

**Spokane Regional Labor Council, AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education  
Local Candidate Questionnaire 2023**

Deadline to return the questionnaire is 4 pm Friday, May 19, 2023

Full legal name: Betsy Wilkerson

Your name as it will appear on the ballot: Betsy Wilkerson

Candidate for: Spokane City Council President

Telephone: 509-280-0440 Campaign: 816-288-7429

Home address: 2222 E North Altimont Blvd

Cell: 509-280-0440 Business:

E-Mail address: campaign@betsywilkerson.com

Website: betsywilkerson.com

Campaign Address (Please include city and zip code: P.O. Box 9673 Spokane, WA 99209

Campaign Manager: Haley Turner Phone: 816-288-7429

Your Occupation: City Councilmember (District 2, Southill), Owner/Administrator of an assisted living facility

Years of residency in Washington State: 41

Years of residency in Spokane County: 41

Are you registered to vote in the district for the position you are seeking? Yes

Political Background (offices held, currently hold, other candidacies, political party offices, etc.) Spokane City Councilmember, District 2

Your union affiliation, union involvement and/or activities, if any, past or present: Will your campaign use local bona fide union products, services, and staff when possible? (Printed literature and signs, professional musicians, phone service, etc.): I am not a union member myself, but I do come from a family of union members and always support labor in their efforts

Yes  No

(Feel free to contact the Spokane Regional Labor Council for information about union businesses and services.)

1. What are the three most important issues for this position? (Briefly) Strengthening community safety, taking on homelessness and affordable housing, and prioritizing small businesses.
2. What are your qualifications for the position? I have been a member of this community for decades and on the city council since 2019, putting in the work to ensure the betterment of Spokane. Before I was appointed as a City Councilmember in 2019, I owned a small business of my own serving the developmentally disabled. I have led several non-profit's empowering women and members of underserved communities. I am in touch with our city and I understand what they are looking for in their Council President. I look forward to building on the work that we have started in my first term on council.

3. Why is the endorsement of the Spokane Regional Labor Council important to you? I strongly believe in a bottom-up approach to our economy. In order for that approach to work, it is important that our workers are well taken care of in the workplace as well paid wages that allow them to fully participate in our economy. The Spokane Regional Labor Council is on the forefront of the fight for workers, and receiving their endorsement would be an honor and reflection of my commitment to workers in Spokane. I'm a pro-labor candidate and lawmaker through and through.
4. Will you develop a process or system to give your employees an opportunity for input on issues affecting their workplace and the labor community on issues affecting working families? Yes!
5. What is your position on privatization of public services and the outsourcing of jobs? I believe that public services should be provided through the public sector. A lot of times, when we employ the private sector they cut costs by slashing pay and benefits for employees who are not union represented. It is important that we make sure those serving our community are properly compensated.
6. Apprenticeship is a long standing and established method to train and prepare workers to meet these growing workforce needs. Do you support Apprenticeship Utilization requirements?  
 a. Yes  No
7. Do you support a living wage for workers? Yes  No
8. Does this wage include employer provided family medical benefits? Yes  No
9. Collective bargaining is the cornerstone of an employee's wages, benefits, and working conditions. Do you support collective bargaining? Yes  No
10. Will you actively support the right of all workers to organize and collectively bargain? Yes  No
11. The Spokane Regional Labor Council welcomes and encourages responsible economic development. We believe that government spending should have minimum standards that protect the community, working families and our local economic foundation. When spending tax dollars, would you support contract provisions that promote workers' rights, civil rights, public health, and our Local health care industry? Yes, absolutely
12. Do you support the use of taxpayer dollars to hire outside labor relations consultants to oppose worker interests during negotiations with unions?  
 a. Yes  No
13. Contractors for public construction projects are required by law to pay their employees the prevailing wage. Do you support compliance with and enforcement of prevailing wage law?  
 a. Yes  No
14. Would you support a requirement that industries or businesses receiving tax incentives and subsidies remain neutral during an organizing drive?  
 a. Yes  No

**NOTE:** Please attach additional information you think is necessary to fully answer any of the proceeding questions or regarding other areas of interest you believe to be relevant.

**CANDIDATE SIGNATURE/DATE** Betsy Wilkerson 5/19/2023

Return to:

**Spokane Regional Labor Council 510 S Elm St, Suite 1**  
**Spokane WA 99201-5621**  
**E-mail : [srlc@spokanelabor.org](mailto:srlc@spokanelabor.org)**  
**Questionnaire deadline: 4pm Friday, May 19, 2023**