

2023 City of Spokane Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate for: Spokane City Council District 1

Name: Lindsey Shaw

Professional licenses or other relevant professional experience.

AmeriCorps VISTA for the ZoNE 2019,
Certificate in Women’s Leadership Gonzaga 2020,
Certificate in Servant Leadership Gonzaga 2021

Find more information about the campaign:

www.electlindseyshaw.com

Tell us about your plan for downtown’s recovery...

How will you boost commercial activity downtown?

I would love to see increased housing. The Warren building is a great example of how we can build more in a smaller space. Having more people live downtown also stimulates a need for a department store like Target. People want to live where they do not need the expense of a car but also want access to basic needs without having to transfer to many busses. I would also love to see our skywalks activated with incubator business. These businesses could have an opportunity to showcase their work with lower overhead until they could gain more customers and revenue to open their own store front. All of these ideas would bring more people to our beautiful downtown.

How will you ensure a vibrant downtown experience for people that live, work and visit?

Instead of graffiti getting covered up with grey paint (essentially a new canvas for more graffiti, I would propose having artists propose artwork for that space. I see graffiti as a call to action for art. We could have multiple artists apply and open the vote for the art to the public. This would create buy in from community and artist. In my experience, many people are willing to donate paint. This could be a one-time cost of paying an artist and have community engagement for a longer-term solution to a costly issue. When it comes to gardening, litter, and snow removal, I want to believe we have the work force to help. Teens need something to do, could we hire them for temporary work with perks of a free pass to Riverfront or discounted movie pass. Can we partner with businesses to entice our youth to become more prideful in our city?

How will you support new housing development downtown, especially for “missing middle”?

We need more housing at every price point urgently! I would work with the council and our mayor to require a percentage of new housing to include low and middle-income housing. Our social workers and gas station attendants need to afford to live where they work. I know Spokane has missed opportunities to receive funds that would help pay for housing and want to be sure we do not miss any more opportunities to keep our citizens housed and in Spokane.

How will you address public safety in downtown Spokane?

Making it illegal to do illegal drugs in public is not the solution to helping our neighbors who are wrestling with addiction and behavior health. Our city and health department need to investigate creating a chronic pain clinic, invest in more data-driven, low barrier substance abuse programs, and increase access to mental health. These services need to be accessible and to lower barriers. We need to look upstream to the issues that bring people to this point.

What do you believe should be the City's role in addressing homelessness, mental illness and substance use on the streets of downtown Spokane?

We urgently need to build housing at all price points. We have condemnable apartment buildings downtown that should have been improved decades ago. The news about the Wall Street Apartments this week is a clear sign that we are failing our residents by not holding landlords to code or to any renter protections. This ends up costing our city a fortune. Over 70% of the homeless are from Spokane. Rent prices have tripled in the past decade. The best way for Spokane to address homelessness is to find a way to keep housed people housed. Programs like SNAP and other charities need support. Making camping illegal is a distraction to find real solutions for this issue.

Investing in a clean and safe downtown is essential to attracting new businesses as well as workers, visitors, and residents. Given the fragile state of downtown's revitalization, how should the City of Spokane prioritize funding downtown recovery in its budget?

Let's get creative! The incubator business idea for our skywalks would draw people in. If your friend was getting a deal on space rent for a business idea they have been dreaming of for years, wouldn't you want to come down and support them as well as spend more time downtown to support a city that supports its residents? What if we created a park and ride for our City Line? Could we also have a bus that runs from the city line to our new sport plex? If we can get people to ride transit downtown and to have easy access to other things happening in the area, they will be more likely to stay and have coffee or lunch. I grew up going downtown with my Riverfront Park Season pass. I want nothing more than to support families and our youth to feel that the park and downtown is their space to show off and take pride in. Our river is one of our best assets. We can change the narrative.

Is there any additional information you would like to share about your candidacy that you were unable to provide in the above responses?

No response.

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