

**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: Melanie Ann Klitzke

Your name as it will appear on the ballot: Kitty Klitzke

Candidate for: Spokane City Council District 3

Telephone: 509 879-0775. Campaign: 509 903-8641

Home address: 2912 West Sharp Avenue Spokane, WA 99201

Cell: 509 879-0775 Business: 509 879-0775

E-Mail address: electkittyklitzke@gmail.com

Website: kittyklitzke.com

Campaign Address (Please include city and zip code: PO Box 4942 Spokane, WA 99220

Campaign Manager: We are going with a team model, Kandace Watkins is the fundraiser and treasurer, Katherine Johnston will be the Volunteer Coordinator. I am working with advisors including three former council members on strategy. I know how to use voter files to build universes and cut lists for canvassing, mailers etc.

Phone: (Kandace) 509 995-7702

Your Occupation: Self Employed. Former Community Organizer.

Years of residency in Washington State: 46.

Years of residency in Spokane County: 46

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.)

This is my first time running for office but I was Lisa Brown's campaign manager in 2008 and I have worked as an organizer for the No on I-933 campaign, Yes for Buses Campaign and volunteered for candidates in the past. I was also a finalist for appointment to City Council District 3 in 2014. I have extensive experiences as a spokesperson for a variety of public policy issues before multiple levels of government.

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 a US Army Reserve veteran and have worked in the nonprofit sector most of my adult life, but my maternal and paternal grandfathers, mother, uncle, sister and brother in law were/are all union members.

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)
 I believe that the third district has a specific set of land use and transportation issues that affect the entire district. There are sections of the district that lack a street grid system affecting first responder times and commutes. Meanwhile neighborhoods like West Central suffer from vacant lots and nuisance buildings that are badly in need of investment. I believe we can both invest in growth and protect our more rural neighborhoods from increased traffic impacts. I also think we can increase first responder times with better investment and smarter growth strategies. Increasing economic development and preserving quality of life is also a top priority. A decade or two from now I will know I have been successful when my children and my neighbors' children want to keep their roots here when they settle down because our community will have good living wage jobs and will have protected our quality of life and environment.
2. What are your qualifications for the position?
 I have a long track record of bringing citizen issues before local government resulting in policies that have on the ground results. For nearly twenty years I have worked to advocate for a more sustainable, economically vibrant Spokane at The Lands Council and at Futurewise. In both jobs I worked at the city, county, and state level to promote policies that improve transportation safety and convenience for all users, protect the Spokane River, and improve quality of life. This work has led me to serve on regional boards like the Spokane Regional Transportation Council and city advisory committees such as the City of Spokane City Council Transportation Advisory Committee. I have also lead successful citizens campaigns for initiatives such as the complete streets ordinance in the City of Spokane, and transportation connectivity ordinance at Spokane County.
3. Why is the endorsement of the Spokane Regional Labor Council important to you?
 I have a long family history of involvement in and respect for unions. I believe that the trades are good careers and that our state and local governments could do more to promote them as a career pathway to young people in our community. I believe that strong labor unions make strong communities and exist in the kind of communities our youth will feel secure starting families in.
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. I am concerned for the well being of city employees as well as all workers locally. I hope to earn union support and be a strong ally for labor. I want to have an ongoing dialogue with labor representatives both inside and outside the city.
5. What is your position on privatization of public services and the outsourcing of jobs?
 In general I oppose outsourcing and privatization. Intuitively it does not make sense to me that a private entity would be able to perform to the same standard, provide good local jobs, save the community money and still make a profit. I also believe if there is a "labor shortage" we should look closely at the root causes and work to solve the problem locally.
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? Absolutely. When we spend our tax dollars we should ensure that we keep our standards of living wage jobs and quality of work high.

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



5/10/2023

Return to:

Spokane Regional Labor Council 510 S Elm St, Suite 1

Spokane WA 99201-5621

E-mail : srlc@spokanelabor.org

Questionnaire deadline: 4pm Friday, May 19, 2023