and statewide only about 4,500 people are served.

We need more case workers; better training; better pay and a wider range of positions tailored to different groups.

**11. JUSTICE:** Would you support cross-training among professionals in the courtroom, police departments, victim assistance agencies and schools to prepare the justice community for situations involving people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities so they can receive equal justice?

CONTEXT: People with disabilities face fear, prejudice, and a lack of understanding when they become entangled in the criminal justice system.

- Research estimates 30 to 50 percent of people killed by law enforcement in the U.S. are disabled, and people with developmental disabilities are over-represented in juvenile facilities, jails and prisons.
- Nationally, youth of various disabilities make up 65 percent to 70 percent of people involved in the juvenile justice system.
- At the same time, people intellectual disabilities have a 4 to 10 times higher risk of becoming victims.

Yes

No

**12. JOBS:** What would you do to increase job prospects for people with developmental disabilities?

CONTEXT: Developmental disability isn't tracked in employment rates, but most people with developmental disabilities would qualify as having a cognitive, ambulatory, or independent living disability.

- Washington's employment rate for people with a cognitive disability is 31 percent;
- For an ambulatory disability it is 30 percent
- For an independent living disability it is just 21 percent.
- The employment rate for non-disabled people in Washington is 80 percent.

People with disabilities enrich the workplace. Asher, supported by a series of job coaches, has held his jobs for 3 and 5 years. Society is served when all its inhabitants lead a life of meaning and contribution. Government can help by shining a bright light on those private and public organizations that welcome disabled people into their workforce. The consuming public should know which organizations celebrate the whole of humanity.

13. **MOBILITY:** How will you ensure our streets, sidewalks and intersections are safe and accessible to everyone?

CONTEXT: People who use use wheelchairs or ambulatory devices struggle to move around safely.

- Sidewalk construction and maintenance and funding for curb ramps and accessible pedestrian signals is limited.
- Bike shares take up sidewalk space
- Autos often block intersections.

Curb cuts, smooth sidewalks, appropriate modal share - this is the nuts and bolts of City service. Every council member must make sure their district is taking care of this basic provision.

14. Do you have other ideas on ways to make our community more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities?

Make the Access use accessible to an App. Make that app voice sensitive and super intuitive. All civic events should specifically invite people with disabilities to attend. For Profit event like Bumpershoot and Capitol Hill Block Party should be rewarded civically for allocating free tickets to the disabled populations. Government can help facilitate this. Bring our community together. I have spent a lifetime building community - Entros and now Eltana Bagels. I know how to welcome people in a way that the other candidates do not.