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Respondent

13 Anonymous

01:55

Time to complete

1. Your name *

Bob Kettle

2. Position you are running for *

Seattle City Council District 7

3. Your zip code *

98119

4. Do you have direct experience with disability? *

 Yes No

5. If yes, please explain

6. How do you define inclusion? *

Inclusion to me is when people of varying ages, ability, background, and lived experience are able to be together in a community and all contribute to the betterment of that community.

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 my neighbors actually helped to craft legislation that passed at the state and ultimately the federal level that allowed for disabled children to stay at home and attend public school instead of being institutionalized, later founding the Northwest Center. I know about the importance of finding and keeping good, reliable childcare, and one of the things I want to do as the next District 7 Councilmember is expand access to the Seattle Preschool Program. I also want to work with Human Services to develop further programs for children and older youth, so part of that would include support and space for children with disabilities.

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

Part of Seattle and King County's housing programs should focus on diversion and accessibility to 'catch' those who might become homeless. One of the first projects I want to take on as Councilmember is to perform a review of the efficacy of existing programs that the City is directly or indirectly funding. This would be a metric that would be included in that review, and I will also work with housing and disability advocates to expand or build housing programs that would directly address this concern.

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.

First of all, no one should be forced to live on the street in Seattle. It's inhumane and unsafe, and no one deserves it. Part of the review I spoke to above will be examining the different street-level support programs to ensure accessibility and other services for those in need of extra assistance.

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.

People with disabilities or chronic conditions should not be in short-term shelters, just because those shelters are not designed to accommodate those needs. Instead, I would advocate on both the City Council and King County Council to expand group home access, and other supportive services such as in-home support services to keep people with disabilities with their families and communities. In addition, I would work with the state legislature to set aside funds and other resources to keep this going.

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.

Work is a critical part of dignity of life. This issue is something that should be worked from all angles: city, county, state, and federal, so that we can expand existing programs. I know that the Northwest Center is already working with businesses like Amazon for employment placement programs for people with disabilities. This is also an area where the City Council can absolutely work with businesses in Seattle, to identify opportunities where these kinds of employment programs can be situated and supported.

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.

Councilmember Morales' proposal to fully repair and replace broken sidewalks is one that I will support and advocate for. Seattle is a city big enough for all Seattleites to be able to live and thrive here, so ensuring that we have accessible sidewalks and transportation is key. Firming up bike lanes and bus lanes is another part of that, and also investing in the Seattle Police Department so that they can have a fully-operational traffic division is another part that we should do. Ensuring accessible and safe streets from autos blocking intersections, for example, is definitely a mandate we can give the SPD.

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

There will always be ways to make our community more accessible and inclusive: making sure city resources are fully accessible by making sure the city website is fully accessible, among other resources. I will strive to work closely with organizations that directly advocate for people with disabilities and always look for opportunities where my work as a Councilmember can be more inclusive and accessible.