



***Spokane Chapter
Washington Hospitality Association
Candidate Questionnaire
Cindy Wendle – Spokane City Council President race***

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?
 - Increase in presence of security downtown in partnership with DSP, expand the limited commission program with SPD
 - Continue to invest in our river, parks and facilities to encourage locals to get out in their community and visitors to add Spokane as a destination of choice

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)?
 - Decrease the number of unsheltered homeless people
 - Decrease the number of victims of property crime and aggressive panhandling
 - (Long term) Spokane will continue to enjoy an increase in visitor spending, surpassing \$4M, which will directly impact our local hotels and restaurants

3. Please share your thoughts on Spokane's business regulatory environment. What steps would you take to reduce or streamline the regulatory burden?
 - Efforts to layer on additional regulations for businesses on top of already burdensome L&I rules, adds to the cost of doing business. I don't believe it is in the best interest of our city to add any more. I would like to promote and find ways for our local businesses to navigate the red tape, freeing up precious time and resources for running their businesses and managing people.

4. What approaches would you take to promote public safety and security in Spokane?
 - Fostering more partnerships with local security companies and our SPD, specifically to increase the number of limited commission officers
 - Enforce our laws to decrease crime and get criminals off our streets
 - Increase support for our drug court, support a new jail, and champion the partnership model of police/mental health outreach and expand it beyond cleaning up our homeless camps

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

- Strong partnerships and trust is the foundation. I am a collaborator and I approach issues with first an understanding of what we need to know and even more importantly, what we don't know. We need to study other cities who are a few years ahead of where we are now and learn from their success and failure. With my financial background, I understand the importance of keeping an eye on key indicators such as housing affordability that can be a forewarning of roadblocks that will hinder or even hijack positive momentum.

6. What would you do specifically to address commercial affordability in Spokane?

- One of the biggest factors is to support our local commercial owners and keeping our business regulatory environment as minimal as possible. Affordability can be tied to many factors, such as investment return or assessed value. We want our owners to see a return, but we need to keep an eye for inflated assumptions.

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?

- My goal is always to build trust, work to understand and educate along the way. Asking for help and seeking expert advice will go a long way. So often our Council makes assumptions and passes ordinances not understanding the massive impact of unintended consequences. I will work to ensure we decrease that by asking more questions and always seeking to find out what we don't know.
- Our Council needs to be more proactive and seek out answers. They shouldn't wait for everyone to present them with information, then get upset when they don't have "all the information necessary to make a decision". It's our job as Council members to reach out to stakeholders and seek answers and ask "What would happen if . . . ?"

8. How would you seek to address the homelessness issue in our community?

- The top priority is tackling the real issue of safety downtown and all over our community. Perception is reality, and we need to get the environment safe and visibly appealing for our visitors and customers. Holding criminals accountable is priority number one.
- Closely behind is addressing the shelter issue. It's imperative we bring all our nonprofits together to assess exactly what our resources are now, what our homeless population needs and how we're going to build it, support it and promote it. We have a dangerous divide occurring with some nonprofits and we need to make sure we are working together, not putting each other down.

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

- I think our City recognizes the massive issue we have with mental illness, but I am still looking for greater emphasis on our drug addiction crisis.
- I intend to foster partnerships with law enforcement, mental health counselors and drug addiction services to reach out to our homeless community.

