

Lori Kinnear---District Two City Council Candidate

1. If elected, what investments would you encourage the City to make to ensure restaurants and hotels continue to open, operate, and thrive in Spokane? **Continue funding incentives for: projects of significance, utility infrastructure for remodel of commercial buildings and other infrastructure (roads, pedestrian elements, trails, parks etc.). We should continue to promote our river as a destination and encourage recreational use of it.**

2. If you are elected, what are the one or two short-term goals you want to accomplish and get started on immediately? And, what is a longer-term goal (i.e. by the end of your term)? **I have several ordinances and projects to finish up by the end of the year: updated urban forestry ordinance, an alley activation pilot project (the alley between Wall and Howard) and continuation of strategies to mitigate homelessness and implement safety measures downtown. Long term: work to implement sub-area plans for Manito and 29 and South Perry, also continue to work with Parks Department on Latah Creek riverside policies. I will ask to continue my role as a DSP board member and work with downtown businesses to keep our downtown vibrant and growing.**

3. Please share your thoughts on Spokane's business regulatory environment. What steps would you take to reduce or streamline the regulatory burden? **The City Administration has taken steps to streamline permitting. Other areas to be addressed are the Regional Health District regulations and fire regulations that can be overly cautious.**

4. What approaches would you take to promote public safety and security in Spokane?

- **This City Council authorized hiring of over two dozen additional police officer positions and sponsored a Public Safety ballot initiative that voters overwhelmingly approved. This initiative authorized 20 new officers some of which will be deployed downtown. To make our downtown precinct truly effective officers need to walk and bike to interact directly with all community members. A full presence downtown will deter crime, increase a sense of safety, reduce response times and improve police-community relations.**
- **We have an agreement to open a new 24/7 shelter east of Downtown this July. There also needs to be day services for adult men Downtown to match the services provided to unsheltered families, women and youth. This will get people off the street and on a path to health.**
- **At the City Council's urging City staff has reached out to surrounding cities to plan for homeless services across jurisdictions. City Council is requesting that those jurisdictions match Spokane's commitment to use general funds beyond the grants from state and federal government to improve the effectiveness of these services.**
- **The City's lobbyists successfully encouraged the State Legislature to substantially expand funding for these currently scarce services. We are also working with Spokane County, which is the local recipient of these funds, to provide more services. One new and successful program is the use of state money to co-deploy social workers with SPD patrol officers. Last year, these teams diverted 85% of individuals contacted into services who otherwise would have been taken to jail or a hospital- saving money with better results.**

- The City of Spokane successfully lobbied the State to provide several million dollars to Spokane County to build a dedicated center where law enforcement can take arrestees in a mental health crisis for immediate treatment. This saves room at the jail and results in better outcomes.
- The Spokane County Jail is currently overcrowded with hundreds of low-level offenders who are taking up space that could be used for more dangerous offenders. These individuals aren't dangerous, but they are unreliable in showing up for court. The City of Spokane and other jurisdictions use community supervision officers to keep pre-trial arrestees on track outside of the jail at a lower cost and with better outcomes. Spokane County should adopt the same strategy to reduce dangerous overcrowding and deaths under the current operational strategy.
- The Business Improvement District (BID) downtown currently employs dedicated goodwill ambassadors throughout the Downtown Core. But given the challenges downtown they need to adapt to our current needs. This may include retraining and new strategies to proactively engage with people more closely aligned with our co-deployed police/social worker teams.
- The primary cure to homelessness is more housing. The City doesn't have funds to directly build all the needed housing. It can lead the effort and ensure that housing is not concentrated in one area, and that onsite services and security for the residents and surrounding neighbors is included. The City Council is exploring finding more funding for supportive and workforce housing.
- The solution to most of our criminal problems is to evaluate individuals and the reasons behind criminal behavior. The Community Court model of holding offenders accountable and providing services at the same time is successful and has been

expanded to the recently opened “Envision Center”. Further expansion of hours, services and transportation will create a bigger impact.

- The City Administration and Council created an early and coordinated intervention program for addressing illegal encampments on public lands and parks. Community members can call 311 to start the notice and removal process before they get out of control. Federal law requires a short time period between notice and removal; however, our new coordinated team is speeding up the process. The 30-day pilot program was very successful and will be continued through the end of the year.
- A lack of housing supply at every income level is driving up prices, oppressing family budgets and pushing more people into homelessness. The City Council led the region in approving multi-family tax credits for new units and updating zoning laws to encourage more density within the City; specifically, our Centers and Corridors. It will take time to realize all the benefits of these recent actions however the Council is committed to continuing these efforts.

5. What is your approach to managing Spokane’s growth?

Council passed an Infill ordinance that focuses growth in Centers and Corridors including downtown. We partner with STA to prioritize development that is served by STA and the future route of the Central City Line. These policies discourage sprawl, save taxpayer dollars and keep growth near services and transportation.

6. What would you do specifically to address commercial affordability in Spokane? **Additional incentives for rehabilitation of existing buildings. Identifying commercial buildings in neighborhoods that could be reused. Council passed an ordinance to allow these in**

neighborhoods. It adds up to quite a bit of additional commercial stock. Prioritize infrastructure in our PDAs to attract commercial/industrial customers.

7. What would you do to improve the relationship between the business community and City Hall? In what ways do you think we can best partner to address the most critical issues facing the City?

Better communication. I meet with Bobby Hatley regularly and that needs to be continued. Meetings with the Administration also need to be regular. Identify specific issues we can work on together. Offer to backfill resources/staff if need be to get a quicker/better outcome. A good example of us partnering on an issue was the Airb&B identification project. We still have work to do but it was a good start.

8. How would you seek to address the homelessness issue in our community? **See answer to question number 4. Let's make sure we are addressing homelessness and criminal behavior as separate issues. They require different responses.**

9. What do you think the City is getting right on this issue, and what would you do differently.

Homelessness: we have housed over 3000 people in the last two or so years. Chronically homeless individuals are harder to place, however partners at Hope House and other agencies have been successful at finding long term housing. When the Administration closed the 24/7 shelter at Catholic Charities without another plan in place that was a mistake. Council was not supportive of that; however, the decision was ultimately not with us.

Criminal behavior: We will be adding additional police downtown and city wide in 2020. There is zero tolerance for illegal drug use and offenders are arrested. The illegal camping pilot has been a huge

success and will be continued. As we implement new funding to some of the programs described in question 4 we will achieve better results.