

**Name:**

Laurie Dolan

**Email**

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**District:**

22nd LD

**Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:**

State Representative; Position 1

**1. Are you an incumbent?**

Yes

**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?**

I am one of two people in the House Democratic Caucus responsible for K-12 funding. My Masters degree is in Special Education; I taught special ed, supervised special ed personnel, and later supervised the special education program for the Spokane Public Schools. I was also an adjunct professor in the Special Education program at Gonzaga University during the time my children were being born and supervised special education student teachers for the University. This experience and training has been invaluable in helping to craft special education legislation.

**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?**

I am an incumbent.

**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.**

I know hundreds of people (and their parents). A very close friend of mine was a DD student in Spokane, and we have stayed in touch for at least 20 years.

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

Many times in classrooms and during campaigns. My friend (mentioned above) door belled with me often. She knew to look at the age of the next person we would talk to, and she would then advise me on what topic to bring up.

**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?**

We need more funding to extend the great programs already in place to find suitable employment and supervise the work closely enough to promote success. Organizations such Rotary can also help by providing DD people an internship so that business leaders can get to know them and offer them employment.

**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?**

Yes!

**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?**

Most of these questions center around more funding. One of the main reasons I ran for public office was to create sustainable progressive funding for state revenue. I serve on the Finance Committee where we continue to promote a capital gains tax.

**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!

**10. 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?**

Absolutely!

**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?**

I have spent 45 years of my life working on behalf of DD and special needs students. Thank you for your dedication, and I am here to work with you!

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

Not 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.**