The Disability Vote

Candidate Responses on Disability Policy, Arizona 2026



DAPA

Disability Advocacy & Policy Alliance

Dear Disability Community,

The Disability Advocacy and Policy Alliance (DAPA) works to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families. We help our community speak up, share their experiences, and have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

We created this voter guide to help you learn where candidates stand on issues that matter to the disability community. We asked all verified candidates running for the Arizona legislature five questions about services that help people live in their communities, funding for developmental disability services, voting by mail, child care, and how they would include our community in decisions about laws that affect us. We also invited candidates to share their personal experiences with the disability community.

Fifty-two candidates responded. Their answers are included in this guide. We hope it helps you and your family make informed choices as you prepare to vote in this midterm election.

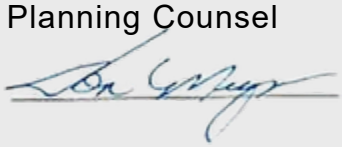
(cont. on next page)

DAPA
Disability Advocacy & Policy Alliance

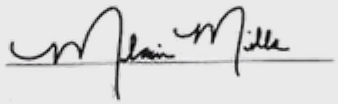
To our disability community: Your voice matters, your experiences matter, and you belong in every conversation about our future. DAPA is proud to stand alongside you and your families. Together, we can build an Arizona where people with disabilities are heard, valued, and supported, and where everyone has the opportunity to shape the communities we call home.

Sincerely DAPA Executive Team Members,

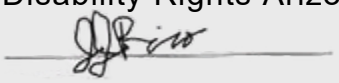
Jon Meyers, Executive Director
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Counsel



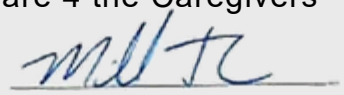
Melanie Mills, State Director
The Arc of Arizona



J.J. Rico, CEO
Disability Rights Arizona



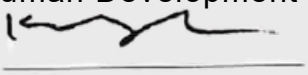
Michele Thorne, CEO
Care 4 the Caregivers



Christopher Tiffany, Executive Director
Raising Special Kids



Kelly D. Roberts, Executive Director
Institute for Human Development



Jared Perkins, CEO
Children's Clinic in Southern Arizona

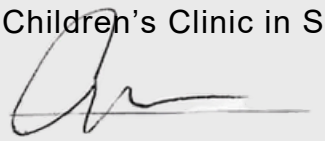


TABLE OF CONTENTS

How to Use This Guide	5
Legislative Districts 1-2	6
Legislative Districts 3-4	7
Legislative Districts 5-7	8
Legislative Districts 7-8	9
Legislative Districts 8-9	10
Legislative Districts 9-10	11
Legislative District 11	12
Legislative District 12	13
Legislative Districts 12-13	14
Legislative Districts 14-18	16
Legislative Districts 19-23	17
Legislative Districts 23-25	18
Legislative Districts 26-27	20
Legislative Districts 28-29	21
Legislative District 30	22

How to Use This Guide

Candidates answered five disability-policy questions. Responses are self-reported. Written comments appear when candidates submitted them.

YES ✓	NO ×	NOT ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE ○

THE FIVE QUESTIONS

01	**HCBS**	Do you support maintaining home and community-based services through the Arizona Medicaid system, so people with disabilities can live in their communities rather than institutions?
02	**DD FUNDING**	Do you support increasing budget levels for developmental disability services in Arizona?
03	**MAIL VOTING**	Do you support maintaining mail-in voting that increases participation by members of the disability community?
04	**CHILDCARE**	Do you support funding more childcare assistance programs and reducing the waitlist for children with disabilities?
05	**COMMUNITY INPUT**	Will you commit to meaningfully include people with disabilities and family caregivers in the development of major state policies that affect them before those policies are implemented?

Comments are reproduced as submitted, including original wording and political or religious references. All verified candidates were given the opportunity to participate in the survey.

Christine Dargon

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 1

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Sandy Zalecki

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 1

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

My oldest granddaughter is a type 1 diabetic. I will do anything I can to support her so she can have what she needs to have a productive life. I have also worked with people who need augmented devices to speak. They have so much knowledge and so much to say, they just aren't able to say it. I support policies to help more of them get the devices they need to speak so they can be productive members of society.

Shawnna Bolick

Rep • SENATE • Legislative District 2

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I attended the Disability Rights Arizona voter event in September. I've met with some of the DDD families over the years and toured some of the community based programs in my LD providing care.

Stephanie Simacek

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 2

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

As a state representative, I will continue to be a steadfast advocate for Arizonans with disabilities. That means fighting for fully funded services, accessible schools and workplaces and strong protections so every person can live with dignity, independence and opportunity. I'll listen to the disability community, bring their voices to the Capitol and make sure they have a real seat at the table when decisions are made.

Jeffrey R Fortney

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 3

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I have been working with the disabled community for the last 20+ years as a special education teacher. While this has primarily been with children, ages 5 - 18, I have also done volunteer work with disabled adults. The primary characteristic that I have seen in so many of these individuals is their desire not to be defined by their disability, but to show everyone what they are capable of accomplishing. The most important aspect of working with people with disabilities (and anyone, really) is to build a relationship based on mutual respect, listening and giving them the dignity they deserve. I intend to do that as their state Senator.

Too much of our state funds are being siphoned away to those that really do not need any assistance. We need to reprioritize who and what is important in Arizona. We can lift people with disabilities and help them achieve the level of independence that they are capable of achieving. And also support their families in supporting them.

Rick Spargo

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 3

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

When I was young I too suffered from a disability. A severe speech impediment and had to attend speech therapy 3 times a week for 5 years in public elementary school. (Think of the movie The King's Speech and you have a pretty good idea). I will champion the rights of citizens with disabilities. People with disabilities should have equal access and be treated as any other citizens in our Republic which is the opposite of what Republicans wish to do.

Karen Gresham

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 4

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Jason LaForest

No Labels Party • SENATE • Legislative District 5

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Christine Marsh

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 5

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Brendan Trachsel

Green Party • HOUSE • Legislative District 6

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

David Cook

Rep • HOUSE • Legislative District 7

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	NOT SURE ○	YES ✓	NOT SURE ○	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

As a republican and Catholic we believe all life is precious. That means that the quality of life for those with disabilities matters.

Richard Grayson

Green • HOUSE • Legislative District 7

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I live with my father, who is disabled.

Samuel Martin

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 7

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I've implemented WCAG 2.0 guidelines in website design and one of my best friends is a wheelchair user. I understand that acomodating disability is important to everyone.

Michiel "Mike" Montiel

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 7

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I am a service-connected disabled veteran as a result of my time in the U.S. Army, so I have firsthand experience navigating systems intended to support people with disabilities. I am also the father of a daughter with physical and developmental disabilities. For many years, I have helped navigate her medical care, doctors' appointments, IEPs, educational services, and the everyday challenges families face when trying to make sure a loved one receives the support and opportunities they deserve. Those experiences have given me a deeper appreciation for the disability community, as well as for the parents, caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, and advocates who work alongside people with disabilities every day. They have also shown me how complicated and exhausting systems can become when services are fragmented or difficult to access. As a policymaker, I believe people with disabilities should be included in the conversations and decisions that affect their lives. My approach will be grounded in dignity, accessibility, independence, opportunity, and listening directly to people with disabilities and their families about what is working and what needs to change.

Janeen Connolly

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 8

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

Janeen Connolly sponsored the technology study committee bill, HB 2700, that passed in June of 2026. Now Arizonans who have unique assistive needs will be matched with emerging technologies. Janeen is a person with a disability. She was appointed by Gov. Jane Hull to serve on Arizona's first Task Force on Employment for People with Disabilities.

Rep. Brian Garcia

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 8

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Lauren Kuby

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 8

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I worked to ensure that the disability community was heard during the intense discussions of parents and paid caregivers and overall funding for the community in the 2025 Legislative session. I organized meetings with the disability community and APS/SRP to ensure their voices were heard in emergency planning and the formulation of Wildfire Mitigation plans.

Lorena Austin

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 9

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I strongly support providing ongoing and improved funding for Arizonans with disabilities, including funding through the Department of Education for improved access to individualized education resources in our public schools. Last year, I and my Democratic colleagues had to fight tooth and nail to prevent our Medicaid funding for parental caregivers through the Department of Developmental Disabilities from being gutted; while funding was still cut, it wasn't as bad as it could have been. I strongly support policies and funding to support people with disabilities and to make services more accessible.

Kiana Maria Sears

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 9

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I am the parent of an Autistic child, and know first-hand the joys and challenges of raising a child with special needs. I strongly support efforts to ensure that people with disabilities in our state receive the care they need, efforts to improve special education resources in our schools, and efforts to provide childcare assistance across our states. I am also a lifelong civil rights advocate, and know how closely the fights for racial justice and disability rights are and have been. I will always support efforts to improve anti-discrimination protections in our state and to protect voting rights for all, including our disability community.

Jacob Martinez

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 9

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

As a recent law school graduate focused on labor law, I know how important it is to ensure that people with disabilities receive accommodations at home, at work, and in public. I strongly support improved funding for the Parents as Paid Caregivers program, and efforts to make sure that families and individuals in our state with disabilities are provided the appropriate resources to get the care they need and deserve.

Blair Moses

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 10

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

Through my 30 years working in the healthcare field before going to law school and working as an attorney, I had opportunities to work with the disabled community. I was horrified when I read articles about this current administration wanting to move the disabled into institutions rather than providing funding for home-based and community-based care. I will do all I can to prevent that from happening.

Junelle Cavero

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 11

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

My relationship with the disability community is both professional and deeply personal. Earlier in my career, I worked at the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC), where I had the opportunity to work alongside families advocating for children with disabilities and special needs. That experience taught me how complicated our education and support systems can be for families and how often parents must become experts and advocates simply to secure the services, accommodations and opportunities their children deserve.

But perhaps the person who most profoundly shaped my understanding of disability was my best friend, Mat McCollough. Mat lived with a disability, but that was only one part of an extraordinary life. He became a nationally respected disability-rights leader, served as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council, was twice appointed by President Barack Obama to the United States Access Board, and served in national leadership roles advocating for people with developmental disabilities. Mat passed away in January 2026, and losing him was deeply personal for me.

Mat changed the way I see disability because I experienced the world alongside him—not simply as a policymaker or advocate, but as his friend. Through our friendship, I saw both the barriers society places in front of people with disabilities and what is possible when those barriers are removed. I saw how something as basic as entering a building, getting transportation, navigating a public space or participating in an event could require planning that most of us never have to consider. Those experiences made accessibility real to me in a way that no policy paper ever could. But Mat also taught me something even more important: never define someone's potential by their disability.

He was brilliant, independent, funny, accomplished, stubborn, compassionate and deeply committed to public service. He traveled, built an extraordinary career, advised policymakers, led organizations and changed people's lives. Mat didn't need people to speak for him. He needed—and demanded—the same opportunity, dignity and respect afforded to everyone else.That distinction has deeply influenced my own approach to public policy.

People with disabilities should not be viewed simply as recipients of services. They are leaders, workers, students, entrepreneurs, parents, advocates and members of our communities. They deserve a seat at the table when decisions affecting their lives are made. My experience at PEATC taught me about the systems families must navigate. My friendship with Mat taught me about the person behind those systems. Together, those experiences continue to shape my work as a legislator—from supporting special education and appropriate identification and services for students, to thinking about accessibility in transportation, housing, employment, technology, healthcare and voting. Mat's life reinforced something I carry with me into public service: our responsibility is not to decide what people with disabilities are capable of. Our responsibility is to remove the barriers that prevent them from showing us. That is a lesson my best friend taught me, and it is one I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Patricia "Patty" Contreras

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 12

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I supervised an adult DD community oriented program while employed with the city of Phoenix. I received my degree in Therapeutic Recreation and have advocated for all members of the disability community. I also supervised programs for seniors and people with disabilities. I often had to explain to members that not all disabilities were visible and to give their neighbors grace and time when they requested accommodations. In the legislature, I have consistently spoken up for people with disabilities and have advocated for additional funding for programs.

Armando Montero

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 12

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Anthony Ramirez

No Labels Party • SENATE • Legislative District 12

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

Throughout my career as a police officer, attorney, investigator, and small business owner, I have worked with people navigating systems that can be difficult, confusing, and too often unresponsive to individual needs. That experience has shaped how I approach public service. People with disabilities and their families deserve dignity, independence, access to essential services, and a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their lives. As a State Senator, I would listen directly to people with disabilities, families, caregivers, service providers, and advocates before making decisions that affect them. I am an independent because I believe good policy should be judged by whether it works, not by which political party proposed it. My goal will be practical solutions that improve people's lives while ensuring taxpayer dollars are used effectively and responsibly.

Stacey Travers

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 12

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

As the parent of a special need child myself I understand the complexity of navigating support and resources for our children and families. I will always stand with families to do what's best for them

Rockee Armstrong

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 13

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Kevin Hartke

Rep • HOUSE • Legislative District 13

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	NOT SURE ○	YES ✓	NOT SURE ○	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I look forward to learning more at the Raising Voices gathering. I have some family engagement with the disability/special needs community and have served as a local pastor for 40 + years that has had me advocating for patients.

Jacob Weinberg

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 13

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	NOT SURE ○	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Janet Weninger

Rep • HOUSE • Legislative District 13

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT — CONTINUED 2/2

Before anything else, I am a Christian who is here to do the will of the Lord. Loving all people and praying for the needs of others is crucial as a Believer and that is the only way that we can ensure that we have more than enough for every good work and that people are healed and born again by the Holy Spirit. For every parent struggling to care for a child with special needs, I want to thank you for never giving up, and for knowing that your child has value and fighting for them. I also want to tell you that it is written in the scriptures that children are not born for calamity and that it is not God's will that one of them should perish or be lost. God loves each and every life more than we can comprehend, so He sent His son to pay for the price of all our sins. When Jesus died, He was covered in the sin of all humanity. This is why we must know the Truth and demand our children be set free from the grip of the enemy who has bound them and kept them from the abundant life that Christ paid for all of us to receive as we accept His sacrifice as our own and declare Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Ask the Lord to give you the faith to Believe for a miracle and begin declaring God's promises over your loved ones until the truth manifests as reality and your child or loved one is completely free from every disabling spirit! I am not saying this as a politician but as one who has seen God's miraculous power heal again and again, so never give up, but fight the real fight that isn't about having the means to care for a disabled family member but is to see all free in the finished works of Christ! God's plan of salvation is for all and it begins the day we believe it not after we leave this earth. When the disciples asked Jesus about a man born blind, they wanted to know if the man sinned or his parents to cause him to be born blind and Jesus replied, "Neither. This is for the glory of God." And the man was healed of blindness and God was glorified! Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever! What He did for one, He will do for all! People die for lack of understanding according to God's Word, so I am sharing this to help anyone who will BELIEVE the Truth and accept Jesus and all that He is forever because what you believe and declare as your truth is what you will have. God produces the fruit of our lips so only speak what He has said and what He promised through His Word. All of God's promises find their Yes and Amen in Jesus! If you would like to know more or want me to pray with you, please reach out to me through email or text message 602-430-5367 janet@janetweninger.com. We are all in this together and no one has to fight alone!

Mary Rose

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 14

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

We need to do more to support our disability community. They are still thriving, engaged, and important contributors to our cities and towns. Their family caregivers should be assisted when possible. Many of these folks still work a full day and then give care afterward.

Jayme Accalia

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 15

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

My son is 17 with autism and moderate language barriers, PTSD, and carries and SED designation, I also struggle with ADHD and possible ASD. The lack of understanding and care for people with disabilities-- physical, mental, and invisible is abhorring. I look forward to meeting with leaders championing the disabled community and their caregivers to learn more about what we can do to make lives easier.

Nancy Gutierrez

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 18

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I have learned a lot from working with the Parents As Paid Caregivers and Disability Communities. I look forward to continuing our working relationship and making sure that all Arizonans have the rights that they deserve.

Jackie Anderson

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 19

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

People with disabilities contribute to their families and their community. I am currently in my 80s to have some minor disability issues. As a retired RN, I have experience and cared for many patients and would support legislation that will increase people with disability voice and support.

Elda Luna-Nájera

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 22

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

As a licensed master social worker, I have worked with members of the disability community in various capacities in non profits, behavioral health, and in public education. I am 100% committed to supporting the social, educational, workforce, and program funding needs of members of the disability community.

Emilia Cortez

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 23

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Brian Fernandez

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 23

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Gary Garcia Snyder

Rep • HOUSE • Legislative District 23

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I truly believe our communities in Arizona, especially ones with disabilities should be among our top priorities to make sure they are taken care of and well equiped when comes to state support and budget. Easier accessibility and approval.

Mariana Sandoval

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 23

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Alberto Flores

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 24

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Analise Ortiz

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 24

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Tiffany Byrne

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 25

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

For 30 years, I have had the privilege of serving Arizona students and families as a public-school science educator. That experience has taught me that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to education, and that families of children with disabilities often know better than anyone what their child needs to succeed. I support meaningful (cont. on next page)

Tiffany Byrne

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 25

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

educational choices for families, including ESA options for students with disabilities when those options are the right fit. I also support strong safeguards against fraud and misuse so these resources remain available to the students and families who need them. My commitment does not end with supporting a particular program. I will make sure people with disabilities, parents, caregivers, educators, and service providers have a meaningful voice in the policies that affect their lives. I want to hear from the people who live these realities every day before decisions are made, not after. As an educator, I have spent my career advocating for students and working with families to help each child reach their potential. I will bring that same commitment to public service: listening first, respecting individual choice, protecting resources, & making sure the disability community has a seat at the table.

Laura Huber

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 25

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

As a Licensed Professional Counselor, licensed in seven states and working in social services positions in Arizona since 2007, I have had the privilege of working with a wide range of individuals and families navigating significant challenges. Among them have been parents of children with disabilities, through whom I have developed a meaningful understanding of the daily struggles, systemic barriers, emotional weight, and practical needs that families in the disability community face. These relationships have shaped how I think about policy, access, and support. During my counseling residency at Phoenix Interfaith Counseling, I created and co-facilitated a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) group specifically designed for individuals with disabilities. This experience gave me direct, hands-on insight into the therapeutic needs of this population, the importance of accessible and tailored mental health services, and the gaps that exist in our current systems of care. Developing that group from the ground up also deepened my appreciation for what it takes to serve this community with intention, skill, and genuine respect. Throughout my career I have consistently advocated for accessible, equitable mental health care for all individuals regardless of ability, background, or circumstance. I believe that people with disabilities deserve not only adequate services, but a seat at the table in the decisions that affect their lives. As a candidate for Arizona State Senate, I am committed to being a voice for the disability community in the legislature, listening first, learning continuously, and fighting for the policies and funding that will make a real difference in people's lives.

Quanta Crews

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 26

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

Deborah Howard

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 27

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I answered "yes" to each of these questions because people with disabilities and their families deserve equal opportunity to thrive -- to live, work, and vote in their communities with dignity. As a legislator, I will protect AHCCCS home and community-based services, fight for developmental disability funding that keeps pace with need, defend mail- in voting, and expand childcare assistance for families of children with disabilities. This is fundamentally how I will govern across all issue areas - making sure those who are impacted by the policies have a real seat at the table before policies are enacted.

I welcome the opportunity to be held accountable on these commitments.

Kevin Payne

Rep • SENATE • Legislative District 27

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

My 93 year old mother had cancer in her lower leg and had to have it amputated last April. She is still trying to get a prosthetic, but due to her age there are many obstacles. Her lacks strength and stability and ligaments in her leg are tightening no matter how hard she works them. I also have a 20% military related disability. I understand the hardships and frustration of dealing with a world that is not always friendly for someone with a disability.

Barbara Fike

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 28

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I consider myself a member of the disability community, although my issues are minor compared to so many. (I am a polio survivor with mildly impaired mobility, but I often use a cane, walker, or wheelchair.)

Marc Graham

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 28

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I know that none of us are perfectly abled, whatever that might mean. I know that not all disabilities are obvious. I don't want to define people by what they can't do.

Christine Scianna

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 29

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

I was involved in ROAR. Advocating for bills in 2019 and 2022 that passed protecting vulnerable adults. I am a part of AZDAC and Raising Voices Coalition. I'm also a caregiver for my daughter who is nonverbal autistic. Montenegro putting on 3 Republicans last minute to vote down a bipartisan bill to protect PPCG's/Medicaid is why I am running.

Eric Stafford

Dem • SENATE • Legislative District 29

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

My mother is disabled, and myself and my partner along with many in our community suffer from disabilities. Seen and unseen, the differently abled have an advocate through me.

Brian McMahan

Dem • HOUSE • Legislative District 30

HCBS	DD Funding	Mail Voting	Childcare	Community Input
YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓	YES ✓

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

As a first responders for 40 years, I have seen many people in doughnut holes between policy and law that needs to be changed to better manage situations disabled people encounter.

Personal Notes

DAPA

Disability Advocacy & Policy Alliance

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575625682980