

## View results

Respondent

7 Anonymous

27:16

Time to complete

1. Your name \*

Preston Anderson

2. Position you are running for \*

Seattle City Council--District 1

3. Your zip code \*

98126

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

 Yes No

5. If yes, please explain

n/a

6. How do you define inclusion? \*

Inclusion as I understand it means ensuring all opportunities for engaging in society--economically, socially, and culturally--are accessible across all abilities and unique identities.

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.

In Seattle we have the Families, Education, Preschool Promise Levy. The revenue from this levy can and should be disbursed in an equitable way to ensure children with disabilities have the same opportunities to engage in programming and services. Funding specific interventions to ensure this happens will be a priority of mine.

**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 work directly with people with disabilities--most have psychiatric disabilities, i.e. schizophrenia. I have also worked with individuals that have developmental disabilities. I have worked with this population for the last 12 years of my clinical social work career and have experienced in the course of my career the inadequate resources for housing, placement with guardianship, finding payees, ensuring occupational therapist are able to meet timely with clients, finding affordable housing/group home placements that will accept the Medicaid reimbursement rate... I could go on further, but I am well aware of the inadequate resources for ensuring people with disabilities can thrive and lead a quality of life comparable to their peers without disabilities. It is a priority of mine to adequately fund the City of Seattle Office of Aging and Disability. As a clinician I know we have a lot to improve upon.

**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 will invest in a more dynamic and clinically appropriate suite of housing options: transitional housing, group/adult family homes, and permanent supportive housing. When on the City Council I will invest in transitional housing that meets the needs of working homeless adults, disabled adults and youth with structural accommodations to make the facilities more accessible to those that may use wheelchairs, transitional housing for those with behavioral challenges that are difficult to place in group homes, and medical recuperative care housing.

**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.

As mentioned in the question above--there is a lack of supportive housing for those with developmental disabilities. And I know personally having worked in inpatient psychiatric care settings how difficult it is to place someone with developmental disabilities. I will work with ARC and establish a taskforce to resolve this issue.

**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.

Through the Seattle Office of Aging and Disability we can fund supported employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. Further, the City of Seattle can coordinate with community partners/non-profits to ensure we expand the employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. Employment has been shown to have therapeutic benefits for people with psychiatric disorders and also people with developmental disabilities.

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.

Through the Seattle Move Levy I will work to ensure more cross-walks are pedestrian friendly for our mobility and sight impaired residents.

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

I will provide funding for greater specialized shuttle access for our disabled residents in Seattle--providing more flexibility in hours available, the window of time needed to reserve shuttles, and increase the range and purpose of shuttle services.