

## View results

Respondent

8 Anonymous

55:48

Time to complete

1. Your name \*

George Artem

2. Position you are running for \*

Seattle City Council District 4

3. Your zip code \*

98105

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

 Yes No

5. If yes, please explain

I would rather not put this in writing but would be open to having a conversation about my experience.

6. How do you define inclusion? \*

In this context "inclusion" is a set of policies that are focused on providing equal access to resources and opportunities to people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized whether on the basis of sexual orientation, race or disability.

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.

The first part of tackling each of the issues raised in this questionnaire would require a needs assessment to identify what programs already exist and where they fall short in the services that are required. This will involve working closely with groups like yours to identify gaps in reasonable accommodations and gaps in funding to subsidize any new and existing programs as necessary.

To be successful in this, and any other initiative brought before the city council, a councilmember cannot work in a vacuum and will need to build a coalition of members to make this and other disability issues a priority so that these questions are brought before a committee. I think these questions would likely fall under the purview of one of two committees: public safety and human services, or neighborhoods, education, civil rights and culture - and I would be interested in serving on both if elected.

**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

I need your help in understanding the gaps between what you believe is needed versus what is already being done.

**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.

I need your help in understanding the gaps between what you believe is needed versus what is already being done.

**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.

I would love to hear your thoughts on how to address this at the municipal level in addition to what is already being done.

**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.

Seattle can work to increase hiring incentives for individuals with developmental disabilities to help make it a priority for employers, this will likely involve working with the economic development committee.

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

CONTEXT: People who 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.

I will work with SDOT and the transportation and utilities committee to ensure that sidewalk improvements and regular street paving are prioritized as part of the day-to-day work of that department.

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

I'd love to have an opportunity to meet with you to gather your thoughts on each of the issues listed above, after all you are the policy experts in this area and I would love to get your advice on these matters.