

[View results](#)

Respondent

10 Anonymous

112:16

Time to complete

1. Your name *

Tye Reed

2. Position you are running for *

Seattle City Council District 5

3. Your zip code *

98133

4. Do you have direct experience with disability? *

 Yes No

5. If yes, please explain

6. How do you define inclusion? *

As a queer Black woman I've found that being included in privileged spaces doesn't always mean I feel that I belong, and the same can be said for most marginalized people. Inclusion has usually meant ticking off the right boxes and highlighting my presence as a bonus for whatever institution I'm working with at the moment while actively having my concerns silenced. Belonging, on the other hand, brings a sense of mental comfort that allows a person to come to those same spaces as their full selves.

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.

I would start by increasing the funding for CCAP, increasing the income threshold, and set aside spots in the program for disabled parents and kids. I would also expand the funding for ECEAP to cover more families with kids in pre-K. In addition to program expansions, we need to increase the places where people are able to open childcare businesses so I would work with SDCI to decrease the time it takes to start up a childcare facility, and lobby WA state legislators to update licensing requirements to allow for more providers. The Council should also explore loan forgiveness for marginalized childcare providers to ensure we have culturally relevant services for our city's increasingly diverse population.

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

In addition to funding services that specifically target people with disabilities, I am deeply committed to ensuring that the Social Housing Developer, which I helped build as the co-chair and co-founder of House Our Neighbors, is fully funded. We cannot wait for the market to build enough housing for those who really need it, the city must take action by providing that necessity ourselves. To give social housing a shot of success, we must also rid ourselves of other barriers to housing like credit scores, income requirements, and eviction history.

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 problem with our shelte system is that it's one size fits all. For the past 3 years I've spent nearly every weekend distributing food and supplies to people at encampments in North Seattle and downtown and they all say pretty much the same thing: shelters are not safe. To ensure people with disabilites have safe spaces to stay, we must invest in resident-run tiny house villages, stop the sweeps and allow people to shelter in place, and follow the lead of King County by purchasing hotels as single occupancy transitional 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 a housing stability specialist, I saw firsthand the state of many low-income housing units where my mostly Black and disabled clients lived. I will fight for expanded access to supportive housing funds at the state level, while recognizing that our current Legislature has been unwilling to make the bold changes needed to materially improve the lives of millions in our state. The Council, however, has some power to fully fund housing of all types that can accommodate the various needs of families with disabilities.

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.

I will work with the ARC and other disability rights advocates to get rid of subminimum wage labor in Seattle, and create a just transition plan for folks currently in those industries. For far too long, bad actors have taken advantage of this loophole to make a profit off of government subsidies while their clients fall further into precarity. While I committ to strictly regulating these bad actors, I believe the best way to ensure marginalized folks have good jobs with good benefits is creating more opportunities within city government for them.

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 take the suggestions from the Solidarity Budget coalition and fight for funding to build safe sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps across the city, and work with transit agencies to ensure fully ADA-accessible platforms at all transit hubs; we should boost investment by \$10 million. Transit investments are vital infrastructure and there's millions of dollars in federal and state grants we could be accessing outside of the city's budget. I would work closely with SDOT to prioritize fixing our sidewalks, especially in D5 where there are entire neighborhoods without them.

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