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Respondent

1 Anonymous

42:01

Time to complete

## 1. Your name \*

Jean Iannelli Craciun

## 2. Position you are running for \*

Seattle City Council D1 seat

## 3. Your zip code \*

98136

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

 Yes No

## 5. If yes, please explain

My father was 100% Disabled Veteran when he died @69. My Son is autistic.

## 6. How do you define inclusion? \*

Where everyone is welcome to "Come as you are" ... that's actually our tagline for the campaign! Our proclivities are our strengths and the status quo is not the norm. We strive for change at every level of our cities, states and national government. I am a DEI expert and to me it sounds like liberty and justice for all. This promise has not been realized for everyone. Our work continues with purpose.

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.

Child Care in general is a CRISIS. Our pro tem US Senator Murray has declared it so and I agree! The fact that those with the greatest needs are not resolved is a shame on America and a tragic reality. And we continue to fully fund sports 🏀 🏈 🏏 while humans with physical challenges are unseen.

**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 understand all of this and it makes me both sad and furious. Our society continues the practice of pushing aside to be hidden those of us who are different. This creates an illusion of normalcy. In fact, most families are dealing with some level of mental or behavioral challenges with a family member or close friend. Stigmas are profound and as a sociologist and researcher I have long reported on the lack of understanding and compassion for all the suffering. Housing must be provided FIRST to those with the greatest needs. In Seattle we must prioritize Black and Indigenous peoples and families for they are the least likely to recover from homelessness and least like to find employment. The housing debate is solidly grounded in our lack of policies to ensure every American has a decent place to live.

**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.

Every person deserves a safe and stable house. Our displaced neighbors who happen to also be experiencing disabilities need to become our priority. As a Councilmember I will keep these interests at the tables of decision making.

**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.

The fact that we do not provide services and housing to these residents is disastrous. We as a society create harm through this inclusion that ripples through our society. When we are not supporting families, children are involved and compromised. Workers are involved and must have parental leave and elder care to be responsible to their families and fully function at work. Senior citizens who need in home care are depressed and isolated as recent research reported; we cannot allow this to continue.

**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.

There are many good programs but we need more. Assessing functionality should be a common practice in the workplace for all. When we are matched with skills and desire and joy for being productive clearly all benefit!

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 see the income inequality and how certain neighborhoods get care and others do not. Our neighborhood in West Seattle just got all the streets shaved for ease of movement. But visiting Jimi Hendrix Park for Juneteenth many neighbors in that community noted they had "No sidewalks" ... this is terrible. This must be fixed!!

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

We need to conduct on-going focus groups with those having lived experiences. We have to listen, learn and hear their suggestions for change and inclusion ... and support and follow their leadership with dollars.