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Respondent

2 Anonymous

13:14

Time to complete

1. Your name \*

Ron Davis

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

6. How do you define inclusion? \*

My definition of inclusion is based on the idea of equity. Each person has different needs and its up to the community and our elected officials to meet those needs. To be included means that regardless of any characteristics a person may have, they're still able to participate in any societal activity. If there are roadblocks in the way of their participation then inclusion means the community and elected officials are actively working to break down those barriers.

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.

One of the primary focuses of my campaign is restructuring Seattle's broken, regressive tax code so we can properly fund our public services. For too long this city's policy has been in the hands of special interests instead of the average person. I believe in ensuring the most vulnerable members of our society have access to the resources they need to flourish. In the context of our disabled community, I would work hard to subsidize childcare for families that need it and work with our schools to build better childcare programs. Parents should be able to work and live a less stressful life, knowing that their child is being well taken care of, regardless of their condition.

**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

Housing is expensive simply because we haven't built enough of it. My housing policy is multifaceted because I believe in bringing down housing prices by building more, streamlining the regulatory and design review process, and building social housing. The most vulnerable members of our society need a place to live without having to worry about being put out onto the street. For many disabled people it can be incredibly difficult to find consistent work that accommodates their needs so we need to build places for them to live and reduce the pressure on our already overburdened system.

**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 best way to do this is to build social housing. The current network of homeless shelters, nonprofit organizations, and emergency responders is overburdened and can't keep up with the amount of people that need help. We can solve this problem by both decreasing rents and ensuring permanent housing for homeless people. Street sweeps are not the answer, smart policy and compassion are.

**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.

One of the benefits of adopting a progressive taxation system is it would allow the Seattle government to increase expenditure on necessary programs. Many disabled people lack consistent access to healthcare and housing but we can solve this problem simply by allocating resources towards it. Seattle is poised for growth and adapting to growth requires expanding, streamlining, and strengthening our public services to prepare for the future.

**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.

Disabled people deserve to live fulfilling lives where they can pursue their passions. I believe the Seattle government has an active role to play and it can start by working in a close partnership with advocacy organizations. There is a place for everyone in society but we need expertise in order to find suitable solutions. We can start by empowering people with disabilities and ensuring they have access to housing and medical care. Once people are in a stable situation, we can work as a community to fill the gaps in society that the disabled population would be perfect for.

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.

Transportation is incredibly important to me as I am a member of multiple Seattle transit organizations and I've been endorsed by some as well. A multimodal system where every form of transit can be accommodated is ideal and this all begins with walkability. The sidewalks in my district are in a sorry state of disrepair and bike lanes are almost nonexistent. We need to start by planning and approving a comprehensive renewal plan for the city of Seattle that the city is willing to stick to. By adopting a multimodal transportation plan, we can carve out space for all types of transit within the street. Our infrastructure needs to clear out space for everyone while being accessible for everyone and I will make this happen.

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