

THE
BLACK LENS
 NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

SPOKANE



Who Should Be Mayor of Spokane?

Ben Stuckart
Nadine Woodward

1) Please describe 4-5 of the most important duties/responsibilities of Spokane's Mayor and explain what experience you have that qualifies you to accomplish each duty/responsibility? Please be specific.

The top responsibilities are 1) Administration of City Government, including oversight of 2000+ employees and numerous departments, 2) make appointments to leadership positions, 3) draft the budget, 4) enforce all laws of the city, and 5) communication with the public.

I have been the City Council President for 7+ years and run multi-million dollar organizations. I am the only person running for Mayor with city government experience, who understands the city budget and has management experience. I am knowledgeable of current city staff, what is working and what is not. I will hit the ground running on day one.

I will communicate the city's plans to the public, without resorting to fear.

2) If elected Mayor, what are your top priorities for your first 100 days in office?



Ensure that proper staffing is in place. There are many open positions (Accounting, Communications, Budget Director) and numerous departments that are understaffed.

Stand up the Office of Civil Rights and Equity and the Office of Sustainability, immediately.

Hire officers voted for by the community in February 2019.

Enforce current laws being ignored.

Continued on Page 11

1) Please describe 4-5 of the most important duties/responsibilities of Spokane's Mayor and explain what experience you have that qualifies you to accomplish each duty/responsibility? Please be specific.

As mayor, I will be the chief executive of the City and responsible for setting the tone and vision for the executive branch and how it works with the Council. Like any executive, I will appoint department heads who are experts in their fields to advise me on daily municipal issues. I have been in a position of public trust and immersed in Spokane issues for 28 years. I care about our city, and I will work alongside its residents to ensure the mayor's office is transparent, trustworthy and effective.

2) If elected Mayor, what are your top priorities for your first 100 days in office?

My first 100 days in office will be focused on increasing public safety by beginning the process of relocating a police precinct to the heart of downtown. I also plan to conduct a full analysis of all city programs

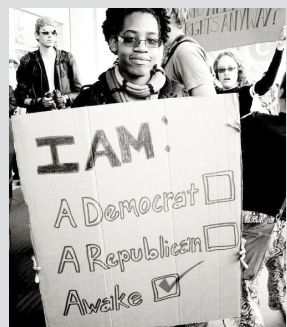


to ensure my administration sets appropriate benchmarks for the next 4 years.

3) What is your understanding of the racial diversity of the City of Spokane's workforce? Do you feel that this is an issue that needs to be addressed? Why, why not, and if needed, how would you address it?

In 2018 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly 19.7% of Spokane's population is non-white. We must ensure that an equal percentage are happily employed.

Continued on Page 11



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Ballots Mailed 10/16 - 18 * Ballots Due by November 5

Spokane Registration Deadline: Oct. 28 (In-Person Only Deadline: Nov. 5)

Spokane County Elections Office, 1033 W. Gardner Ave, Spokane, WA 99260
(509) 477-2320 www.spokanecounty.org/178/current-election

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

A Black Lens Guide
on How to Read the
Candidate Answers
*(No, I'm Still Not
Going to Endorse)*



For those of you who are new to the Black Lens or for those who have forgotten since last year, the October issue of the paper is my election issue. Since the first year I began publishing (2015), I have taken the opportunity once a year to focus attention on our local political process and on the candidates who are running for office.

Just like in that very first election issue, most candidates showed respect for this publication and for our community by responding to the questions that were asked of them. This year, I asked questions of our Spokane candidates for Mayor, City Council and School Board, and all but one candidate answered the questions that I posed about their professional experience, their history of working with the Black community, and their thoughts on the issues facing African Americans in Spokane, amongst other questions. I am very grateful that they took the time to participate.

Every year, and this year is no different, I am asked if the Black Lens is going to endorse candidates. The answer is still no, but I understand the why behind the question. For many in the Black community (and in many other communities) our political process in many ways seems like a dysfunctional waste of time. And the candidates, some who appear to be willing participants in that dysfunction, seem to simply be two sides of the same coin, showing up when they need our support and disappearing when they don't.

Unfortunately, too often, my experience has proven this to be true. But what is also true is that decisions are made for us, and about us and our community, on a daily basis that have a profound impact on our lives, often negatively, and those decisions are made for the most part by people that we do not know, and more importantly who do not know anything about us.

I don't know about you, but I have grown weary of trying to teach our political representatives about the historical legacy and continued impact of racism, and about the many ways that both are built into the very structure of this country, and yes into the structure of this city as well. It's 2019 for pete's sake, not 1960, and there are just some things that a person should already know if they are going to run for political office.

So, why don't I endorse? Why don't I just tell you who to vote for? Why don't I just lay it out for you as plain as day which candidates are full of sh*t and which ones might not be all the way there, but are at least making a genuine effort?

I don't endorse because I don't believe that you need me to. Trust me, it's not that hard to tell who is who.

I have an expectation that we, given our history in this country, have the ability to sift through

the political sound bites and social media posturing to see who is actually behind all of the talk. I have the belief that our history has made us wise beyond our years and we know exactly who we can and cannot trust. And I also think that for too long we have been told what to do and how to do it, and I believe that it is long past time for us to stop being willing participants in that antiquated process.

Finally, I don't endorse because what Sandy thinks is not important. I want Black Lens readers to READ!!! Read the questions and the answers and make up your own damn mind. If you can't tell which candidates would be good for our community and for people of color in general by looking at how they responded to these questions, then I'm not sure what else there is for me to say. And for the record, I believe that if we as a community are not willing to put in the effort to vote, then we deserve who we get!

But-- for those of you who might need a little help to get started with taking back your voting self-determination, I've compiled a few questions for you to reflect on as you read the candidate answers. Just food for thought.

- 1) Did the candidate seem to just be realizing that there were Black people in Spokane when they started answering the Black Lens questions?
- 2) Did you sense a longing from the candidate for the good ole days in Spokane, you know back when the Spokane Club only had Black employees but not members?
- 3) Does the candidate appear to believe that having a Black friend or Black relative or Black employee or Black customer or Black neighbor, or sitting next to a Black person in the office cafeteria, or going to Unity in the Community is the same thing as working with Spokane's Black community?
- 4) Did the candidate give any indication at all that they have an awareness about Spokane's history of racial exclusion or the racial disparities that currently exist in Spokane (in the criminal justice system, in housing, employment, health care, education, and everywhere else you look it seems) and why the disparities exist, or do they just think it's because Black people need to work harder and be better parents?
- 5) Does the candidate have the same level of professional experience that a Black person would be required to have if they were to be considered for the same office?

I've done my job. Now, it's up to you!

#Voting While Black

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

The Black Lens is a community newspaper based in Spokane, WA. The paper is published on the first of each month, and it is focused on the news, events, issues, people and information important to Spokane's African American Community and beyond.

Contact Information:

Square Peg Multimedia, 1312 N. Monroe St, #148, Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 795-1964, sandy@blacklensnews.com

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Nikki Lockwood

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Spokane, Director Position 1



Dedicated Advocate for All Students

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CREME OF NATURE

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Carol's Daughter

Dark and Lovely



On day one,
if elected Mayor, would
create the long-overdue
Office of Equality and Civil Rights!

Ben
Stuckart
SPOKANE MAYOR 2019

Endorsed by these Community Leaders:
Reverend Happy Watkins
Freda Gandy (Director, MLK Center)
Kurtis Robinson (President, Spokane Chapter NAACP)
Frances Adewale (Assistant Public Defender, City of Spokane)
Toni Lodge, Executive Director NATIVE Project
and hundreds more...

Learn more and get involved at benstuckart.com

Paid for by People to Elect Ben Stuckart

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Demanding Justice for All People in Spokane:

- Increasing civilian oversight of our police and decreasing racial bias.
- Tackling the root causes of crime in our community by investing in people.
- Prioritize treatment and community accountability over a new jail.

I work for you.



"Councilmember Beggs brims with optimism about Spokane, and has done so much to infuse that hope into many of our policies and initiatives. I strongly believe in his values, and trust his judgment in leading our City Council."
- FRANCIS ADEWALE

Elect
Beggs

Spokane Council President

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Atlanta Mayor Raises \$50 Million to Provide Homes for the Homeless

(Source: <https://www.blacknews.com/news>)

Atlanta, GA — Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms says that her city has successfully raised the \$50 million funding goal initiated almost 2 years ago to provide 550 homes for its homeless residents.

Atlanta has over 3,000 homeless residents and it was found that one of the biggest challenges has been to connect them to the available services to them. To solve the problem, the city decided to integrate the rapid rehousing model which will quickly provide a temporary home to its homeless residents they could focus on rebuilding and addressing the factors that actually led to their homelessness and avoid becoming homeless again.

“It is a miss-perception that many people have: that homelessness is represented entirely by the people they see on the streets,” said Jack Hardin, Co-Chair of the Atlanta Regional Commission on Homelessness. “A far larger proportion of people experiencing homelessness have incomes and function at very high levels, but live on the margins of the economics of our society and any hardship can derail.”

About \$25 million reportedly came from private organizations, such as Ameris Bank which



was the last to contribute \$114,000 before the city reached the goal. The other half came from the Homeless Opportunity Bond sale that began under former Mayor Kasim Reed. The city partnered with the United Way of Greater Atlanta to raise the funds.

The city announced its plan in 2017 after the city’s largest homeless shelter that housed up to 500 people a night had to be shut down due to health and safety concerns.

Bottoms shared that she is excited to finally reach the goal which was started when she was still a member of the city council. She said, “This is one of the things I had the fortune of walking into when I was mayor.”

Jada Richardson

Finalist for Outstanding Young Philanthropist Award

The Spokane United Way Emerging Leaders Society (ELS) will be hosting the sixth annual Spokane Philanthropy Awards Ceremony later this month. The Spokane Philanthropy Awards are an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the individuals and organizations in the Spokane community that are doing good for others.

Jada Richardson is a finalist in the Outstanding Young Philanthropist Award category. The individuals selected for this category have demonstrated outstanding community commitment through advocacy, leadership role(s), mobilizing efforts towards a cause and supporting philanthropic contributions in Spokane.

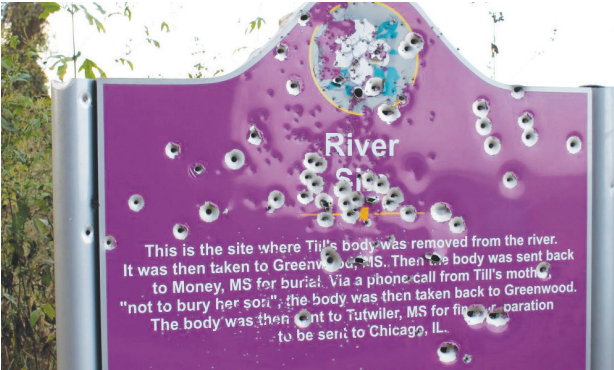
Jada is a passionate advocate for social justice and reform in the Spokane community. Logging over 2,000 hours at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach at ECCC alone, Richardson invests her time and talents into numerous community programs for youth mentorship, outreach, and advocacy, including the Youth Police Initiative, Chase Youth Commission, and Spokane Public Schools Diversity Advisory Council. Her long-term goals include professional service to the community as a psychologist in the field of criminal justice reform.



The 2019 Award Categories include both company based and individual based awards. This year’s ceremony be held on October 22nd at the Davenport Grand. Doors open at 11:30 and the program begins at noon. Tickets are \$50.

The Emerging Leaders Society is a network of philanthropic young professionals supporting Spokane County United Way’s Vision through networking, volunteering, and professional development. The mission is to create a lasting impact in Spokane County by engaging philanthropic young leaders. For information visit: <https://www.unitedwayspokane.org/emergingleaderssociety>.

Emmett Till’s Memorial Sign Shot Up Again 35 Days After Being Replaced



(Source: by Chequelle Brown, DI, <https://blacknewsalerts.com>)

Thirty-five days after being replaced due to vandalism, the memorial sign of Emmett Till has been filled with bullet holes again. The Emmett Till memorial was put up by the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, and is located outside of Glendale, Mississippi. According to TIME Magazine, this is the third time that the sign has been vandalized.

The memorial was placed in honor of 14-year-old Till who was lynched, beaten and tortured by two white men, and then thrown in the Tallahatchie river. He was accused by a white woman, Carolyn Bryant, of whistling at her. The men where acquitted of his murder, and she recanted her story decades later after Till’s death.

It was not until 2007, fifty-two years after Till’s death that he received his first memorial sign. The sign only lasted one year, before it was stolen and never returned, the New York Times reports.

Several signs have been replaced since the first one was stolen. Another one was also shot, and the newest sign was replaced in June. No one has ever been caught for vandalizing the signs, but Mr. Weems says, “My sense is that it only takes one person to do this.”

Patrick Weems, a founder of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center says there are talks of a new sign being designed and made out of steel. The Emmett Till Foundation continues its work to preserve Till’s legacy.

Sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos Inducted Into The U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame



(Source: Dara Sharif, <https://www.theroot.com>; Photo Credit: Photo: Kevin Winter/Getty & Public Domain)

A little more than 51 years after the Olympics organization expelled Tommie Smith and John Carlos from the summer Olympic games, they will be inducting both Smith and Carlos into the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Hall of Fame, NBC Sports reports.

The summer games took place just months after Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated. The pair of sprinters were expelled for their protest against racial oppression during the Summer Games in Mexico City on Oct. 16, 1968.

Smith broke the world record in the 200-meter race, winning gold, and Carlos took third place in the race, winning the bronze medal. The pair stood, fist raised, on the medal stand as the National Anthem played.

Outrage at their actions led Olympics officials to expel Smith and Carlos the next day.

According to the Washington Post, “Smith and Carlos were responsible for one of the most recognizable moments in Olympic history, raising their fists in protest on the medals podium at the 1968 Summer Olympics. They had both previously been bestowed with a long list of honors, including induction into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame.

The Post explained, “The USOPC initially decided against a suspension, intending to issue a warning to the rest of the American athletes competing in Mexico.” But the International Olympic Committee demanded a stronger response, fearing “that racial dissension might spread to other delegations if USOC refused to suspend Smith and Carlos,” according to the Post.

For years, according to the Washington Post, “Smith and Carlos felt ostracized from the Olympic community, but have increasingly been heralded as both iconic activists and accomplished athletes. In 2016, the two were invited to visit the White House and President Barack Obama, along with that year’s U.S. Summer Olympics team.”

The sprinters will be formally honored at a ceremony on Nov. 1 in Colorado Springs.



BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Bahamas Facing Long Road to Recovery but Cleaving to Hope Amidst Devastation

By Barrington M. Salmon

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Chris Laville remembers looking out of the window of his apartment, thinking it might not turn out too bad.

“It was early in the morning. It had rained and there was a light breeze,” Laville recalled in an interview with the Trice Edney News Wire. “I woke saying we could ride this out not knowing what a Category 5 storm was.”

Over the next day and a half, Laville, his wife and nine co-workers learned much more about Dorian than he ever wants to again. Elbow Key, where they lived, bore the brunt of Hurricane Dorian, the strongest storm ever to hit the Caribbean archipelago of 700 islands.

Laville, the 40-year-old head chef of the Sea Spray Resort, now says if he ever again hears a hurricane’s coming, he’ll be on the first flight out. Dorian made landfall and then sat for almost two days, lashing the islands with 185 mile an hour winds and gusts of up to 220 miles an hour.

He said he’s never been more afraid in his life and has been left deeply traumatized.

“... I met everybody running as the storm took off the roof,” he said. “I grabbed some things as the roof flew off my room. I looked and saw the veranda was gone, the stairs were gone and the railing took off. The only thing I could do was jump.”

Laville said he caught his wife Indira who jumped out of the building and waited for the rest of the group to do the same. As they sought shelter, they were buffeted by fierce winds and driving rain and sand.

Elsewhere on Abaco and Grand Bahama islands, Dorian – which traveled at a glacial pace of one mile per hour – tore through buildings, shredded objects in its path, tossed boats and other marine vessels onto land, obliterated homes and businesses and killed residents.

Laville said 40 units on the resort are gone and he lost a co-worker and a friend who was a ferry boat pilot. Elsewhere, Bahamians are trying to comprehend obliterated communities, washed out roads and neighborhoods sitting under water.

Dr. Paul Hunt, a pediatrician and allergy specialist, who has lived in the Bahamas since 1990, said he’s heartbroken. He’s fortunate, he said, because he and his family were in Nassau when the storm hit and his home is not damaged. His thoughts, he said, are on those who’re coping with loss and struggling to come to terms with the shocking devastation. “I’m just numb. The gut-wrenching thing is my patients. I have a patient who I looked after since he was two and I just heard that a storm surge swept away him and two of his children,” said Dr. Hunt, a husband and father of three.



“He’s lost and presumed dead. Save for the surge, this wouldn’t have been a big thing. The surge doesn’t happen over time, it can occur in two or three minutes.”

Dr. Hunt said on Friday morning, he spoke to a niece who works at CNN who told him the government just sent 200 body bags to Abaco.

Official reports indicate that 43 people have been confirmed dead but that number is expected to rise astronomically as rescue teams finally reach islands and communities that have been cut off by flood waters. At least 70,000 are homeless, according to reports.

The hurricane dropped 30 inches of rain and triggered a storm surge as high as 23 feet, leaving more than 13,000 homes damaged or destroyed, the Red Cross and government officials said. A video, which was shared widely, taken by a member of Parliament inside his home, shows dark water lapping against a second-story window 15-20 feet off the ground.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said in a press conference that although the storm targeted only a small section of the Bahamas, it still inflicted “generational devastation.”

According CNN, Joy Jibrilu, director-general of the Bahamas Tourism and Aviation ministry, estimates that “... hundreds, up to thousands, of people are still missing.” Bahamas’ Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands told Guardian Radio 96.9 FM, that body bags, additional morticians and refrigerated coolers to store bodies are being transported to Abaco and other affected areas. Four morticians in Abaco are embalming remains because officials have run out of coolers, he added.

“The public needs to prepare for unimaginable information about the death toll and the hu-

man suffering,” Sands said. “Make no bones about it, the numbers will be far higher. It is going to be significantly higher than that. And it’s just a matter of retrieving those bodies, making sure we understand how they died. It seems like we are splitting hairs, but not everyone who died, died in the storm.”

Back at Elbow Key, Chris Laville said the group took refuge in a laundry room after breaking a window to get in. While gaining entrance, he gashed his hand but ignored it as everyone tumbled inside. It wasn’t long before the floor above them began to fall into the storeroom so they all set off to find another safe space.

“I ran to the boss’s house and saw a boat parked in the room where he was,” Laville said.

His boss joined the group which went to another house. “We bent down low and reached the house, by the grace of God,” said Laville. “Amazingly, the door opened with a gentle kick. As soon as we got in, the wind slammed the door behind us.”

Laville said this particular house was on stilts.

“Actually the building moved four or five inches,” he said, referring to the wind’s power. “When the eye passed over, I went to look for food and snacks because we ran out of food and water. We slept with our clothes and shoes on because we were afraid that something else might happen while we slept.”

Although he didn’t think of the wound to his hand, or his having stepped on a nail, Laville said his wife was concerned enough to encourage him to go to the Hometown Fire Station. Surprisingly he said, he received 12 stitches and was put on an emergency flight to Nassau to receive additional medical care.

“It was a minor cut, but they opened it up and stitched the tendons,” he said. “My wife couldn’t come with me. She just said, ‘Honey, just go. I’m still worried about her because she’s there with people but still by herself. She was at the ferry station ‘til 4:45 p.m. and didn’t get on. I’m not feeling good, it’s not a good feeling at all.’”

After Dorian’s arrival, Kevin Seymour said, he spent the worst 48 hours of his life. “My second daughter Keayshawn lives in Abaco. We lost track of her for two days. They got flooded out and had to find refuge somewhere else,” said, Seymour, director of health, safety and the environment for the Grand Bahama Power Company. “Not knowing – that was painful. It was the worst two days of my life. I last spoke

to her on Sunday and told her she needed to go to Marsh Harbor which is higher ground. Good thing she didn’t go.”

As he and his family rode out the storm with no electricity but with adequate food and water, Seymour said the hurricane sounded like airplane engines revving on the tarmac. While the sound didn’t bother him, he said it really bothered his wife.

Corinne Laville, Chris’ aunt, said she’s most concerned about the trauma people have experienced and how that will affect them going forward. This hurricane offers yet another opportunity for the government and Bahamians to self-correct, she said.

“I swear, if we don’t change our thinking ... this is an opportunity to really do this right,” said Laville. “In Freeport people are taking care of one another. But in Abaco, Haitians have replaced White Abaconians as cheap labor while they stay on their yachts. We have to look at Haitian-Bahamian situation.”

Laville said a few thousand Haitians live in two shanty towns, one called the Mudd, where the structures aren’t built to code and likely were not able to withstand the powerful hurricane.

“We need to set standards on the islands,” she said. “And everything is too Nassau-centricity. That has to stop.”

She said humor has been one way for Bahamians to cope. For example, people said Dorian couldn’t leave the Bahamas because it was too dark, referring to the constant electrical blackouts caused by load-sharing.

“And a Bajan newscaster said on air that the Bahamas is a vacation destination and Dorian came for vacation,” Laville said with a hearty chuckle.

Dr. Hunt said the Bahamas will rebuild. “Our beloved island of Grand Bahama took a pounding and there is a lot of hurting,” he wrote on Facebook. “My heart goes out to the families of those with loved ones who have lost their lives, several of who were well known to me. The destruction in Abaco was catastrophic and gut wrenching...I will be returning to Freeport shortly to do my part in trying to alleviate some of the suffering and help in the rebuilding of our Island. We in Grand Bahama have faced and conquered many obstacles that have been placed in our path. We will not be undone by Hurricane Dorian and we all will emerge from this collective experience stronger, wiser and more united.”



YOU SHOULD KNOW

(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

ART AND HISTORY *by Bertoni Jones Bey*

Apartheid Biological Terror

On October 4th, 1999 the trial of **Dr. Wouton Basson** began in Praetoria, South Africa. Dr. Basson, known as **“Dr. Death”**, was a Dutch cardiologist in charge of Apartheid South Africa’s covert Chemical and Biological Warfare Programme (CBWP).

He conducted chemical and biological experiments on innocent and unknowing Native Africans and anti-apartheid members in some of the poorest townships in South Africa and neighboring Namibia under the name “Project Coast”.

Thought to be in the thousands, he was accused of murdering 229 Native Africans under his projects but charged in court with the deaths of 67, along with that of other crimes too long to list. His projects included he and his staff of scientists developing cholera cultures, poisoning foods, candies, and clothing soaked in biochemical agents then handing them out as donations in poor African townships.

One of his more heinous programs took place in neighboring Namibia. Under oath one of his lieutenants spoke of experimenting with two-hundred Namibian prisoners put into airplanes, injecting them with muscle relaxants that collapsed their lungs, then dumping their bodies as they flew over the Atlantic Ocean.

His laboratory dream was creating a “pigmentation weapon” that would only kill melanated people. Dr. Basson’s work went beyond the African Continent. The deadly 2001 anthrax attacks in Frederick, Maryland were traced back to his labs. Worse yet, from 1981-1993 The United States

provided material assistance for Dr. Basson’s biochemical projects providing him intelligence, consultations, and financing some of his project work and travels to U.S. conferences.

As Dr. Basson admitted himself regarding his 1981 conference in San Antonio... “I must confirm that the structure of the project (Chemical and Biological Warfare) was based on the U.S. system. That’s where we learnt the most.” He received American support during the height of what was supposed to be apartheid sanctions and international embargoes against South Africa.

He was appreciative for friendships of U.S. scientists like the late gynecologist and biochemist Dr. Larry Ford – a virulent racist, and according to friends a “devout Mormon” who taught South African scientists how to use botulinum toxin as a weapon against innocent Africans in everyday items such as tea bags and lace doilies. On March 2, 2000, Dr. Ford committed suicide as law enforcement obtained a warrant to search his home in Irvine, California. They found a long list of biological toxins, 28 cases of firearms, and C-4 explosives.

Back in South Africa, Dr. Basson faced his accusers – more than 153 witnesses including his entire CBWP staff who all testified that Dr. Basson was the mastermind behind “Project Coast” and its genocide of native peoples.

On April 22, 2002, after a 30-month trial, Apartheid era Judge Willie Hartsenbergh dismissed all charges against Dr. Basson, gave him full amnesty, and freed him the



following day. For the past seventeen years no court has enforced any action against “Dr. Death” that has amounted to any form of fine, punishment, or culpability. Today Dr. Basson lives in comfort in the suburbs of South Africa and still possesses his license to practice medicine.

Sources: *Medical Apartheid* – Harriet Washington (pgs.370-381); trialinternational.org/latest-post/wouter-basson; nytimes.com/2002/11/03/us/california-doc-tor-s-suicide-leaves-many-troubling-mysteries-unsolved.html

DOROTHY LEE BOLDEN

Founder of the National Domestic Worker’s Union of America (NDWUA)



Reprinted from *Black Past* (blackpast.org)

By Dominique McIndoe

In 1968 Dorothy Bolden transformed domestic workers’ rights by founding the National Domestic Worker’s Union of America (NDWUA). Employed as a domestic for more than 40 years, Bolden created a union to promote their interests. The NDWUA helped domestic workers gain better wages, better conditions, and respect for their profession, and in doing so, became the longest surviving organization of domestic workers in the United States.

Dorothy Bolden was born on October 13, 1924 to Georgia Mae Patterson, a housekeeper, and Raymond Bolden, a chauffeur, in Atlanta, Georgia. She got her first glimpse of domestic work at the age of nine, washing dirty diapers for her mother’s employer at \$1.25 a week.

Bolden’s early experiences working as a maid during the late 1940s in Atlanta initially inspired her civil rights activism. In one incident, her white female employer demanded that she stay and wash dishes even though her work hours were over. Bolden refused. She was arrested shortly after and was taken to county jail for psychiatric evaluation because she was seen as “crazy” for disobeying orders from a white person. She was never institutionalized, but this event inspired her to eventually create an organization to protect maids. Before founding the NDWUA in 1968, however,

Bolden in 1964 organized a boycott of Atlanta schools to protest the school board’s reluctance to improve the quality of education for African American students. In the mid-1960s, Bolden worked with Dr. Martin Luther King and other civil rights leader to confront police brutality, especially in her Atlanta neighborhood, Vine City.

The impetus for the NDWUA came from Bolden’s bus rides around Atlanta. She used public transportation to connect with other domestic workers, listening to their stories of low wages, long hours, long commutes, and unfavorable work conditions. Realizing their common experiences, Bolden began to mobilize these workers. In the summer of 1968, hundreds of women domestic workers gathered in Atlanta to form the NDWUA with Bolden as its first president in September of that year.

The NDWUA quickly enrolled thousands of domestic workers across ten cities in the United States. Through most of the 1960s, the national minimum wage was \$1.25 an hour with black maids earning an average of \$3.50 to \$5.00 a day for twelve-to-fourteen hour shifts. The NDWUA demanded higher wages, and within two years of its founding, Atlanta maids earned an average of \$13.50 to \$15.00 a day. The NDWUA also made sure domestic workers benefited from Social Security and workers’ compensation.

As working conditions improved, Bolden taught maids how to negotiate with their employers or to find alternate employment if negotiations were

unsuccessful. Thousands of women around the country utilized the NDWUA’s job placement programs and learned of their workplace rights. Bolden also understood the power of the ballot and made registration and voting a requirement for the members of the NDWUA.

Bolden became an influential political leader in the 1970s. She was appointed to President Richard Nixon’s advisory committee on social services and welfare. She later consulted with Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter on workers’ rights. Bolden’s time and advocacy became divided between Atlanta’s community efforts and national politics as conditions for domestic workers across the country continued to improve year by year. However, she also had to use her own money to carry out NDWUA programs during the 1980s because federal funding did not suffice. The organization ceased operations in 1996, but Bolden continued to work in the social services sector until her passing in Atlanta on July 14, 2005, at the age of 80.

Sources: Daniel E. Slotnik, “Overlooked No More: Dorothy Bolden, Who Started a Movement for Domestic Workers,” *New York Times*, February 20, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/20/obituaries/dorothy-bolden-overlooked.html>; *Inventory of the Dorothy Lee Bolden Thompson Collection*, aar196-005, from <http://aafa.galileo.usg.edu/aafa/view?docId=ead/aar196-005-ead.xml>; Traci Drummond, “Dorothy Bolden gave voice to Atlanta’s ‘Help’” *Georgia State University Library Blog*, (2011), <https://blog.library.gsu.edu/2011/09/07/dorothy-bolden-gives-voice-to-atlanta%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%99Help%E2%80%99D/>.

Outside developers are spending record amounts to elect Woodward for Mayor

(pdc.wa.gov)

Nadine Woodward has already suggested spending our tax dollars on development outside the city limits if she becomes Mayor.

She will bring Seattle’s sprawl and traffic to Spokane at OUR expense.

Now we know whose Solutions she will be pushing if elected.

We can’t afford a mayor who will put developers first and ignore us. We can’t afford Nadine Woodward.

Don’t let developers buy off OUR Mayor.

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW August 8, 2019
Realtors’ investment in Spokane elections pays dividends
“She’s also expressed an openness to partnering in development outside the city limits.”

INLANDER April 2, 2019
But when asked to identify any specific “Spokane Solutions” she was proposing, Woodward repeatedly declined to name anything. “I have no solutions to propose right now,” Woodward said, “because they’re not mine...I’m not coming to the table with Spokane Solutions.”

**Vote Ben Stuckart for Spokane Mayor—
a champion for us, not developers!**

Paid for by Citizens for Liberty and Labor, PO Box 18845, Spokane, WA, 99228 (Top 5 Contributors: Spokane Firefighters Union PAC, WA Education Association, WA for All PAC, SEIU Union WA State Council PAC, UFCW Local 1439)

“...Michael Cathcart, one of the strongest candidates for this or any local office this year.”
- The Spokesman-Review Editorial, 7/21/19

Michael
CATHCART
for Spokane City Council



- ✓ Community Safety
- ✓ Prioritizing Our Streets
- ✓ Affordable Housing
- ✓ Better Paying Jobs
- ✓ Government Transparency

- EXPERIENCE**
- Housing and economic growth advocate
 - Former Legislative Aide, Washington State Senate
 - B.A. from Montana State University
 - Former Neighborhood Council Chair
 - Member, Spokane In-Fill Housing Steering Committee, 2016
 - Member, Quality and Affordable Housing Taskforce, 2016
 - Member, City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan Update – Land Use, Housing, and Transportation workgroups, 2013-14



**Solutions, not excuses.
It’s time to fight for
Northeast Spokane.**

NAACP UPDATE:

SPOKANE
NAACP
1919-2019 CENTENNIAL

<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>



By Kurtis Robinson
President, Spokane NAACP Branch #1137

Hello Spokane family,
Well we did it, we made it! Our collaborative AOW (Alaska Oregon Washington), Michael P Anderson Awards and 100 Years celebration conference was a rousing success. We had an outstanding turnout with major table contributions from many donors such as Empire Health Foundation, United Way, Boeing, The Carl Maxey Center and the Law Office of DC Cronin, just to name a few.

We had many elected officials in the room and had some wonderful videos sent in by

Representatives who couldn't make it in person but emphatically showed there support. Danny Glover, Nina Turner and Sandy Williams were in Stellar form as speakers and the Law Office of DC Cronin presented a very honoring and extensive history of our local NAACP chapter and then partnered with the Maxey Law Office to honor our local icon Carl Maxey.

We appreciate all of the effort by our NAACP State Area Conference and the contributions from all of our speakers and casino staff. We especially want to acknowledge that this space has been one we've been striving to have for a long time..... an arena where our Spokane Democrats and Spokane Republicans are breaking bread together in common causes, seeking a unified mission and being in celebration of all our peoples.

I wholeheartedly believe that the giants whose shoulders we all stand upon.,who paved the way for us to be a here today in this age (regardless of the challenges we still face) would be very proud.

Now we must move into the next series of challenges for our local community, with elections, immigration, incarceration, education, police engagement and accountability at the forefront.

By the time of this article there will have been some candidate forums (more to come in October) in which we cannot overstate the importance of your voice and your vote.

Also the recent event held on September 18th at West Central Community Center with the Criminal Justice Training Commission for Law Enforcement across Washington State had what was said to be one of the most productive and healthiest engagements they have experienced so far in working toward I-940 implementation.

As we move into this next Spokane NAACP century of advocacy and engagement we need to continue to lift each other up. We must continue to push into the uncomfortable places and spaces. We have to make our voices heard, strengthen our collaborations and continue to fight towards the community and country we all need to see.

"How is it that no one ever asks why whites are so under-represented in our prison population?" ~Carl Maxey 1975

"Accountability without Love is finger pointing, punitive and condemning. Love without accountability is dysfunctional enablement." ~Kurtis Robinson 2019

It has been an continues to be my honor,
Kurtis Robinson,
President Spokane NAACP #1137



Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears

Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way!



In Christian scripture, Jesus says "...[T]he rain falls on the just and the unjust ... the sun shines on the righteous and the unrighteous, alike." In 2019 he might say, melting glaciers, warming oceans, the devastating consequences of accelerated sea level rise, extreme droughts and heat waves, more intense hurricanes and wild fires, diminished fresh water supplies, failing crops, insect outbreaks, and increased infectious diseases will plague people of all ethnicities, colors, nationalities and economic means, everywhere on the planet, alike. Because Jesus is who he is, he would add, especially those already living on the economic margins.

Yes, indeed the sun shines and the rain falls on the just and the unjust; the righteous and the unrighteous. But it is the people of the world most affected by unjust polices and unrighteous political leadership who will drown, burn, and starve first. One reason is because low-income people and communities-of-color around the world are less likely to have the resources and capacity to prepare for and recover from extreme climate events. We have only to look at Puerto Rico and the Bahamas to see the stark reality of this.

Something momentous happened on September 20th, 2019. An estimated four million people, mostly young, in thousands of cities, in 150 countries around the world, took to the streets to demand government action on climate change. These were young people of every race, ethnicity, and of multiple nationalities. They are Straight and Queer, privileged and under-privileged. They are fearful, hopeful, and mad as hell –

and they aren't going to take it anymore! They aren't going to take collective adult paralysis and indifference on the climate crisis, and they're definitely not going to take government sanctioned sabotage of environmental protection programs and policies. They're fighting for their lives, and the rest of us can fight with them, follow them, or get out of the way! The revolution is here, and whether it's climate change or gun control, the children are bringing it, fully televised!

A sixteen-year old Swedish teen named Greta Thunberg led the unprecedented world-wide Climate Strike. Her journey to that moment is extraordinary. In August 2018, she began skipping school every Friday to raise awareness about climate change by sitting outside the Swedish parliament, with a handwritten sign reading "School strike for climate." She did it every Friday for weeks. At first, she sat on the ground week after week alone. Gradually, other students joined her. Merely a year later, millions joined her! Greta deserves all honor and credit for the cohesive movement she has inspired and brought together, but/and Greta's laudable accomplishments have unconsciously reinforced a stereotype.

The climate change movement is largely seen as being led by white people in general and white environmental groups in particular. That's reinforced by the media, but it's just not so. Indigenous people on every continent were the original stewards of the environment. They have been telling us for centuries that the earth is sacred, and warning us that it is also fragile and must be respected. History shows us that any successful social movement rises up from the ground,

and the ground is young, multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-national. Look at the video and pictures from last month's Climate Strikes and you'll see a sea of faces-of-color.

African-American environmental interest and activism runs far wider and deeper than the media portrays. Dr. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, a community activist and assistant professor of environmental and health sciences for the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance says, "Rarely do we see or hear Black voices as part of national conversations about policy solutions, the green economy or clean energy. We're relegated to providing a comment on environmental justice issues like the water crisis in Flint; or we're the faces in the photos when candidates need to show that they're inclusive when talking about climate solutions."

Heather McTeer Toney, national field director of Moms Clean Air Force, says despite stereotypes of a lack of interest in environmental issues among African-Americans, Black women, and particularly Southern Black women, are no strangers to environmental activism. "Many of us live in communities with polluted air and water, work in industries from housekeeping to hairdressing where we are surrounded by toxic chemicals and have limited food options that are often impacted by pesticides. Environmentalism, in other words, is a Black issue."

I'm still a big fan of the "What would Jesus do?" question. I bring it to bear on many decisions in my life. Not because I'm religiously pious, but because I'm a follower of The Way of Jesus, and I be-

lieve the principles he taught are universally sound and moral.

Jesus often used the bounty of creation to illustrate his teachings. His parables are rich in nature imagery. Jesus used seeds, weeds, wheat, birds, fish, trees, mountains, and even stones to sing out the glory of God. Jesus constantly brought attention to the plight of poor, dispossessed and oppressed people.

So, what would Jesus do about the climate crisis? I think Jesus would be quick to remind us that human beings are not separate from the rest of creation. He would remind us that we are an integral, not dominant part of the beautiful and delicate balance of life on our Goddess Mother, Earth.

I think Jesus would call out the demons, and expose politicians and religious leaders for the self-serving hypocrites they are in their denial of global warming and environmental crisis. I believe Jesus would be marching in the streets with millions of young people as they demand action on climate change from the people who are supposed to be governing wisely.

I believe Jesus would say -- Walk beside them, follow them, or get out of the way, because the Children are charging through to save themselves and their futures from adult ineffectiveness, inaction, and indifference. In essence, they are saving us from ourselves.

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Rev. Beverly Spears is an ordained American Baptist minister, teacher and preacher of Evolutionary Christianity.

Approve I-1000 to Lift Up Black Communities and People of Color

Initiative 1000 was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor into law after a 2018 signature campaign resulted in nearly 400,000 Washington state voters petitioning the legislature for the restoration of affirmative action rights. An opposition campaign has filed a referendum on the legislature’s action, so now the issue will be in front of voters on the ballot under the heading of “Referendum 88” this year.

Initiative 1000 would begin to unwind the most harmful impacts of Tim Eyman’s Initiative 200. Originally passed into law in 1998, this initiative has hurt Black and Brown people for over twenty years, by outlawing

the use of affirmative action to help determine outcomes in public contracting, employment, and university admissions.

We can change that this November. Initiative 1000 will restore fairness for Black people and communities of color, women, veterans, and their small businesses in government contracting and employment. This initiative will allow Washington state’s laws to be consistent with that of 42 other US states that have made a public commitment to creating a level playing field for communities that have been denied opportunity and access for too long.

I-1000 also extends protections to veterans who often experience significant challenges when re-entering civilian life. Gaps in work history or education, disabilities, or other challenges can make it difficult for vets to build a business, access public employment opportunities, or go back to school. As the proud mother of a Marine Corps veteran, the challenges faced by Americans who served in our armed forces are personal for me. Initiative 1000 would allow for recruitment and help support veterans and other service members: approving I-1000 on the November ballot would allow veterans and their families to participate equally in the economy and help build stability following their return from combat or deployment.

Women in the workforce would greatly benefit from the Approval of I-1000 as well. We still lack gender pay equity in Washington state, with women earning only 78 cents on the dollar a man makes, while Black and Brown women make significantly less. As a Black woman, I know firsthand how wage discrimination on the job harms our families, our communities, and our economy. Approving I-1000 will ensure that more women are re-



cruited to fill family-wage public employment opportunities, and woman-owned businesses will have access to more public contracts.

Since banning affirmative action in 1998, up to one billion dollars have been lost in jobs and wages in our state due to lost employment opportunities as a result of discrimination. We fight for working people in Washington every day; we need to support I-1000 so that everyone in our state has access to better wages and jobs.

Look out for Initiative 1000 this November on the election ballot, appearing under “Referendum 88” – let’s say YES to opportunity and fairness for us all.

April Sims is the Secretary Treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. She is the first Black elected Executive-Officer, which represents nearly 650,000 Union Members. April is the mother of a 5-year veteran of the US Marine Corps, and the first woman of color elected Executive-Officer.

Content provided by WA Fairness Coalition



Vote to restore fairness and opportunity!

Level the playing field for veterans, small business owners, and communities of color across our state.

Approve I-1000 / R88!

Paid for by WA Fairness Coalition | 119 1st Ave S Ste 320, Seattle, WA, 98104
Top 5 contributors: Perkins Coie, Microsoft, WA State Labor Council
AFL-CIO, SEIU Initiative Fund, Pemco Mutual Insurance Company

Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

Valuation.

If I had to name one thing that brings me great joy it is thrifting. I love antique stores, thrift stores, estate sales and everything in between. Whenever I travel, I try to make time to visit at least one thrift store in that city. I've learned that there are certain goods you can find based on the state and region you are in. If you want beautiful antique furniture, you probably want to thrift in the South as many of the collectible furniture manufacturers were often located in the Southern States. If you are looking for eclectic household goods Seattle, Chicago and New York have the best mixture of artistic, unique, one of a kind pieces I have ever seen. If you want vintage clothing the Midwest is where you will find the best inventory and lowest prices.

A few weeks ago, I leisurely walked into Pine Street a Spokane thrift/consignment store. Not in search of anything in particular. In fact, I wasn't searching for anything at all. I've learned that my best thrifting is done when there is no agenda. I am fascinated by the number of treasures hidden within stores filled to the brim with things that at some point were of great value to someone else. I also find myself really caught up in the how items are priced.

In speaking with the owner of the Pine Street Vintage Market, I lamented that the pricing in the store was the most random I had ever seen. There were highly desirable collectible items that were priced for literally pennies on the dollar, as well as choochkies that were seemingly of little value priced very high.

All of the items in the store were priced by the purveyors themselves not by store management. Although I understood that, it still did not answer my question around miss-priced value. Then it hit me, each item in the store is essentially priced based on its value to the purveyor.

Here is an example, take a purveyor who had recently lost a grandmother to a terminal illness and has been tasked with liquidating Grandma's belongings. The first thing that purveyor will do is put aside the sentimental pieces. As the sorting continues, each item is associated with a memory or an emotional value. The items that meant more to Grandma will likely be priced higher because they figuratively are of "more value" to the seller. Although that value may not translate to the buyer. Note that this theory may not apply to individuals who resell items for a living as their pricing may have more to do with market value and industry standards.

The point is this. The value of an item does not change with pricing. Value is in the eye of the beholder. The more I tried to make sense of the logic behind thrift store pricing, the more I started to see that this theory of valuation applied to so much more than hard goods and collectibles. This valuation principal applies to us as human beings.

There are moments in life that change us. These moments of unforeseen circumstances often make us feel less valuable as individuals. Our health declines, our socio-economic status changes by the loss of a job or access



to resources. We have traumatic experiences. We age, we become less active than we once were. Take a moment to think of all the "I used to be able to ..." stories you've heard. As humans we experience loss of all sorts. Our looks begin to fade, our body becomes more fragile, our memory begins to fade.

While life changes can certainly make us feel "less than", the truth is that our value as human beings does not change. A beautifully made item found in a thrift store is just that beautifully made. We are all beautifully made and that makes us incapable of losing our value.

Neither circumstance nor hardship, tragedy nor defeat can alter our value in this world. You are valuable simply because you are you and that is the simple rule of valuation.

Kiantha Duncan is a Principal Development Strategist with The Duncan Brown Group. She can be reached at 206-225-4736.

Paid for by Jenny Slagle For Spokane School Board
PO Box 1356, Spokane, WA 99210

**Jenny
Slagle**

For Spokane School Board
Position 2



(509) 999-1522
Jenny4SPSBoard@gmail.com

I SUPPORT :

Evidence-based, restorative, and preventative practices to ensure a policy for discipline and behavioral management that promotes the safety of the learning environment.

Infusing equity in all policy and budget considerations to support educators and increase opportunities for the diverse student body within our school district to reach their potential.

Neurodiversity and culturally appropriate learning opportunities, supporting project-based learning that develops practical skills, and promoting exposure to a greater diversity of career paths.

I AM :

An enrolled member of the Yakama Nation and a descendant of the Northern Arapaho Tribe.

A mother of four young adults; 19-26; all graduated from Ferris High School.

3 year member of the Spokane Public Schools Diversity Advisory Council; chairing during the 2017-2018 year; providing input to the Board of Directors regarding curriculum, student discipline & restorative practices, and diversity training.

An experienced non-profit and government professional who works collaboratively across systems local, tribal, state, and federal agencies.

The best candidate because I believe in the value of public education and I bring a hopeful vision for all students and educators of diverse backgrounds.

Mayor of Spokane Candidates

Continued From Page 1

Ben Stuckart

3) What is your understanding of the racial diversity of the City of Spokane’s workforce? Do you feel that this is an issue that needs to be addressed? Why, why not, and if needed, how would you address it?

The City Council headed up a task force on this issue in 2016. Full results can be found here: <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/blog/2016/03/24/closing-the-gender-and-racial-pay-gap/gender-pay-equity-task-report-2016-03-35.pdf>

Some observations: 13% of Spokane’s workforce is made up of people of color but only 8.5% of city employees. The Latino population makes up 6% of the workforce population but only 2% of city employees.

Yes, it is a problem. Solutions are detailed in the report, and include revamping our recruitment, hiring and retention policies internally.

I also commit to having a cabinet that represents the community we all want, not just the community where we are at. The Office of Civil Rights and Equity can lead, with the Mayor.

4) Despite community-wide efforts in recent years, people of color in Spokane continue to be stopped, searched and arrested at disproportionately higher rates by the Spokane Police Department and are also incarcerated disproportionately more in the Spokane jail. What are your thoughts on why this is a persistent issue and as the Mayor what role would you play in addressing it?

I championed and funded the Spokane Police racial analysis done by Professor Byrnes and spent two years creating the Racial Equity subcommittee on the Law and Justice Council. I have been a leader in recognizing the reality of these issues.

Now, we need to take the recommendations of these groups seriously and implement an equity tool kit at all levels of policy making.

We need to lead by example in cabinet appointments and in the creation of the cabinet level office of Civil Rights and Equity.

5) Recently there has been conflict between the OPOC (Office of Police Ombudsman Commission) and the Chief of Police and Police Guild regarding access to information and the role of the Ombudsman during investigations. The Spokane Community was overwhelmingly in support of creating the OPOC to provide Police oversight. Where do you stand on the issue of Police oversight and the role of the OPOC?

I led the vote on Council to turn down the Police Guild contract by a 7 to 0 vote in late 2013.

We still have a long ways to go. The Ombudsman still cannot publish closing reports and independent investigation is convoluted. I support stripping the entire ordinance out of contract negotiations and only negotiating items that affect discipline.

Recently a loophole in the Lesser case was seen. It was never sent to the Ombudsman for review because command staff said it was ok. This needs to be fixed.

6) Addressing homelessness has become a priority issue for the Spokane community. What do you see at the root causes for Spokane’s increase in homelessness and what specific steps will you take as Mayor to address them?

Homelessness is a complicated issue and to generalize everyone as an addict or mentally ill is wrong.

There are numerous causes: Lack of Income, lack of affordable housing, lack of addiction services, lack of mental health services and family issues. All require different solutions. The data tells us this.

The city can help to decrease poverty by focusing on raising income through economic development. We have seen unemployment decrease and are having success on the West Plains and University District.

What we have the most control over is our shelter system in the short-term. All shelters need to be open 24/7. All shelters need case management on-site to refer people to services to help them get on their feet.

In the long run, we need to be building more units of affordable housing. Until people have a roof over their head, they will continue to struggle.

7) How does Spokane meet its housing needs and encourage development in its neighborhoods without also encouraging gentrification?

I believe we have to improve our neighborhoods by improving walkability and increasing density. The city’s Comprehensive Plan is clear on a centers and corridors strategy which places a variety of housing near business areas with walkable environments. Eyes on the street increase public safety. More people walking helps small businesses. We help alleviate the housing crisis which will put a stop to the skyrocketing rents, and it is better for the environment. But the most important reason to have walkable business districts with more housing is it creates community. When we walk, we interact with each other. That is the type of community I want and why I am running for Mayor.

When I led the redevelopment project on and near Sprague Avenue, we gained all of the benefits I just mentioned, and we ensured affordable housing projects in the area. There are now two great affordable housing projects near Sprague, guaranteeing a mixed income neighborhood for the next 40 years.

We can improve neighborhoods, while at the same time making sure they are mixed income.

8) Spokane’s most diverse neighborhoods are also the most economically disadvantaged. What can the city be doing to address this issue that it is not currently doing?

The most successful project I have led is the improvements in and around East Sprague, referred to as the Targeted Investment Pilot. We invested over \$18 million from 22 different funding sources. No one in the current administration has taken on the task of replicating this in another neighborhood.

Continued on Page 19

Nadine Woodward

That means better education and job skills training, especially for people of color. Though the mayor’s office does not have jurisdiction over Spokane schools and community colleges, it can do a better job of making the city a better place in which to live, work, or study. Attracting prospective employers to Spokane will be a top priority of mine.

4) Despite community-wide efforts in recent years, people of color in Spokane continue to be stopped, searched and arrested at disproportionately higher rates by the Spokane Police Department and are also incarcerated disproportionately more in the Spokane jail. What are your thoughts on why this is a persistent issue and as the Mayor what role would you play in addressing it?

I am strongly against racial profiling of any form, under any circumstance. As mayor, I will work closely with the Police Chief to ensure officers follow department guidelines and laws while performing their duties.

5) Recently there has been conflict between the OPOC (Office of Police Ombudsman Commission) and the Chief of Police and Police Guild regarding access to information and the role of the Ombudsman during investigations. The Spokane Community was overwhelmingly in support of creating the OPOC to provide Police oversight. Where do you stand on the issue of Police oversight and the role of the OPOC?

I am a strong supporter of the OPOC and the responsibility and power allotted to it by the City Charter. Independent oversight is key. I firmly support checks and balances in government.

6) Addressing homelessness has become a priority issue for the Spokane community. What do you see at the root causes for Spokane’s increase in homelessness and what specific steps will you take as Mayor to address them?

The National Coalition for the Homeless found that 38% of homeless people are dependent on alcohol and 26% are dependent on other drugs. It also found that 20 to 25% of homeless people suffer from severe mental illnesses. I believe we must identify those who want help and those who choose to live a transient lifestyle. As mayor, I will work with our police force, mental health professionals and existing services to ensure we get proper help for those who want it. For those who do not and have committed crimes to fuel their next high, they will be presented with two options: Face jail time or seek treatment.

7) How does Spokane meet its housing needs and encourage development in its neighborhoods without also encouraging gentrification?

Spokane’s housing demand exceeds its supply. We must encourage new homes to be built in order to meet this demand. I view this as a regional issue and will work with our regional partners to approach this in a way that encourages responsible growth while maintaining the cultural and historical aspects that are unique to Spokane. In short, we should have all-of-the-above housing solution.

8) Spokane’s most diverse neighborhoods are also the most economically disadvantaged. What can the city be doing to address this issue that it is not currently doing?

We must ensure that we adequately invest in all areas of our city and continue to expand local public development authorities (PDAs), such as the Northeast PDA. I believe it is critical to meet people where they are, so we must continue to invest in localized organizations to ensure that all residents have access to education, job skills training, and safe learning environments. <https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/boards/northeast-public-development-authority>

9) Hundreds of travelers to Spokane have been questioned by Border Patrol/ICE Agents at the Intermodal Center despite City Council passing a law that barred them from searching buses and entering non-public spaces for federal immigration enforcement without explicit permission from the Mayor. The previous Mayor refused to uphold this law and communities of color have concerns about racial profiling. As Mayor, what would be your stance on this law and how would you address the fears of Spokane’s immigrant communities?

Federal Law supersedes any state or local statutes. According to the Immigration and Nationality Act 287(a)(3), federal agents may, within a reasonable distance, board and search any vessel. A reasonable distance is stated to be within 100 miles of an international border. Regardless of any personal belief I may have about this important issue, it is not under City of Spokane jurisdiction but is instead guided by Federal statutes. This question is better suited for Spokane’s U.S. congressional delegation.

10) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane’s African American community.

As a journalist in Spokane, I have engaged with every part of our community for 28 years. As mayor, I look forward to being a voice for all residents in our City.

11) There is a perception that People of color don’t want to move to Spokane, and if they do, they don’t want to stay here. What are your thoughts on this?

That perception is a real shame. As mayor, I will work to foster an environment in our city that is welcoming and inclusive to all. I have watched Spokane grow more vibrant; that vibrancy will hopefully reverse the perception about Spokane being too monotone.

12) If elected Mayor, how will equity play a role in your administration?

My administration will provide leadership that is compassionate, inclusive, and respectful. And I will lead by consensus, not unilaterally. Any major decision I make will have input from Spokane’s people of color.

SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Breean Beggs

1) How does the role of the City Council President differ from that of the other council members and why are you running for this position?

The Council President is responsible for organizing the processes around approving an annual budget, enacting ordinances and conducting oversight of the administration. However, the Council President does not have the power to compel other councilmembers to do anything so must rely on persuasion, leadership and inspiration. I have inspired positive social change for decades as a lawyer and community leader without having any formal power. As a Councilmember I am known for proposing innovative strategies that inspire action and bring people together.

2) What professional experience do you have that qualifies you to fill this position? Please give concrete examples.

As a civil rights lawyer I have represented marginalized people in resolving their disputes with the government and corporations. I taught and practiced constitutional law. I have mentored and taught young people from elementary through graduate school. I directed the Center for Justice to create social change and served as a mediator to resolve community conflicts.

3) What is your vision for the City of Spokane and what do you see as the role of the City Council in carrying out that vision?

My vision for Spokane is that it is recognized as the most livable city in the Northwest for all people. City Council's job is to make sure that all the economic growth, infrastructure improvements and new housing benefits people in every neighborhood and economic bracket, not just the wealthy. Council has a further duty to look out for those who are marginalized by the status quo, educate the community about the importance of inclusion and expand equity.

4) Give one or two examples, past or present, that describe how you have worked effectively with communities of color in Spokane, and with the African American community in particular.

In 2006 I organized a forum for parents of children of color to speak their concerns about racism in local public school disciplinary practices. Importantly, I did not speak, and instead provided the location, the marketing and the structure to let the impacted families (mostly African-American) run the forum. More impactfully, I co-founded Spokane Smart Justice and insisted, against government opposition, that racial equity be a key component of criminal justice reform. I helped win the creation of the Racial Equity Committee and a person of color on the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council. I continue to advocate for changes that will reduce the unacceptable over-incarceration of people of color, particularly African-Americans.

5) What do you see as the most important issue(s) currently impacting Spokane's African American community and what role can the city council play in addressing the issue?

The continued systemic racial oppression and economic exclusion of African-Americans in Spokane is the most serious issue, but the current spotlight is on the component that over detains, arrests and incarcerates African-Americans in our criminal justice system. We have objective evidence



that demonstrates this injustice but our law enforcement, prosecutors and judges are slow to fully acknowledge or change this situation. I favor using a racial equity lens in examining all current policies and procedures and any proposed changes, including when they seem race neutral on their face.

6) People of color, for the most part, do not see themselves represented in city government, what steps will you take (or have you taken in the past) to engage under-represented groups in the Spokane community?

I have joined with other City Council Members to assess the lack of racial representation on City committees and pause approving new memberships until we address the current inequity. I helped rewrite the City's civil rights ordinance to extend protections to employees and tenants that aren't covered by federal and state law. I have financially supported the Martin Luther King Center and the Carl Maxey Center. I support including Dr. King in the name of the East Central Community Center. I obtained justice for a local African American family who suffered a cross burning on their lawn. I have represented many clients of color and other marginalized communities in the legal system.

7) In the past The Black Lens has highlighted racial disparities that exist in Spokane, including criminal justice, schools and housing, among other areas. What role do you see the City Council playing, if any, in addressing the racial disparities that are impacting Spokane's African American community in particular, and communities of color in general?

The City Council should insist that each department and its criminal justice system track racial proportionality in employment and impact and publish a written plan to redress any disparities. The City should help its residents remove hurtful racial covenants from housing deeds in the City. The City should increase its investment in low income and workforce housing because poverty is suffered disproportionately by people of color.

8) Give an example of an instance, if any, when you have used an equity lens to make a decision.

Multiple times I have selected someone for employment or membership who was qualified and also brought a diversity of race that enriched the company or the committee. I have consistently pushed for a new pretrial community supervision program to get people out of jail because people of color are disproportionately incarcerated. Similarly, I have advocated for a reduction in school suspensions and expulsions because students of color are more severely impacted by current disciplinary practices.

Continued on Page 24

Cindy Wendle

1) How does the role of the City Council President differ from that of the other council members and why are you running for this position?

The Council President is the leader, and therefore is looked upon to be fair, inclusive and compassionate. I believe the Council President sets the tone. Showing up at City Hall can be intimidating and I promise to lead our work with respect and equity.

2) What professional experience do you have that qualifies you to fill this position? Please give concrete examples.

I am most proud of the professional experience I've earned as a volunteer at multiple nonprofits here in Spokane and Pullman and for our children's schools. I've managed large scale fundraisers and chaired multiple committees. For paid work, I've managed 3 bank branches at the same time, focusing my work on helping people get loans. I've owned a direct sales business. I now operate a commercial real estate property with 18 tenants, negotiating leases, managing capital budgets and overseeing property management.

3) What is your vision for the City of Spokane and what do you see as the role of the City Council in carrying out that vision?

My vision is a city boasting of equitable opportunities for all, not just a few. I envision our median household income rising for everyone, and I want to prioritize good paying job opportunities for those living at or below the poverty line. I see the results of efforts to build affordable and attainable housing giving more families a place to call home, not just a place to sleep.

4) Give one or two examples, past or present, that describe how you have worked effectively with communities of color in Spokane, and with the African American community in particular.

I have not focused my work on supporting only one community, I work to support all our families and children. I believe the impact has greatly improved the lives of children in the African American community.

5) What do you see as the most important issue(s) currently impacting Spokane's African American community and what role can the city council play in addressing the issue?

I believe the most pressing issue is the disparity in the percentage of African American's incarcerated. Our city council's role is to make sure all voices are heard regarding this issue, promote transparency and communicate desired outcomes.

6) People of color, for the most part, do not see themselves represented in city government, what steps will you take (or have you taken in the past) to engage underrepresented groups in the Spokane community?

I will work to create sustainable relationships and encourage whomever becomes Mayor to continue building



these ties. It can be intimidating to go to City Hall. I would like to explore more opportunities to take our meetings out to the neighborhoods and allow more people to engage in our decision making process. Bringing all voices to the table has to be an ongoing, consistent priority.

7) In the past The Black Lens has highlighted racial disparities that exist in Spokane, including criminal justice, schools and housing, among other areas. What role do you see the City Council playing, if any, in addressing the racial disparities that are impacting Spokane's African American community in particular, and communities of color in general?

The role of the Council is to be intentional and fair in everything we do. We need to ask why these disparities continue. Do our young people need more support to get involved and active in our community? We should identify barriers, and work to remove them. We should develop closer ties with groups serving our community of color, be proactive and go to their meetings, ask representatives to sit on committees and be ever present in decision making.

8) Give an example of an instance, if any, when you have used an equity lens to make a decision.

When making budgeting decisions for support services, I've led discussions on assessing barriers, how to remove them and ensuring the process and the outcome are equitable. I am committed to leading the change we all want to see – a more inclusive environment where everyone is invited to participate.

9) At times, in a community, what is in the best interest of the majority can be in conflict with what is in the best interest of the minority. How would you or how have you balanced that conflict?

I balance that conflict with determining impact and including discussions of disparate treatment and outcomes. Understanding short term versus long term benefits helps in those types of discussions as well.

10) What are the top things that you hope to accomplish if elected Spokane City Council President?

Connecting more of our homeless population to services and permanent housing, increasing the average household income, creating more attainable housing options, and increasing the number of good paying jobs.

Continued on Page 24

SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL

District 1 - Position 1

Tim Benn

1) What do you see as the most important role of the city council and highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

The most important role of the city council person is to represent the residents, protect their rights and work to address their concerns.

I have lived in the district in our current home for 20 years with my wife. We've raised our children in this community and we have worked with hundreds of children and families from many diverse backgrounds with our child care business. Over the last three years I have co-hosted a local talk radio program focused on city government and been a neighborhood leader/chair of the Minnehaha neighborhood council.

2) What is your vision for the City of Spokane and what do you see as the role of the City Council in carrying out that vision?

My vision for my scope of work on the council will be to bring attention to the needs and concerns in the neighborhoods. The role of the city council is to make sure everyone is represented. However I realize a lot of attention will be focused on downtown and business districts. I want to make sure I'm a voice for the neighborhoods where the people live that own and work at those businesses. I believe the quality of life in Spokane includes the business districts and residential areas.

3) Give one or two examples, past or present, that describe how you have worked effectively with communities of color in Spokane, and with the African American community in particular.

In the operation of our childcare services we have served African-Americans, Native Americans from several tribes, Asian Pacific Islanders and more. Over the last two decades there has been times minority communities were in the majority in our childcare. My family has also housed foreign exchange students from Mexico and build relationships with those families abroad.

4) What do you see as the most important issue(s) currently impacting Spokane's African American community and what role can the city council play in addressing the issue?

I believe one of the most important issues currently impacting mini communities in Spokane is the lack of affordable family style housing. The city council's role in solving the housing shortage should be to allow more water permits for housing and be more flexible with smaller contractors with infill development projects, where there is vacant lots that could have homes built.

5) People of color, for the most part, do not see themselves represented in city government, what steps will you take (have you taken) to engage underrepresented groups in your district?

First and for most I am running for office in the most diverse district in the city and I will work as a city council person in the same way my wife and I have as childcare providers. I believe our city government needs to be more welcoming to the public. One thing I would like to do is open up and expand on the open testimony in the public meetings.

6) In the past The Black Lens has highlighted racial disparities that exist in Spo-



kane, including criminal justice, schools and housing, among other areas. What role do you see the City Council playing, if any, in addressing the racial disparities that are impacting Spokane's African American community in particular, and communities of color in general?

I believe this is an ongoing discussion with lawmakers at many levels of government. The council needs to listen to the communities and appropriately respond.

7) Give an example of an instance, if any, when you have used an equity lens to make a decision.

Northeast Spokane often sees less maintenance and quality in our infrastructure needs. For instance the 2019 traffic calming project allotments are not equitable. The Northwest District received \$450,000 and projects, the South Hill received \$565,000 and projects and in Northeast Spokane we received \$45,000. This program needs to be revised, so our neighborhoods see more equity with these improvement dollars.

8) At times, in a community, what is in the best interest of the majority can be in conflict with what is in the best interest of the minority. How would you or how have you balanced that conflict?

This very fact is why we have the form of government we do, so the few cannot be victims of the many. The rights of all need to be respected and we should never do something for the benefit of one group if it infringes on the rights of another.

9) What are the top things that you hope to accomplish if elected to the Spokane City Council?

I want to serve the residents of the district. We need to work on the drug epidemic that is plaguing people, families and neighborhoods in our city. The drug addiction crisis that we're in is tied to so many other issues in our city, so I believe finding solutions in this area is imperative to the quality of life in Spokane. Another issue I hear from residence and I see throughout the district is the condition of our streets. These are the types of issues but I will work on, because they are what the people have communicated to me on the campaign and prior to the campaign.

10) What perception do you believe the general community has of the Spokane City Council? How do you think that perception is similar or different from the perception that people of color in Spokane have?

I hesitate to answer this question as I believe each person should be able to communicate to their elected leaders their perception without a preconceived assumption being attached simply because of the community they identify with.

Michael Cathcart

1) What do you see as the most important role of the city council and highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

The most important role of the City Council is to ensure a high quality of life by adequately and responsibly investing in and supporting public safety and streets/infrastructure, while properly preparing for future growth.

In the past, I've worked in the WA State Senate where I focused on policy analysis and constituent relations. Through that experience, I've come to understand the process and cultivated a number of relationships that I can lean on to improve the efficacy of our legislative efforts. For the last several years, my work has been focused on advocating for better housing and economic growth policies here in Spokane. During that time, I served on the In-Fill Housing Steering Committee, the Quality and Affordable Housing Taskforce, and the Comprehensive Plan update workgroups for Land Use, Transportation, and Housing.

2) What is your vision for the City of Spokane and what do you see as the role of the City Council in carrying out that vision?

My vision for Spokane is to be a safe, vibrant, open, and thriving community. To achieve this, we need a City Council committed to prioritizing public safety, investing in our residential streets, removing obstacles to living wage job growth, and ensuring that housing is affordable by considering smarter policies that can start to eliminate the housing shortage we face in our growing community. It is absolutely critical that who we elect to represent us on the City Council supports and understands the importance of an independent police ombudsman.

3) Give one or two examples, past or present, that describe how you have worked effectively with communities of color in Spokane, and with the African American community in particular.

In my role working in the Washington State Senate, part of my job was engaging with people of all backgrounds, including many from our communities of color. Often, constituents, especially individuals from underrepresented communities would reach out to us about personal issues requiring assistance and I would work to break through barriers with various State departments or link them with the right organizations.

Recently, I've worked to advise and connect one of my district's constituents, who originally immigrated to the United States from Mexico, with local officials who could help her with a pretty frustrating local issue that is severely impacting her home. A lack of effective communication from local authorities is a big part of the issue. We can do better.

4) What do you see as the most important issue(s) currently impacting Spokane's African American community and what role can the city council play in addressing the issue?

As someone who is not African American, I'm not sure it would be appropriate for me to assume which issue is most important to the entire African American community. I will say that as I continue to doorbell in every neighborhood in Northeast Spokane, the same issues are brought up regardless of race and that's the need for more investment in Northeast Spokane, more resources in public safety and our streets, and addressing our homelessness crisis more effectively.

5) People of color, for the most part, do not see themselves represented in city government, what steps will you take (have you taken) to engage underrepresented groups in your district?

We have to listen and engage. This is so important. I've been actively reaching out to members of underrepresented groups in Spokane to better understand their perspectives, and as I've doorbelled, I've been so grateful for the conversations and perspectives shared by so many people of color.



I won't forget one conversation at the door of a gentleman who works for the MLK Jr Center. He was so passionate and really wanted to have a dialogue about how to improve relations with the City. He shared with me his concern over the lack of outreach to underrepresented groups by the City as new policies are considered. I'm open to any ideas that might improve this. Personally, when policies come forward I plan to proactively gather input from my constituents to ensure I'm making the best decision for my district.

6) In the past The Black Lens has highlighted racial disparities that exist in Spokane, including criminal justice, schools and housing, among other areas. What role do you see the City Council playing, if any, in addressing the racial disparities that are impacting Spokane's African American community in particular, and communities of color in general?

We should be willing to track those disparities, work with the community to identify possible solutions, and act. I love the example of how they identified and addressed the street lighting issue in Seattle, which most significantly impacted an underserved neighborhood. By addressing it, city officials actually improved service (and public safety) for everyone.

7) Give an example of an instance, if any, when you have used an equity lens to make a decision.

I'm one of those individuals who enjoys analyzing policy. In doing so, I always have to consider the intended and unintended consequences of the proposal. So, I've always tried to see things from all angles including impacts to underrepresented groups.

8) At times, in a community, what is in the best interest of the majority can be in conflict with what is in the best interest of the minority. How would you or how have you balanced that conflict?

We are a representative form of government and not a pure democracy because the tyranny of the majority is real. We must elect leaders who will stand up for our rights, act in our community's best interests, and especially in our underserved Northeast Spokane community, unapologetically fight like hell for the people in our district.

9) What are the top things that you hope to accomplish if elected to the Spokane City Council?

My listed priorities are: Community Safety, Homelessness, Streets/Infrastructure, Affordable Housing, Economic Development (most specifically the Yard), & Government Transparency. Please visit www.voteathcart.com for more details, due to limited space here.

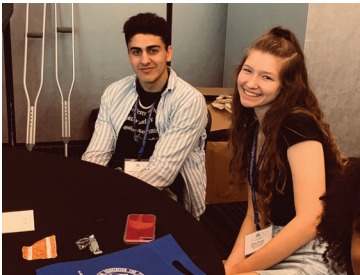
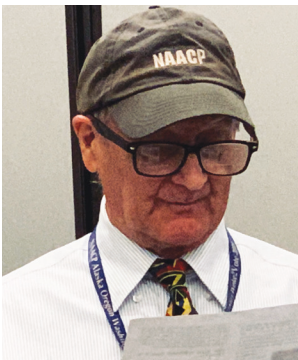
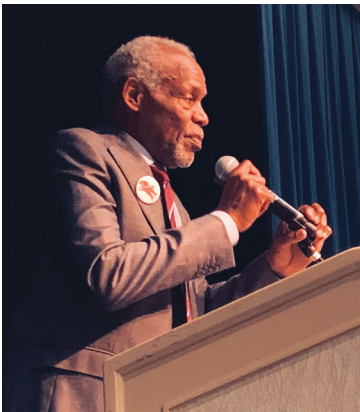
10) What perception do you believe the general community has of the Spokane City Council? How do you think that perception is similar or different from the perception that people of color in Spokane have?

Without assuming the opinions of specific constituent groups, I'll share that vast majority of constituents in NE Spokane that I've engaged have expressed significant frustration over the lack of attention given to our Council District and simply want a better allocation of resources, a responsible redirect of priorities, and an overall healthier balance of ideas.

2019 NAACP ALASKA OREGON WASHINGTON STATE AREA CONFERENCE AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

September 13 - 15, 2019

Fifty NAACP delegates attended the two-day Annual Convention of the NAACP State Area Conference of Alaska Oregon and Washington in Spokane, Washington from September 13th-15th. Attendees celebrated past accomplishments, discussed current challenges, and unified around defending civil rights in our region. Workshops topics covered Mass Incarceration, Economic Development, Voter Registration, Racism in Public Schools, and the I-1000 Initiative on the November Ballot. The Luncheon Keynote was delivered by Black Lens publisher/editor Sandy Williams and the highlight of the weekend was the Centennial Celebration Dinner keynoted by actor/activist Danny Glover and Bernie Sanders 2020 National Co-Chair Nina Turner with the theme of STAY WOKE 2 VOTE!



Obituary

Deacon Manuel Brown

Passed away on September 8, 2019 (Age 89). Manuel "Manny" Brown was born in Bogue Chitto, Mississippi, June 22, 1930, to Fannie Lee Brown and Manuel Brown. He was the second child of a family of five children (four boys and one girl).

He went to school at the Lincoln Training School through the eleventh grade where his mother was a school teacher. In 1947, he finished high school in Vallejo, California, at the age of 16.

A commercial came on the radio saying, “Get a career in the Air.” After further listening to the radio, he found out they were talking about the United States Air Force. He took the test and did very well on it and pursued the possibility.

In 1950 in Vallejo, California, stationed at Travis AFB, he met Emelda Jane Smith, of New Orleans, Louisiana, whom he was happily married to for over 58 years before her passing in February 2011.

Manuel and family moved to Spokane, Washington, in 1960, where he was stationed at Fairchild AFB and worked in Civil Engineering. During these next military years, he spent time in Da Nang, Viet Nam for a year and then lived at Zaragoza AFB, Spain, with his family for about three years where in his spare time, he coached basketball. He and his family moved back to Fairchild AFB where he retired in March 1971.

Prior to his retirement from the military, he worked for Washington Water Power Company which is now called Avista. During the 19 ½ years he spent working for Avista, he became a foreman which took him out of town weeks

at a time building power substations. Manuel finally retired after he retired.

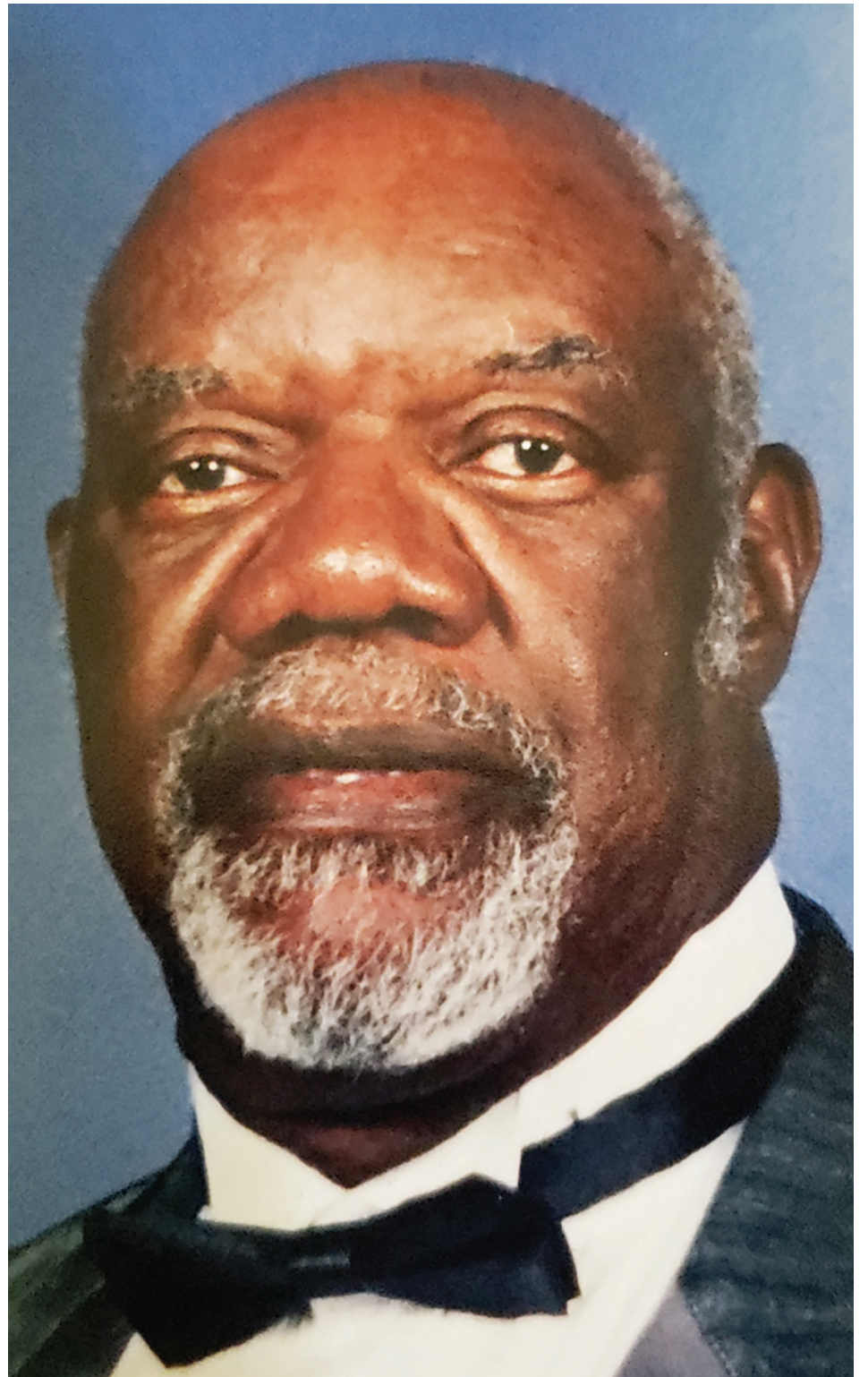
In 1960, he and his family joined Calvary Baptist Church where he became an integral part of the Deacon Board, Trustee, Advisory Boards, Sunday School Superintendent/Teacher, Bible Study Leader and was recently inducted as Deacon Emeritus until his passing.

He loved to sing, enjoyed carpentry, working with his hands, making Kinaras, playing basketball (his favorite) and baseball and watching all of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren participate in sports. He played basketball against the Harlem Globe Trotters in 1950.

Manuel is survived by his two sons: Dwan and Timothy (Spokane, WA); son, Manuel III and daughter-in-law Rhonda (Issaquah, WA); daughter Inez (Tampa, FL); brother Archie Brown (Tucson, AZ); Step-sister Elnorah Cooley, (Vallejo, CA); 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, three grandsons-in-law, three granddaughters-in-law and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Wife Emelda and daughter Emalandine Kelley preceded him in death.

Visitation was held on Friday, September 20, 2019, from 4:00 P.M. till 7:00 P.M. at Ball and Dodd Funeral Home. Home-going service was held at Calvary Baptist Church, 203 East Third Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202 on Saturday, September 21, 2019, at 9:00 A.M. Entombment at Greenwood Memorial Terrace.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Spokane, P.O. Box 2215, Spokane WA 99210-2215 or www.caringbridge.org.



Holy temple

Church of God in Christ

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OF **THE CITY**,
WITH THE
PEOPLE OF
THE CITY
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SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:45 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE | 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY

BIBLE STUDY | 7:00 PM
YOUTH GROUP | 7:00 PM

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Sunday School
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Spokane Valley, WA 99212
509-535-1336
NewHopeSpokane.com



**Pastor James &
First Lady Shawn
Watkins**

SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL

District 2 - Position 1

Tony Kiepe

1) What do you see as the most important role of the city council and highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

My most important role is to represent all members of the community and be available at all times to discuss their issues and how to work together. I've been a volunteer with Boy Scouts of America as a Cub Master, Family Campaign Chair and Membership Chair. I am also on the Spokane County Water Conservancy Board.

2) What is your vision for the City of Spokane and what do you see as the role of the City Council in carrying out that vision?

I want to see our streets repaired and pave 60 miles of streets that only have gravel. I believe that all citizens are paying taxes and they deserve to have infrastructure in their neighborhoods. I want to crack down on our drug houses and drug dealers and get them out of our neighborhoods.

3) Give one or two examples, past or present, that describe how you have worked effectively with communities of color in Spokane, and with the African American community in particular.

I hired the first African-American for Muro Pharmaceutical. I hired Toya because he was the best candidate that I interviewed. Later, I promoted Toya to supervisor and then had him promoted to Marketing Manager and he moved to Boston for this promotion. It has been exciting to see Toya's success in the pharmaceutical industry over the past 30 years.

4) What do you see as the most important issue(s) currently impacting Spokane's African American community and what role can the city council play in addressing the issue?

I feel the most important issue is the drugs that are taken over our communities of less fortunate. We must address the drug houses that are effecting our communities. By stopping the easy access to drugs will keep children in schools and prepare them to be working productive citizens in our community.

5) People of color, for the most part, do not see themselves represented in city government, what steps will you take (have you taken) to engage underrepresented groups in your district?

I believe everyone has the right to be heard and part of our local government. I will make sure I'm available to meet with my constituents of color and address their problems

6) In the past The Black Lens has highlighted racial disparities that exist in Spokane, including criminal justice, schools and housing, among other areas. What role do you see the City Council playing, if any, in addressing the racial disparities that are impacting Spokane's African American community in particular, and communities of color in general?

Our doors have to open at all times. We need affordable housing in all communities. I need to meet with the Black Lens to learn more about your current issues and how I can help when elected. I want to have more youth programs that gets our youth involved in the community.

7) Give an example of an instance, if any, when you have used an equity lens to make a decision.

I have not. I did a lot of training and hiring over my 30 year career. I had to be non-bi-



as and hire the best possible candidate.

8) At times, in a community, what is in the best interest of the majority can be in conflict with what is in the best interest of the minority. How would you or how have you balanced that conflict?

I have to listen to both sides and work together with all involved. We have to have a unified agreement for all.

9) What are the top things that you hope to accomplish if elected to the Spokane City Council?

I want to see road infrastructure in all neighborhoods. It's time we have all streets in Spokane paved.

Improve our public safety. Everyone should feel safe in their neighborhood and when going downtown. This includes faster response times when the police are called because a crime is taking place. It is sad that our communities that are less fortunate do not have the same response time as those that are more fortunate. It is very frustrating that I hear that police show up three hours after a call is placed. I want to see more police presence in all of our communities

I want to grow our businesses and give incentives to business owners that train our youth with their first job. It is crucial that youth get job training to be successful in their careers

I want to resolve our homeless situation to make sure we are helping the different types of homeless. We have those in need because they lost their job or can't afford their rent. We have to treat them differently than a homeless person that is drug addicted. Addiction is not a one week cure but can often take years to change the chemical imbalance. The only way to get this person off drugs and be productive in society is to have the treatment needed. The homeless that have mental illness need different services for their treatment. We have to make sure they are receiving medications and are being followed up on so they too can be productive members of society.

10) What perception do you believe the general community has of the Spokane City Council? How do you think that perception is similar or different from the perception that people of color in Spokane have?

The current members are not involved with the community like they should be. They are elected to be the peoples servant and represent all people. The latest example is that they voted behind closed doors to purchase the Grocery Outlet and make it a homeless shelter. They did not get Project ID involved and they did not get the citizens of the impacted communities involved. When a meeting was held to listen to the community only Mike Fagan attended this meeting. We did not have transparency on this purchase.

Lori Kinnear

1) What do you see as the most important role of the city council and highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

Council sponsors and passes legislation, passes a budget and advocates for their district. This is what we are required to do. In fact, we do much more especially in advocating for our district. I give voice to those who often don't have one and I make sure all voices are heard. I am in my fourth year on Council and continue to make all the above a priority.

2) What is your vision for the City of Spokane and what do you see as the role of the City Council in carrying out that vision?

Ensuring that all voices continue to be heard and considered, citizens are safe, and our infrastructure is built and maintained. That also means that when disparity between communities is brought to our attention, we move to correct it. We absolutely need an office of Civil Rights at City Hall. I support CP Stuckart's effort to make this happen in 2020 if he is elected Mayor.

3) Give one or two examples, past or present, that describe how you have worked effectively with communities of color in Spokane, and with the African American community in particular.

Currently I am working with the residents of Richard Allen Court to identify and install security measures. I worked with the residents in the Liberty Park area to mitigate a property that housed drug dealers who were threatening neighbors. I supported the creation of the Carl Maxie Center and will continue to meet and work with citizens who have concerns and need help.

4) What do you see as the most important issue(s) currently impacting Spokane's African American community and what role can the city council play in addressing the issue?

Disparity in the number of African Americans in our jail. We are and must continue to work with our legal system to change how we arrest, prosecute and incarcerate individuals.

5) People of color, for the most part, do not see themselves represented in city government, what steps will you take (have you taken) to engage underrepresented groups in your district?

CM Mumm and I have brought to light the disparity in the make-up of our Boards and Commissions. These positions are important because they act in an advisory role to Council. Currently there is a lack of diversity and we are asking the Mayor when he recommends an individual for consideration to look at more than perfunctory qualifications. Boards and Commissions can be a springboard to seek higher office. We are also asking our HR department to continue to broaden their recruitment efforts to include communities of color.

6) In the past The Black Lens has highlighted racial disparities that exist in Spokane, including criminal justice, schools and housing, among other areas. What role do you see the City Council playing, if any, in addressing the racial disparities that are impacting Spokane's African American community in particular, and communities of color in general?



Certainly, in the criminal justice realm we can effect change by insisting our police department be trained and retrained in use of force and other techniques that may be used unequally with different populations. Council makes decisions on funding for workforce housing which should be integrated with market rate housing to avoid marginalizing and segregating lower income individuals or communities of color.

7) Give an example of an instance, if any, when you have used an equity lens to make a decision.

We use it whenever we approve contracts over \$50,000. I use it when looking at ordinances I sponsor such as Historic Preservation and the Urban Forest Ordinance. I used it when I sponsored the Human Trafficking resolution. And I used it when co-sponsoring our Sustainability Ordinance. Climate change affects lower income communities disproportionately and consideration must be used when crafting legislation.

8) At times, in a community, what is in the best interest of the majority can be in conflict with what is in the best interest of the minority. How would you or how have you balanced that conflict?

I make sure there is not a hard line that puts one group at odds with another. Legislation is crafted to include all points of view; however, some interests may benefit more than others. The greater good is my goal.

9) What are the top things that you hope to accomplish if elected to the Spokane City Council?

I have sponsored multiple resolutions and ordinances related to public safety and livability of our neighborhoods. I intend to continue to pursue those avenues including ordinances that will improve our environment, preserve the quality of our neighborhoods and give opportunity to those who need extra help.

10) What perception do you believe the general community has of the Spokane City Council? How do you think that perception is similar or different from the perception that people of color in Spokane have?

Many people have labeled us as "that liberal City Council" when in fact we disagree on many things and when we finally do vote there still may not be consensus. In addition, the community may see us as removed from constituents and not in touch. We regularly attend neighborhood council meetings and meet with constituents who request meetings. We are voters and taxpayers as well, so we are as concerned about our community as everyone else. People of color may believe we are out of touch when in fact we are a phone call or email away.

SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL

District 3 - Position 1

Andy Rathbun



This Candidate was contacted three times (on Aug. 16, Sept. 10 & Sept 16).

He did not respond at all or answer the questions.

Karen Stratton



1) What do you see as the most important role of the city council and highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate?

The seven members of the city council make up the legislative branch of the City's government. Six council members are elected by district. The most important role of a city council member is to listen to and represent the people in the district that elected them, and to ensure the best possible delivery of city services to citizens.

My past professional experience includes the Washington State Legislature, higher education and local government, serving in the offices of Mayor Jim West and Mayor Mary Verner. I understand how government works. In addition, I have lived in the 3rd Council District for 30+ years.

2) What is your vision for the City of Spokane and what do you see as the role of the City Council in carrying out that vision?

I want Spokane to continue to be a vibrant community that encourages and welcomes diversity, and provides family-wage jobs, affordable housing options, excellent educational opportunities and safe neighborhoods. I want a City that supports the arts and protects the natural environment. I envision a community with a strong and healthy business environment and local leaders that listen and support the work of non-profit organizations, neighborhood councils, business and industry, outdoor enthusiasts, etc. Finally, we need to listen more to our youth and disenfranchised populations.

3) Give one or two examples, past or present that describe how you have worked effectively with communities of color in Spokane, and with the African American community in particular.

Many years ago, I had the pleasure of working with Rev. Lonnie Mitchell during the early planning days of Unity in the Community. I also served on the Gonzaga University Taskforce for Race Relations. I have served on the planning committee for Gathering at the Falls Powwow as well as the City's first also Indigenous Peoples March. I have served on the Spokane Human Rights Commission and the City's Gender and Race Equity Taskforce.

4) What do you see as the most important issue(s) currently impacting Spokane's African American community and what role can the city council play in addressing the issue?

Racial disparities in our criminal justice system, housing and employment. Previous administrations supported an Office of Human Rights. I support all efforts to restore this office in 2020.

5) People of color, for the most part, do not see themselves represented in city government, what steps will you take (have you taken) to engage underrepresented groups in your district?

I believe the best way to connect with people is to meet them where they are - not expect them to come to us. I spend a lot of time in the community visiting with various individuals and groups. I also schedule mobile offices throughout the district to stay connected with those that do not feel they have a voice at City Hall.

6) In the past The Black Lens has highlighted racial disparities that exist in Spokane, including criminal justice, schools and housing, among other areas. What role do you see the City Council playing, if any, in addressing the racial disparities that are impacting Spokane's African American community in particular, and communities of color in general?

First, the City should lead by example. While I have seen little progress under this current administration and council members cannot direct staff, I will encourage and support future efforts to promote diversity and inclusion within City Hall.

The City Council can convene stakeholders for community education and discussions related to these issues. In addition, Council members can create legislation to support efforts to level the racial playing field using incentives for those doing the right thing.

7) Give an example of an instance, if any, when you have used an equity lens to make a decision.

While I was a member of the City's Gender and Race Equity Taskforce, we provided recommendations and established a proactive approach moving forward, which included steps relating to recruitment, salary negotiations, training, marketing, surveying and analysis. (36)

8) At times, in a community, what is in the best interest of the majority can be in conflict with what is in the best interest of the minority. How would you or how have you balanced that conflict?

Openly discussing our differences, face-to-face with honesty and respect, goes a long way in helping find middle ground.

9) What are the top things that you hope to accomplish if elected to the Spokane City Council?

- Establish a comprehensive, city-wide 24/7 resource for the homeless and others in need of resources (housing, job training, mental health services, drug and alcohol issues, etc.)
- Increase affordable housing stock in the City of Spokane.
- Continue support of Mental Health Stabilization Facility and expansion of the Community Court model.
- West Central neighborhood revitalization.

10. What perception do you believe the general community has of the Spokane City Council? How do you think that perception is similar or different from the perception that people of color in Spokane have?

I think most people believe that City Council members are strictly divided by political stripes. I do not believe this is true. We all try very hard to represent our districts and to find common ground, even with the most difficult issues. We take our roles very seriously and work hard to support our constituents. I respect every one of our Council members for the work they do and their commitment to our community. However, as long as people of color are confronted with overt and subtle forms of discrimination, they will see their City Council through that lens of experience. Communication is the key to altering perceptions. People of color need to hear from the City Council, in their neighborhoods, in their community centers and in their churches to have faith in their elected officials.

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SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL



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Washington State Commission On
African American Affairs



Comments from Your Commissioner

Greetings!

I introduce myself again for the benefit of those who may not be aware. I am Walter Kendricks, Pastor of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Spokane, Washington. Additionally, I am the Eastern Washington Member for the State Commission of African American Affairs.

Two months ago, I was in contact with you via this same medium with the news of my appointment to this Commission. I stated then my intention to keep our community abreast of the “goings on” with the Commission, any legislative actions that may affect us from Olympia, and any issues which would have impact upon you or our families.

I attended my first meeting as your representative on Thursday September 19th, held in Vancouver, Washington.

The Vancouver branch of the NAACP, and their legal committee rendered a moving presentation concerning the issues facing people of color and of limited financial means in their community. I formed the opinion while listening to their presentation that all one had to do was substitute “Vancouver” with “Spokane” and the similarities are stark. Both their and our reality consist of



questionable Law Enforcement shootings, disparity in school suspension rates, intransigence from County officials, Racial profiling, and finally, the ongoing threat from white supremacist organizations.

We are bound together, no matter our geographic location, in the struggle for racial, social, and economic justice. We shall continue this struggle, no matter the time or place, for as long as is necessary, until we at last can sing, in the words of Dr. King, “Free at last, free at last, thank GOD almighty, we are free at last.

Until next time, take care of yourself, your family, and our community.

Walter Kendricks, Commissioner,
African American Affairs, Washington

Mayor of Spokane Candidates Ben Stuckart

Continued from Page 11

We should begin in West Central and have the neighborhood pick an area to bond the current West Quadrant Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars, and start a pool with that \$5-\$6 million.

Secure grants, take all the different pots of money and replicate what we did on Sprague.

If done right we can pick a different neighborhood or area every two years and improve the entire city.

9) Hundreds of travelers to Spokane have been questioned by Border Patrol/ICE Agents at the Inter-modal Center despite City Council passing a law that barred them from searching buses and entering non-public spaces for federal immigration enforcement without explicit permission from the Mayor. The previous Mayor refused to uphold this law and communities of color have concerns about racial profiling. As Mayor, what would be your stance on this law and how would you address the fears of Spokane’s immigrant communities?

This law has been ignored by the current Mayor. The City Charter says the Mayor’s job is to enforce the laws of the city. The Mayor is not an officer of the court, and anyone advocating ignoring the law without a court ruling should never be in a position of leadership in the City. Shameful.

Right now we have people of color being discriminated against in a facility we own, and can put a stop to this. Signs should be posted, pointing out that the lobby is private property. If the signs are ignored, an immediate injunction should be filed in court.

The Alameda v Sanchez Supreme Court case in 1973, which is still precedent, states clearly that if a vehicle is not originating or on its way to a border, the 100 mile rule of search and seizure does not apply and is a violation of the 4th amendment. These buses are not going anywhere near the border.

10) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane’s African American community.

One of my first memories is being at the East Central Community Center in 1975 as I watched my dad play basketball. I grew up attending St. Ann’s church in the neighborhood and my dad worked at SNAP his entire career. I knew many community members in the East Central neighborhood growing up.

As a City Council member I fought for two years to form the Racial Equity Subcommittee as part of the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council (SJRLC) and was the Chair of the committee for two years. During my time on SJRLC I met with dozens of individuals and heard many stories and reviewed the disparity data.

During this time I met with the NAACP and the City was refusing to fund the work of Ed Byrnes examining racial disparities in the Spokane Police Department. I used my Council travel budget to complete his work. Again, the systemic racism will not be addressed until we confront it all levels of the system.

I am proud of my work with Freda Gandy at the MLK Jr Center and my friendship with Happy Watkins. I created a relationship with Sandy Williams in 2009 as part of the Children’s Investment Fund and try and participate in as many community events as I can confronting our racist past as well as existing systemic racism.

11) There is a perception that People of color don’t want to move to Spokane, and if they do, they don’t want to stay here. What are your thoughts on this?

True and horrible. I was called in to speak to Lutheran USA, a national group who was in town to consider bringing 25,000 people to Spokane. There question was “Our membership is 50% people of color yet that is not reflective of what we see in Spokane. If we hold our meeting here what do we tell our members?”

That is a great question, and shows the weakness of not having a diverse population. We need to be more welcoming and I plan to do that. I also plan to make decisions and be very vocal about our past failures and how we do better. Until we admit that there is historical trauma and racism going on right now we will have a hard time changing perceptions.

12) If elected Mayor, how will equity play a role in your administration?

It starts at the top. My cabinet will reflect the community I want Spokane to be, not reflect what I have seen in meetings the last 7+ years.

The cabinet level position, Office of Civil Rights and Equity, will ensure that high level decisions are taking into account equity and allow us to implement an equity lens for decision making.

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Kate Burke, Spokane City Council

Director Position 4

www.ElectErin.vote

I will be a voice for parents across our school district who struggle to make ends meet, find “work/life balance” to be an elusive target, and who depend on our public school system for more than education.

Vote by November 5th

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SPOKANE SCHOOL BOARD - POSITION 1

Nikki Lockwood



1) What do you see as the top challenges currently facing Spokane Public Schools and what qualifies you to address those challenges?

The budget is definitely a top challenge, looking at the four year planning. My experience as a mother of a student with a disability, a woman of color, and as an organizer who has worked with a diverse group of community members will add a diverse perspective and equity lens to budget decisions. In addition, I have board governance experience, from four boards I’ve served on in the past 25 years, and relationships with district leadership through multiple district wide committees.

2) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane’s African American community.

First as volunteer parent organizer and currently as an organizer employed by the ACLU of Washington, I have invited families involved in education justice work into the work of the Every Student Counts Alliance. I have intentionally worked to engage with the African American community to raise awareness of the work to improve discipline and school policing practices. I am on the steering committee for the Spokane Community Against Racism. I facilitated a meeting for the NAACP of Spokane regarding the work of the Every Student Counts Alliance which included African American members of school leadership and high school students. I have personal endorsements from leaders in the AA community which you can find on my website, nikkiforschoolboard.com.

3) What do you see as the primary need(s) of African American youth and youth of color in the Spokane school system and how can the School Board address those needs?

They need to meet their full potential. I feel that my role as an adult is to ensure all students have full opportunity to participate in our many choice learning options, culturally responsive curriculum, culturally relevant staff and to be treated equally when behaviors occur. Local students of color have shared that they feel like they are treated differently and that their behaviors are punished more severely than white kids doing the same behaviors.

4) Despite the best efforts of Spokane School District administrators, students of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by discipline rates and arrests in our local schools. What does SPS need to do that it is not currently doing to address this issue?

My daughter is bi-racial and has autism and was suspended when the legal contract, outlining how the adults would support, was not followed. Suspensions and arrests are adult decisions and we must hold the adults making these decisions accountable to their own policies, procedures and education contracts for students with special needs. We must also give schools and classrooms the resources and supports to prevent and manage behaviors effectively.

There are some good examples of schools that have transformed. Culture change is starting, however, we must continue to look at the data and focus supports and accountability where it’s needed. There is work to be done to intentionally address systemic racism in our policies around discipline and school policing. This is work I have been involved with and am ready to lead on as a school board member.

5) What concrete actions do you see yourself taking as a school board member to represent and engage parents of color?

If elected, I will be the first Latinx community member to hold elected office in Spokane. I will continue my relationships with the Spokane Coalition of Color and Spokane Commu-

Katey Treloar



1) What do you see as the top challenges currently facing Spokane Public Schools and what qualifies you to address those challenges?

I offer my experience as a Spokane Public Schools teacher and as the mother of two young, school-age boys. I want to bring the practical experience of a teacher, the heart of a parent, and the voice of common sense to the Spokane Public School’s Board of Directors. While the board has the best of intentions when rolling out policy and procedure, I can offer real world knowledge that will eliminate unintended consequences.

As a board member I will focus on safety and security, long-term, sustainable planning, and bringing back the 75 minutes of class time our elementary schools lost on Fridays.

2) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane’s African American community.

My involvement in the development and implementation of the non-profit, Bite2Go, has served children in every elementary, middle and high school in Spokane Public Schools.

1 in 4 Spokane children experience food insecurity. Bite2Go identifies children receiving free or reduced lunch at school and makes sure they go home with a bag of food for the weekend.

Children suffering food insecurity are 150% more likely to be aggressive, hyper-active, and non-compliant. By the end of the 2018-19 school year, 3,225 Spokane children were receiving Bite2Go food packs for the weekend.

3) What do you see as the primary need(s) of African American youth and youth of color in the Spokane school system and how can the School Board address those needs?

Spokane Pubic Schools needs to continue to recruit and retain a highly qualified, diverse workforce. This includes hiring teachers, administrators, and counselors from diverse backgrounds. The current workforce needs ongoing training on trauma informed practices, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, and culturally responsive concepts.

4) Despite the best efforts of Spokane School District administrators, students of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by discipline rates and arrests in our local schools. What does SPS need to do that it is not currently doing to address this issue?

It is essential that teachers, staff, and educators understand the link between racial identity and social, cultural experiences with school related behaviors.

In 1998 Circle of Security was developed in Spokane. This program that was born and lives in our city, is now used around the world to train parents and educators on attachment theory and how to organize and handle difficult emotions. It provides adults with tools to provide safety and predictability in the lives of all children. Spokane has this successful, evidence based, program at their finger tips and should be utilized by Spokane Public Schools.

5) What concrete actions do you see yourself taking as a school board member to represent and engage parents of color?

The District must communicate to families that their involvement in the education process is essential to student success. As a teacher I worked hard to find ways to build strong home-school connections and will do the same as a school board member. I will encourage the District to provide opportunities for parents of color to be leaders and representatives in policy and curriculum decision making.

6) How can Spokane Schools recruit, hire and retain a more diverse workforce?

Spokane Public Schools can work to provide supportive pathways into teaching and administration for educators of color. It is also essential that new teachers and administration have a strong support system during their first few years of working in the District.

7) There has been discussion about arming Campus Resource Officers (CROs) as a part of a comprehensive safety plan for the Spokane

school district. Yes or no, do you support arming CROs? Why? Why not?

In conjunction with the continued support of mental health therapists, counselors, and relationship building curriculum, I support hiring and arming POLICE OFFICERS-that are assigned to a specific middle school and high school. These “resource officers” would have on going training, mental health checks, and annual evaluations. This service would be in collaboration with the District and the Spokane Police Department.

In addition I support the great work that our police officers are doing with PAL (Police Activities League), YPI (Youth and Police Initiative) and G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training).

8) If you could change one thing about Spokane Schools what would it be?

As an elementary school teacher I understand the importance of early childhood education. When families have the opportunity to enroll their children in programs for birth to five years-there is an increase in the ability to positively shape the cognitive, social, and developmental capacity of children,

I would like to see Spokane Public Schools develop relationships and collaborate with Head Start, ECEAP, and other early learning programs to give our at-risk children a successful start.

9) What is working well in Spokane Public Schools right now and how would you build on it?

I am excited about the graduation rates in Spokane Public Schools. The District reported an 88% graduation rate in 2018. In addition, the District has done a great job developing the T24 Future Ready program, which prepares student to complete some level of higher education whether it be a technical, 2 year, or 4 year program. In 2017, 52% of students enrolled in a post-secondary experience. I would like to focus on that number and see how we can support our students to see an increase in post-secondary enrollment.

The reduction in class size for kindergarten to third grade is important to student success. Research shows that optimal learning occurs when there is a 1:18 teacher to student ratio. Unfortunately, class size in intermediate grades, middle school, and high school have increased. These kinds of ratios decrease academic learning, create safety issues, and cause burnout in teachers.

There will be some positive changes as our capital projects catch up and sixth grade moves to middle school. However, we can’t wait to resolve class size issue for three years. As a board member I will work hard to find ways to reduce class size across all grade levels.

10) What policies would you support to increase student achievement?

If the District uses in-school suspension as a disciplinary model, it must be an intentional practice. I believe we should develop a district wide expectation for what in-school suspension should look like. In-school suspension should include academic tutoring, social and emotional support, lessons on executive functioning skills, and a school service project.

SPOKANE SCHOOL BOARD - POSITION 2

Kelli MacFarlane

Jenny Slagle

1) What do you see as the top challenges currently facing Spokane Public Schools and what qualifies you to address those challenges?

I am an educator with 15 years’ experience, I know what works. I am passionate about education.

2) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane’s African American community.

I’m relatively new to Spokane as a permanent resident. I moved here in August of 2017. However, as an Air Force Spouse I’ve had lots of experience with African Americans and their families.

3) What do you see as the primary need(s) of African American youth and youth of color in the Spokane school system and how can the School Board address those needs?

I see the primary need for students in District 81 is more parent and community involvement. This is need for all students and I will encourage and support a strong parent/district relationship as a board director.

4) Despite the best efforts of Spokane School District administrators, students of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by discipline rates and arrests in our local schools. What does SPS need to do that it is not currently doing to address this issue?

This ties into my last question; but I feel increased parent involvement in the schools and their child’s education is critical in changing the disproportionate discipline rate for African American students.

5) What concrete actions do you see yourself taking as a school board member to represent and engage parents of color?

I think this falls on all parents. Parent involvement in their child’s education is critical. All district parents need to take their students education seriously.

6) How can Spokane Schools recruit, hire and retain and more diverse workforce?



I think SPS 81 can recruit and diverse workforce, but I think Spokane itself needs new leadership to entice and keep diverse, quality district employees.

7) There has been discussion about arming Campus Resource Officers (CROs) as a part of a comprehensive safety plan for the Spokane school district. Yes or no, do you support arming CROs? Why? Why not?

Yes, I do. I feel it is our responsibility to adequately protect our schools and all who are there. In this day and age, it means that we cannot ignore having armed, professional personal on our campuses.

8) If you could change one thing about Spokane Schools what would it be?

The series of poor budget decisions.

9) What is working well in Spokane Public Schools right now and how would you build on it?

We have devoted, educated and trained educators and administrators. We need to listen to them and support them in their work.

10) What policies would you support to increase student achievement?

Teaching Responsibility, Accountability and Respect in our schools again.

1) What do you see as the top challenges currently facing Spokane Public Schools and what qualifies you to address those challenges?

The top challenges are school safety, ongoing budget funding, and student discipline. The last three years, I’ve been a member of the Spokane Public Schools Diversity Advisory Council, chairing during the 2017-2018 year. Our advisory council has provided recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding curriculum, student discipline & restorative practices, and culturally responsive training for district staff and educators. As an involved parent, I’ve witnessed how well public schools could work for our students, and how much more work we have yet to do. I’m running for school board because the same social issues that affect communities exist within school systems, and I believe that’s where reform should begin. Professionally, I have the leadership experience to work collaboratively with students, educators, and community leaders. It requires empathy, authenticity, and insight. I’m the best candidate because I believe in the purpose and bring a hopeful vision for all students and educators of diverse backgrounds.

2) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane’s African American community.

As an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation, I grew up on the Yakama Reservation. I’ve experienced and witnessed how poverty, racial and socioeconomic disparities, and lack of parent involvement can interfere with a student’s ability to learn. My only option was public schools, and they played an important role in my life. My family and I have been a part of the Spokane community for almost 20 years, we are part of the communities of color. As students, my four kids have navigated Spokane Public Schools, each with unique experiences.

3) What do you see as the primary need(s) of African American youth and youth of color in the Spokane school system and how can the School Board address those needs?

The school district needs to address the disproportionate rates of discipline experienced by African American and American Indian students. I support restorative practices and would like to spend some time looking at cause and effect of students disproportionately affected including isolation practices. Focus should be to decrease truancy by allotting more staff and supports around social determinant of health needs of students and families. If we reduce the barriers that keep students from attending school, we’ll see fewer students and families involved in the truancy processes, (and the juvenile court system), which will lead to increased graduation rates and student success.

4) Despite the best efforts of Spokane School District administrators, students of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by discipline rates and arrests in our local schools. What does SPS need to do that it is not currently doing to address this issue?

SPS needs to have community discussions to hear concerns and unique barriers that families experience.

5) What concrete actions do you see yourself taking as a school board member to represent and engage parents of color?

Continue to build relationships of collabora-



tion; working with families, parent organizations, community organizations and coalitions to provide transparent communication and identify root causes of communication breakdown so that families feel better supported and heard.

6) How can Spokane Schools recruit, hire and retain and more diverse workforce?

A diverse workforce improves the learning experience and closes achievement gaps for all students, not just for students of color. SPS needs to continue to develop partnerships with universities and minority-serving organizations to create mentorships early in potential candidates’ education. Hiring committees should also be diverse. SPS should also look at underwriting the cost of teaching preparation through scholarships or loan forgiveness in exchange for service commitments.

7) There has been discussion about arming Campus Resource Officers (CROs) as a part of a comprehensive safety plan for the Spokane school district. Yes or no, do you support arming CROs? Why? Why not?

I do not support arming CROs. There have been no studies that indicate the arming makes students or learning environments safer. Before calling for the question of arming or not, there should be community conversations and input. I’d rather see continued investment toward programs such as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Social-Emotional Learning. With the budget cuts, we don’t have the funds to spend on equipment, training, additional insurance costs, and process changes that arming CROs would require.

8) If you could change one thing about Spokane Schools what would it be?

I’d like the Board to adopt a racial equity policy that recognizes diversity and commits to all students success. This policy would provide a lens which all current and future policy is developed, such as budget repercussions, curriculum implementation, school safety, student discipline, and professional development.

9) What is working well in Spokane Public Schools right now and how would you build on it?

I would continue to build on and deepen the MTSS programs. Adding the social-emotional learning pilot is a good step toward that.

10) What policies would you support to increase student achievement?

Work toward a diverse workforce, ensure a culturally rich curriculum that represents all students, and continue relationship building within schools with activities such as ongoing cultural-responsive training.



SPOKANE SCHOOL BOARD - POSITION 4

Erin Georgen

Kevin Morrison

1) What do you see as the top challenges currently facing Spokane Public Schools and what qualifies you to address those challenges?

The budget is one of the most pressing challenges facing the district as it affects everything else. As a single parent, I know what it means to work with what constantly feels like an impossible budget. As a small business owner, I'm known for working to help clients find cost-effective solutions to meet their communications needs on small budgets. I understand the importance of prioritizing, considering options, and searching for the most cost-effective solutions. I have experience working with a leading economist on a state-wide healthcare spending research report for Washington. That lead to developing and advocating for state-level healthcare legislation. My experience collaborating with state legislators in drafting legislation helped me develop the skills to work with legislators on state-level funding solutions for the district.

2) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane's African American Community.

Over the last several years, I've been actively supporting candidates of color running for local offices because I believe that more diverse representation in elected leaders creates the strongest foundation for creating meaningful change for people of color. I've taken many steps to learn how to be a better ally to communities of color and to better understand the depth of challenges they face. With every step only realizing more fully just how much I don't truly understand. I'm committed to taking the time to really listen when the only members of my community who do truly understand are sharing their experiences and insight with me.

3) What do you see as the primary need(s) of African American youth and youth of color in the Spokane school system and how can the School Board address those needs?

Many inequities have been identified and many stem from more than one obstacle facing African American youth. I believe one of the most immediate needs is better representation and more racially diverse leadership throughout the entire process of developing policies. The voices of those most affected are a key to every step of any policy building. Everything, from identifying the root barriers for any minority community members' success to developing potential solutions and implementation, will be more successful at making any significant improvements if the most vulnerable individuals and communities are included, heard, and empowered.

4) Despite the best efforts of Spokane School District administrators, students of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by discipline rates and arrests in our local schools. What does SPS need to do that it is not currently doing to address this issue?

More African American staff in leadership and teaching positions is the foundation that will help the district better address the challenges affecting African American students' success. I know this has been a goal of the district for a while, but it may be time to consider taking more proactive approaches like helping to create more opportunities for African Americans and persons of color in our community to achieve the secondary education needed to fill these positions in the district and investing more resources in expanding the reach of Job Openings into our District's communities of color when they come available.

5) What concrete actions do you see yourself taking as a school board member to represent and engage parents of color?

I will work to improve accessibility for parents of color to engage the district's leadership and



will look for effective ways to ensure the district has more success in hiring and retaining a more diverse staff at every level.

6) How can Spokane Schools recruit, hire and retain and more diverse workforce?

While there is a lot of research into the benefits of a diverse workforce and identifying many of the barriers, there's still a lack of meaningful research into how to best overcome those barriers. Spokane Schools can look for more ways to help a greater diversity of people in our community to overcome the obstacles they face in becoming a teacher or leader in the district. Ensuring a good work environment, compensation, and support will help the district retain that staff.

7) There has been discussion about arming Campus Resource Officers (CROs) as a part of a comprehensive safety plan for the Spokane school district. Yes or no, do you support arming CROs? Why? Why not?

No, at this point the district lacks the financial resources, qualified staffing, and quality of hiring processes needed to arm CROs. Beyond that, I've found little evidence that arming even qualified staff results in a reduction of violence or significantly improves the outcomes of violent encounters when they occur.

8) If you could change one thing about Spokane Schools what would it be?

I would love to find a way to expand free breakfast and lunch to all students across the district. There are some opportunities for additional federal funding to help the district achieve that and I will look for ways to make the most of those opportunities.

9) What is working well in Spokane Public Schools right now and how would you build on it?

I believe the commitment and flexibility demonstrated by the staff during the last year and moving forward is a vital part of what is working well with Spokane Schools. I will advocate for ample staffing and ensuring that staff have the resources to be successful. The progress made on developing strong Behavior Intervention programs at some of the schools in the district is also commendable, but must continue to expand to meet the needs of all schools in the district.

10) What policies would you support to increase student achievement?

I support the new Social Emotional Learning curriculum, expanding behavioral interventions programs to reach more schools, and restorative discipline policies, but I also recognize that policy is meaningless if the schools don't have staff well-prepared to follow through. I believe that smaller class sizes at the higher grades and more resources (space and supplies) for the staff to use for restorative discipline practices are imperative to the success of any of these policies.

1) What do you see as the top challenges currently facing Spokane Public Schools and what qualifies you to address those challenges?

Budget- the recent budget included reductions or eliminations in library specialists and custodian positions, an increase in combination classrooms, and a decrease of 75 minutes of teaching for our elementary students. My history in leadership positions in the district, knowledge of the budget and my relationships with state lawmakers will seek to restore those positions and lost instruction time for our students. Other challenges include, reducing class size to meet state requirements, implementing new guidelines in place of right-response training for behavior issues in our schools, and increasing the number of mental health counselors in our schools.

2) Give examples of how you have engaged with communities of color in the past, particularly Spokane's African American community.

As an SPS administrator and district leader I have made it a point to have an open-door policy for all community members and made a specific point to engage the voice of all non-majority stakeholders in committees, forums, and issues relating to our district. Whether as a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council or subgroup within that group tasked with specific issues of concern, or seeking members for boundary committees, safety task force, middle-school task force.

3) What do you see as the primary need(s) of African American youth and youth of color in the Spokane school system and how can the School Board address those needs?

Voice. I appreciate the work that is being done in SPS to include Black Student Unions in some of our high schools so that important issues around race can be discussed in a safe environment. The School Board can continue to monitor, measure and hold accountable district leadership when programs, policies or initiatives to serve all students are not being applied fairly, and promote initiatives that are showing demonstrated trust and a sense of being part of the school community by students of color.

4) Despite the best efforts of Spokane School District administrators, students of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by discipline rates and arrests in our local schools. What does SPS need to do that it is not currently doing to address this issue?

SPS needs to continue the path of transparency to the community on that data and utilize proven programs of training for staff to address the issue. It is also imperative that the greater community step-up with resources to help serve our students in need for the 85% of the hours in a year that students are not in our schools.

5) What concrete actions do you see yourself taking as a school board member to represent and engage parents of color?

As I did for an administrator in the district- I will meet any parent or group, anytime, anywhere to discuss issues. I would also look forward to serving on the



district's Diversity Advisory Committee, as well as continue attending neighborhood council meetings, community celebrations, and neighborhood events to engage all parents. Being retired affords me an open calendar to attend the many events that occur and need school board representation.

6) How can Spokane Schools recruit, hire and retain and more diverse workforce?

Aggressively seek out more diverse candidates in ALL roles within SPS by reaching out to specific community leaders in those under-represented areas and continue to market the district across the region. I would also want to make sure that contracted services with the district also meet a strong diversity hiring practice.

7) There has been discussion about arming Campus Resource Officers (CROs) as a part of a comprehensive safety plan for the Spokane school district. Yes or no, do you support arming CROs? Why? Why not?

The recent safety study done by the district recommends we engage our community at looking at variety of options and better define what kind of armed law-enforcement response should be readily available specifically to our schools in times of life-threatening crisis perpetrated by someone with intent to do harm. I do not believe that a public-school district's responsibility is law enforcement, however- the reality is that it is a school district's responsibility to maintain a safe and secure environment for our students, staff and authorized visitors. Let's have our community discuss how we meet that end.

8) If you could change one thing about Spokane Schools what would it be?

Providing additional supports for students in mental health, nursing, drug-alcohol counseling, gang-resistance.

9) What is working well in Spokane Public Schools right now and how would you build on it?

The data collection in a variety of areas for decision making is doing well. It needs to continue refinement and be shared with the public easily.

10) What policies would you support to increase student achievement?

I support all policies that reduce barriers to student achievement and would continue the work of understanding what the barriers are and working towards solutions to engage students where they are at.

Looking for Diverse Women to Run for Office

Emerge recruits, trains and offers support to women considering running

Emerge WA has a singular focus – to ensure that our democracy looks like us!

Founded in 2017, Emerge WA’s mission is to increase the number of Democratic women leaders from diverse backgrounds in public office all across the state. Emerge recruits, trains and provides a powerful support network for women who are thinking about running for public office. The premiere campaign training program in our state, Emerge has trained women from all WA State and 19 Emerge-trained women serve in public office, including Congresswoman Dr. Kim Schrier (D-WA 8).

Emerge WA is part of a national network doing similar work from Maine to Alabama, from Louisiana to Wisconsin, Arizona, New Mexico, California and Oregon. Among 28 state, Emerge WA was the 18th state to organize an affiliate, and was the fastest state to join the network. Founded by women who were casting about in their grief after the 2016 Presidential election, the found a way to take back our democracy.

“The work of Emerge has always been critical,” explains Emerge Executive Director, Karen Besserman. “Our



democracy should look like us. But now, in these tumultuous times, I really think that women – and especially women of color, LGBTQ women, women from varying backgrounds, demographics, socio-economic strata – are going to save us and get this ship back on track.”

Will a deep commitment to diversity, Emerge’s trainees are 40% women of color, LGBTQ and of differing abilities, education levels and come with varying political outlooks and leanings. Over 80% of trainees are from outside of Seattle as the organization is

focused on training women all across the state to build a bench of women trained and ready to run – and win.

Emerge’s signature program is an 80-hour, multi-month, cohort-based training. Women learn everything from when to run, what to run for, how to raise money, how to knock on doors, deliver a stump speech, develop a campaign plan and more. Trainers include elected officials and political professionals from all across the state and its most compelling offering is the cohort and network trainees graduate with. “Really, women in our training gain access to all of our

elected officials and graduate with a sisterhood that supports them in every step along their political journey,” Besserman explains. “That is what makes us stand out – having that ongoing support as your run for office.”

Boasting of 18 Emerge-trained women on the November ballot, Emerge WA hopes to capture the top spot among states by having the most women elected officials and gaining true parity. WA State used to hold the number one spot and had a quad-fecta – two women Senators, a woman governor and a woman President of the Senate.

Washington State is now 4th in the number of women elected officials. “Its time for us to be a leader – women running and women winning will get us there,” proclaims Besserman.

Applications for the 2020 Emerge WA | Lisa Brown cohort are now being accepted. Applications can be found at EmergeWA.org and Executive Director, Karen Besserman, can be reached at Karen@EmergeWA.org. She is open to answering questions – big and small – any time.

For more information about Emerge visit: EmergeWA.org.

Black women in the U.S. are nearly 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women. Let’s change that.

Take the time to learn about your risk factors and be sure to schedule your mammogram every year once you turn 40. Annual screening mammography can help catch breast cancer early, when it’s easier to treat.



To learn more, go to: InlandImaging.com/breast-imaging and knowyourgirls.org. To schedule your annual screening mammogram, call 509.455.4455. Early detection saves lives.

Inland Imaging
Answers you can trust and care you can count on.

OUR VOICES

How One Decision Set Voting Rights Back 50 Years

The Mountain Standing Right Behind the Mountain Top

By Ray Curry
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW

August marked the 54th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), one of the most sweeping pieces of civil rights legislation in U.S. history. This ground-breaking measure, fought over and marched over and bled over on the streets of Selma, Alabama, was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965. It was designed to knock down legal barriers at state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote.

That essential democratic right to have a say in who can best make government work for its people, had been guaranteed by the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, passed in 1870. The amendment stated that the right to vote could not be denied based on “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

And even though that sounds clear as a bell, the road to the polls was made instead an arduous and at times even perilous one with Jim Crow smack in the way, installing roadblocks and tripwire at as many turns as he could get away with. As originally written, the Voting Rights Act took an axe to those barriers.

But in 2013, the Supreme Court delivered a decision that, in effect, gutted VRA protections. Since then, we’ve seen numerous court challenges and legal maneuvering designed to further weaken the VRA. Designed to obfuscate that mountain top view of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s promised land, that momentous decision put another mountain of dehumanizing anti-voting measures in place. The 2013 decision did its dirty work by seizing on one of the most critical temporary provisions, known as Section 4.

What a lot of people don’t realize is that many aspects of the VRA are not permanent law. Many of the provisions are temporary and must be renewed by Congress. So, we must continually fight to protect this critical piece of civil rights legislation. We must fight challenges in the courts, fight to ensure the temporary provisions are renewed and fight to maintain the watchdog provisions of the Act at the state and local levels where we see voter suppression.

A dagger in the heart of the VRA

The devastating 2013 decision rendered moot, Sections 4 and 5, two of the most critical aspects of the law. Section 4, which was struck down, provided a formula for the federal government to identify locations with documented histories of racial discrimination. The locations identified under the provision were: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia; three counties in California; five counties in Florida; three counties in New York; 40 counties in North Carolina; two counties in South Dakota; and two Michigan townships.

Section 5 called for locations identified under Section 4 to submit any changes in voting laws to the Department of Justice for pre-approval. Until 2013, Section 5 proved very effective in blocking discriminatory measures. Between 1998 and 2013, 86 proposed election changes were blocked and hundreds more withdrawn.

The effect of scuttling these critically important checks have turned a fire hose on the people the VRA was meant to protect. Perhaps John Lewis, Georgia U.S. House representative and well known Freedom Rider in the civil rights movement summed up the decision best: “What the Supreme Court

did was to put a dagger in the heart of the Voting Rights Act.”

And we felt the pain across the nation.

‘No, you can’t vote’

Here are but a few examples of the rampant assault on voting rights and voting access since 2013.

At least 17 million voters were purged nationwide between 2016 and 2018, according to a Brennan Center for Justice Report. A similar number was purged between 2014 and 2016, leading up to the 2016 presidential election, the first presidential election in 50 years conducted without the full protection of the VRA.

Of note is the fact that those numbers are much bigger than the purge rates in 2006 and 2008. Moreover, purge rates were significantly higher, reaching up to 40%, in those areas identified under Section 4 as having a history of voter suppression along racial lines.

Georgia, (one of the identified states under Section 4), for example, purged twice as many voters between 2012 and 2016 than it did between 2008 and 2012.

Moreover, at least 17 states have enacted new voting restrictions that make it more difficult to register to vote, that curb voter registration drives and decrease opportunities for early voting, and establish requirements for government-issued IDs (a document that millions of Americans don’t have).

That last provision alone has the potential to suppress millions of voters, and it’s clear that strict voter ID laws disproportionately affect African-American, Latino, Asian-American, young, elderly and poor voters.

A Florida measure barred ex-felons from being eligible to vote after serving their



sentences, preventing 1.7 million Floridians from voting in 2016, including 1 in 5 black voting-age citizens.

Fighting back

The assault the Supreme Court enabled on voting rights now threatens our democracy and the principles on which this nation was founded.

Enter voting rights champion, Stacy Abrams and her group, **Fair Fight Action**, which is taking on voter suppression in Georgia in the courts. The Georgia suit doesn’t address Sections 4 and 5 directly, but instead challenges the legitimacy of a system that would allow egregious voting disparities.

A May 2019 Vox article on Abrams noted: “Obstacles to voting have created a two-tiered voting system that disproportionately affects voters of color and limits the power of their votes.”

Heading into the 2020 presidential election, we must work harder than ever to protect our democracy — and the right of every U.S. citizen’s voice to be heard at the ballot box, even if it takes moving mountains to do it.

A longtime grassroots activist, Ray Curry is a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Nashville, a Silver Life member of the NAACP, and member of the NAACP National Board of Directors. He is an active member of numerous community and social organizations and resides in Detroit.

Spokane City Council President Candidates

Continued From Page 14

Breean Beggs

9) At times, in a community, what is in the best interest of the majority can be in conflict with what is in the best interest of the minority. How would you or how have you balanced that conflict?

The majority has to first keep its promises, like full compliance with Native American treaties and redressing centuries of explicit and implicit violence and economic oppression based on race. Failure to do so actually hurts the majority in the long run. In addition, basic human morality requires the strong to assist the weak in our community regardless of how they became strong or weak.

10) What are the top things that you hope to accomplish if elected Spokane City Council President?

I will reduce crime, poverty, homelessness and broken infrastructure. They are interrelated and require a commitment to raise the boats of all communities in Spokane. Along the way, I hope to demonstrate transparency and inclusion.

11) What perception do you believe the general community has of the Spokane City Council? How do you think that perception is similar or different from the perception that people of color in Spokane have?

My worry is that people don’t perceive the Council or the rest of the city government as caring enough about everyday people. I suspect that people of color share that feeling more than the majority. Obviously, people of color will notice an extreme lack of representation of people of color in elected or senior employee positions. Until we consciously change that fact, people of color will be correct in their dismay. I spent significant time with three people of color considering running for City Council this year and offered them coaching and advice. In response to the disconnectedness of the people from the Council, I work hard to rub shoulders with as many different communities as possible every day and be attentive to emails and conversations with folks so that I at least understand their perspectives. I do my best to explain the complexities of working within the challenges of city government and offer paths forward to solutions for individual and community concerns.

12) Why should a person of color vote for you?

For decades I have stood with people of color as a family member, friend, activist, lawyer and City Councilmember. I won’t stop working for equity and inclusion until I die. I still have much to learn about how best to support people of color and will do so humbly while expecting a better Spokane.

Cindy Wendle

11) What perception do you believe the general community has of the Spokane City Council? How do you think that perception is similar or different from the perception that people of color in Spokane have?

I’ve knocked on thousands of doors, and people want change. They are tired of being told what to do and not being heard.

I believe this is a common denominator for all of us. This Council makes too many assumptions

and therefore people feel disconnected.

12) Why should a person of color vote for you?

I am honest, open, I listen and I care. I will set the tone for our City Council, one that is fair, respectful and inclusive. Even though the topics might be difficult, we need to have them for us to move forward as a city. I have a long track record of working across political boundaries, with all people, to deliver results.

OUR VOICES

Workers Are Asking, Whose Side Are You On?

By Jesse Jackson

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - More than 2,200 nurses at the University of Chicago Medical Center went out on strike last week, but they are not alone. American workers are waking up and walking out. On Sept. 15, 46,000 hourly General Motors' United Auto Workers employees went on strike, the first time in 12 years. Striking British Airway pilots grounded 1,700 planes. In Republican states like Oklahoma and West Virginia, teachers shut down schools to demand that state legislatures reverse the deep cuts exacted from public education. Marriott hotels were hit with the largest hotel strike in U.S. history, a walkout of 6,000 hotel workers in four states.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that a soaring number of workers went on strike or stopped work in 2018 — 485,000 — the most since 1986. The rising number of strikes reflect the reality of Trump's economy: Despite all his boasting about the "economic miracle," most workers aren't experiencing it. Corporate profits have soared, but workers haven't shared the benefit.

Trump's tax scam went largely to the rich and the corporations. Corporate promises of wage and investment hikes were largely discarded, with CEOs using the tax breaks mostly to buy back stocks, boosting their stock bonuses and shafting their workers. Gilded age inequality is combined with rising insecurity for working people.

Even now, wages have finally begun to rise, but still are not catching up to soaring costs in basics like health care and education. Just 22 percent of workers have a pension plan of any kind at work. 40 percent of Americans say they would be forced to borrow or sell something to cover a \$400 emergency. One in five say they know someone addicted to opioids or painkillers. The GM strike comes after workers sacrificed big-time to



help GM out of bankruptcy during the Great Recession. Now GM's profits are up, CEO bonuses are up, but workers who shared the pain haven't shared in the gain.

They are striking for decency, for higher wages, for strong health care plans, for turning more temporary workers — who get no benefits — into permanent workers with pensions, health care and vacations. The strike wave last year was led by teachers in deep red states. In each state, Republican legislatures had slashed spending on education during the Great Recession and cut taxes on the wealthy. When the economy turned around, they didn't restore the spending cuts.

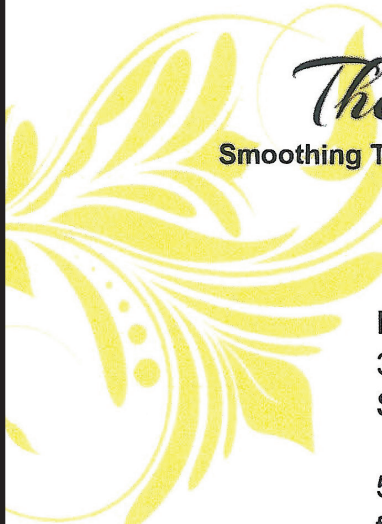
Teachers sick of futile negotiations with local school boards walked off the job and took their case directly to the legislatures. They demanded not only higher salaries, but in many cases, smaller classes, and greater spending on their students. They got massive support from parents and the community. In each case, right-wing state legislators were forced to respond by increasing spending, although not to the levels sought by the striking teachers. The wave of strikes is increasingly

propelled by younger workers. Fight for \$15, the movement to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, was led by young workers in fast-food restaurants and other service industries.

Young people, often burdened with college debt, entering workplaces characterized by wages and benefits that don't keep up with costs, are particularly aware of how the economy has been rigged against them. Large majorities think CEOs are greedy and irresponsible. Large majorities think politicians have been corrupted by entrenched interests and big money. They are driving the demand for change. Smart business leaders are waking up to the fact that they are losing the support of Americans, particularly the young.

The Business Roundtable, a gathering of some of the most powerful CEOs in the country, recently called on corporations to move beyond a single focus on "shareholder value," but also invest in their workers, protect the environment and deal ethically with suppliers and customers. Whether this is anything beyond a public relations gambit remains to be seen, but the mere fact that the CEOs thought it necessary to publicly release that statement likely suggests that they know they have gone too far. These stirrings are beginning to be reflected in our politics.

Trump, for all his populist posturing, remains oblivious, wedded to the conservative Republican agenda, opposed to unions, to raising the minimum wage, to investing in teachers, education and getting health care costs under control. But every leading Democratic contender for president champions worker power, calling for reforms to make it easier to organize, for lifting the minimum wage, for making vital public investments, and for cracking down on the entrenched interests that have rigged the economy against working people. The words of the old union ballad "Which Side Are You On?" once more echo across the country.



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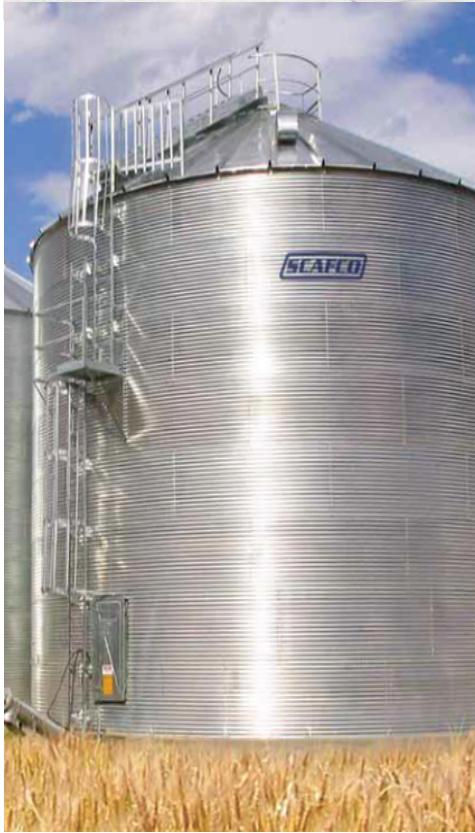
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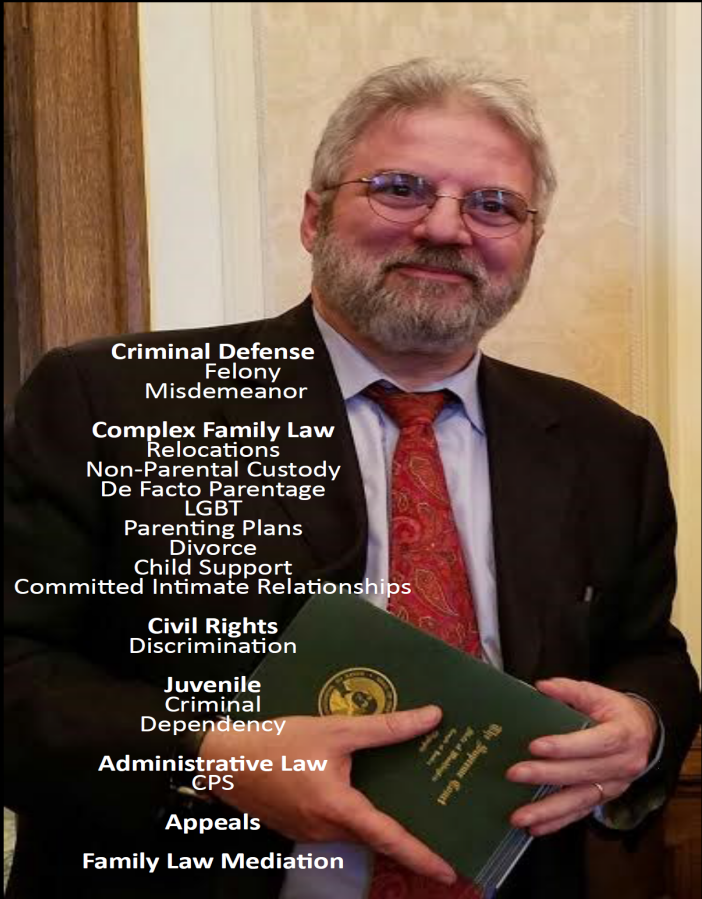
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OCTOBER EVENTS

OCTOBER 3

**FIRST THURSDAY
EVENING DISCUSSION
GROUP**
Creating small groups willing to meet regularly for deep discussions on racial and social justice, to plan strategies and take action.
6 – 8 pm
Carl Maxey Center
3116 E 5th Avenue, Spokane
For information contact Bob Lloyd at (509) 999-1263 or rdllloyd@comcast.net.

**OCTOBER 4, 5, 6
MIRACLE HEALING
PRAYER REVIVAL**
Hosted by Pastor Otis and Jarretta Manning. Special Guest: Dr. Beryle Porte.
6pm (Doors open at 5:30pm)
Word of Faith Christian Center
9212 E Montgomery Ave, Spokane Valley
Seating is limited. Register online for free at miraclehealingbreakthrough.com, or for reservations or information call 509-919-4150.

WANTED: Spokane Community Artists/Designers of Color

The Spokane NAACP is looking for someone to create a design that will become Spokane's flag to commemorate Black History month.
Entries due by October 18. Call 509-838-2605 for information.

OCTOBER 4

TERRAIN 12
Always on the first Friday in October, Terrain is an annual, one-night-only, juried multimedia art and music event celebrating artists in the Spokane area.
290 Artists • 453 Artworks
5pm - Midnight
Jensen Byrd Building
131 E. Main Avenue, Spokane
For more information e-mail: Team@Terrainspokane.com

**OCTOBER 5
COALITION OF COLOR
CANDIDATE FORUM**
Spokane City Council & Council President
6 -9pm
MLK @East Central Community Center
500 S. Stone St, Spokane
The Spokane Coalition of Color (SCOC), is comprised of the Spokane Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Hispanic Business/Professional Association (HBPA), and the Spokane Chapter of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC).

OCTOBER 8

**FUSE SPOKANE -
DIVERSE VOICES BOOK
DISCUSSION**
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
“What’s the difference between an African-American and an American-African? From such a distinction springs a deep-seated discussion of race in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s third novel, ‘Americanah.’
6:30pm -8:00pm
Downtown Public Library - Level-up classroom (topmost floor)
906 W Main Ave, Spokane,
Questions email Erin at EJTounge@gmail.com

OCTOBER 10

JUSTICE NIGHT
Speak with an attorney. Free Consultations in these areas: LFOs (Legal Financial Obligations), Housing, Juvenile Law, Family Law, Seal/Expunge/ Vacate Convictions, Police Accountability. NO CRIMINAL LAW.
5:30 pm
Center for Justice
35 W Main, Spokane 99201
Cost: Free. Sponsored by Center for Justice. For more information call 509.835.5211 or visit their website at www.cforjustice.org.

OCTOBER 11

**YWCA ANNUAL WOMEN
OF ACHIEVEMENT
LUNCHEON**
Celebrating the 2019 local honorees. Keynote speaker, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina.
11:30am - 1:30pm
The Convention Center
334 W Spokane Falls Blvd-
Tickets \$125. For more information or tickets e-mail community@ywcaspokane.org or visit ywcaspokane.org

**OCTOBER 19
COURAGEOUS
CONVERSATIONS**
Power, Privilege & Oppression
Presented by Wilburn and Associates.
4 - 6:30pm
West Central Comm. Cntr
1603 N Belt St, Spokane
Free and open to the public. For more information or to register visit: wilburnassociates.org.

OCTOBER 21

NAACP MEETING
Join the NAACP monthly general membership meeting
7:00pm
Check the NAACP website or Facebook to confirm meeting location and date.
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit: naacpspokane.org.

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**TIANNA
BARTOLETTA!**

OCTOBER 17TH

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30-8:30 P.M.

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1600 N. HOWARD ST., SPOKANE WA 99205



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BARTOLETTA!**

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**DOORS OPEN AT
6:30-8:30 P.M.**
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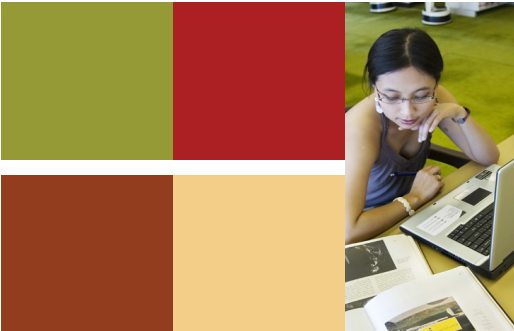
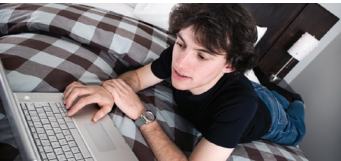


What is the HS iCAN Program?

The iCAN (Individual Credit Advancement Now) program provides online credit recovery opportunities for students at their home high school, using special web-based coursework developed by Spokane Virtual Learning (SVL). Classroom times are scheduled at each school so that students can be assisted in person and online.

**High School
iCAN
Program**

**Individual Credit
Advancement Now**



ENGLISH
English 9
English 10
English 11
English 12

MATHEMATICS
Algebra 1
Geometry
Algebra 2
Pre-Calculus

SCIENCE
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Anatomy & Physiology

SOCIAL STUDIES
World History
US History
Civics
Current World Affairs

FITNESS & HEALTH
Health
Intro to Fitness
Lifetime Fitness

WORLD LANGUAGE
Spanish 1
Spanish 2



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ARTS MONTH

*a city-wide celebration of
arts & culture*

OCTOBER 2019

events, exhibits, workshops & more across all arts disciplines!

SEPT. 07 - JAN. 04

**FROM THE COLLECTION:
ETHNICITY & IDENTITY AS
THEMES IN ART**

In conjunction with the 2019 ERIP Conference, artwork focusing on themes of ethnicity and identity will be on display. Selected works convey information about the artists, their experiences, and worldviews.

Jundt Art Museum / 502 E Boone /
Sept. 7 - Jan. 4, Gallery Open: Mon. - Sat.
10 am - 4 pm / Free

**OCT.
06 & 13**

**DINNER WITH
SHADES**

Dinner with Shades: A Bridge to Intimacy! Dinner with Shades is an opportunity for the community to meet, talk with, and get to know an array of talented artists in the Spokane area.

Wiley's Downtown Bistro / 115 N Washington /
6:30 pm - 9 pm / Individual: \$25; Couple:
\$45 (dinner not included in ticket price)

linktr.ee/shades.of.me

**OCT.
17**

**AARON PARKS
LITTLE BIG AT SFCC**

Creative modern music that defies genre boundaries. Pianist Aaron Parks is a Seattle native and prodigy. Little Big includes Greg Tuohey, David 'DJ' Ginyard & Tommy Crane.

Spokane Falls Community College, Music
Dept. / 3410 W Fort George Wright Dr / 8 pm -
10 pm / Student: \$10; Member: \$20;
Non-Member: \$25

imaginejazz.org

OCT. 18 - 20

**ONE HEART NATIVE
ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL:
INDIGENOUS RISING**

For the 4th annual One Heart Native Arts & Film Festival, we look to our youth and empower their creativity in the arts. One Heart brings along a performance of The Killer Whale and the Black Rush, local & regional Indigenous visual artists at the annual One Heart gallery with professional development, youth theater workshops & the One Heart Short Film festival.

Bing Crosby Theatre / 901 W Sprague Ave
The Unfinished Space / 165 S Howard St

oneheartfestival.org

for more listings, visit:

www.spokanearts.org/artsmonth