

Name:

Bruce Overstreet

Email

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District:

38th

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

Senate

1. Are you an incumbent?

No

2. If yes, what policy or budget item that supports people with disabilities who are employed or seeking employment are you most proud of advancing during your tenure?

3. If you are not an incumbent, what will you do to support individuals with disabilities find and keep jobs and contribute to our economy?

The ADA is the foundational piece for equal access for individuals with disabilities, but it is not the end all. There should be incentives for those who employ individuals with disabilities beyond the required minimum.

4. Do you personally know anyone with an intellectual/developmental disability? I/DD includes people who have cognitive disabilities such as Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, etcetera.

Yes- Many of them, partly through my many years of being a public school teacher.

5. Have you ever worked alongside anyone with a developmental or intellectual disability?

Yes.

6. Nearly 80% of people with a developmental disability are not employed or are underemployed. What can you do in your role to address this issue?

The key is to provide an extensive safety net and structured support network. Of course, this takes a commitment by the state, but resources are there; it simply needs to be a priority.

7. Many people with developmental and intellectual disabilities who do work are worried about losing critical lifeline benefits such as medical care and social security because of earnings. Will you commit to working with CEA and other stakeholders to bridge this gap in coverage for people who want to work?

Most certainly. My expectation is that we provide the basic services for all citizens in the state of Washington.

8. It is estimated that 12,560 people with developmental disabilities receive NO paid services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. If you are elected, what will you do to ensure services for all?

Not having dealt with this issue before, what I can promise people is that accountability of each agency is paramount. This accountability starts with social workers who are committed to ensuring those who qualify for services receive those services.

9. If elected and during your campaign, will you commit to meeting with businesses in your community and across the state who have benefited from having a diverse work force which benefits their bottom line?

Yes. In fact, I would like to work in conjunction with the CEA to promote and enhance opportunities for our community, both businesses and individuals, to benefit from such a diverse workforce.

Community Employment Alliance members work hard every day to secure and retain competitive employment, increased wages, benefits and job training for people with disabilities. The impact of community employment on individuals and families is substantial. During your campaign, will you commit to meeting with families whose sons and daughters have benefited from employment services and hear their stories of inclusion, autonomy, and independence?

Yes. Please feel free to contact me about setting up such an opportunity.

11. Is there any other information pertaining to this topic that you would like your constituents with developmental disabilities, their friends and their family members, to know about you?

Having a foster brother for eight years who had developmental disabilities, this issue is near and dear to my heart. I am very receptive to what the CEA can do to further the cause of this very important population in our community.

12. Do you have any questions about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that we can help you with?

None at this time.

Thank you for remitting your candidate questionnaire. Your feedback will be posted on our website exactly as you have written it. Your responses will help inform thousands of constituents in your district and across the state of your positions on these very important issues. Your responses will not be edited. If you have questions or if you need help completing this form, please call or email Executive Director, Adrienne Stuart, at the contact information below. Thank you for your time.