

Name:

Matt Boehnke

Email

voteboehnke4house@gmail.com

District:

8

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

Washington State Legislature District 8, Position 2

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?

n/a

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 will support individuals with disabilities every chance I can. Support such incredible citizens is near and dear to my heart and my wife's. My wife works as a para educator with disabled students at a local high school and has for over 7 years. As a kennewick city council member, I have championed ADA compliance for all our projects, events, and including past buildings, structures, and programs. This supports all current and future opportunities for all citizens in the 8th district.

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. Down Syndrome and Autism.

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

Yes, with my wife throughout my Army career and with the local school district.

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?

Make it a priority. Continue to ensure this is one of the main criteria for job postings, job requirements, and create policies to ensure this is a priority for businesses. I would even work to create incentives for businesses who employ developmental disabled persons.

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. Again, I will do all I can to support.

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?

I would use the military decision making process that coordinates and collaborates with all key stakeholders involved in the issues. I would start by researching this issue. Then I would communicate and discuss the findings of my research to develop a clear course of action to look for

solutions. Then I would discuss these solutions with others across the aisle. I see this as a non partisan issue with every leader getting onboard to work this issue.

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. I will continuously have a open door policy to keep communications with and develop further relationships with other business and community leaders to highlight these benefits. This is critical to continue to improve and learn from the past and prepare for the future.

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. Again, I support an open door policy to discuss these and other issues with all citizens, but particularly with CEA members hard at work on these issues.

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 a copy of my bio and candidate statement if you would like it. Also, I recommend you review my Facebook page: [elect matt boehnke](#) and our website: www.electmattboehnke.us for other information. I always add that: I pledge to listen first, then take actions to achieve the collective good. My demonstrated leadership with integrity provides the experience we need in Olympia. Growing higher education is vital to meeting the community's needs. A robust workforce for all and education of our young people are investments in our future! I support researching technologies and developing new, and upgrading existing, facilities and protecting the grid from threats. Creating jobs is key to a strong economy; therefore, we must decrease unnecessary regulations that drive up costs. The district must be open for business and actively recruit and retain businesses and industries.

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

Yes, who is a great representative that I can meet with local to the TriCities? Can you send me their contact information? Thanks again for all you do!

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.