



DISTRICT 2 (SOUTH HILL)

Alejandro Barrientos

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Please list any professional licenses or other relevant professional experience.

My current role is COO for SCAFCO as well as the Purchasing Director for Stone Group of Companies. I graduated from Gonzaga University with a Business Administration degree and a major in Economics.

Before we dive in, tell us a little about what you think about downtown Spokane.

What's your favorite restaurant or small business in downtown Spokane—or somewhere you spend a lot of time?

Downtown Spokane has so many places I enjoy, whether I am by myself, with friends, or spending time with my little ones and family. A favorite for my kids is Mobius Discovery Center, where they always have fun learning and exploring. For food, Wooden City is one of my top choices because the food and service are incredible and it is within walking distance of other great spots. When I am with my kids, we always stop at Boo Radley's before heading over to the Red Wagon in Riverfront Park, where they love counting how many ducks they can see and feeding the hungry goat (that's the nickname my kids gave it).

What is downtown's greatest asset?

Downtown's greatest asset is its mix of historic, natural, and urban beauty. We have a wonderful Riverfront Park where people of all ages can enjoy the outdoors all year long. We also have children's museums, restaurants, bars, malls, parks, theaters, a convention center, hotels, and small businesses that make downtown a place full of life and opportunity.

What is downtown's greatest challenge?

Right now, one of the greatest challenges is a high vacancy rate, which discourages both small businesses and developers from investing in downtown. Our homeless crisis has been persistent and concentrated, and it discourages families and visitors from spending time downtown. We are also facing a decline in employees working onsite since the pandemic, which has affected businesses that rely on steady foot traffic.

Each of the following questions were developed through the lens of DSP's five core policy priority areas:

1. Cultivate commercial activity downtown: Supporting employees on their return to work downtown is a priority for DSP because a steady and consistent flow of people eating, drinking, and shopping is essential to supporting our small businesses and a vibrant downtown. What specific partnerships, incentives, or infrastructure investments would you pursue to support and attract new commercial activity downtown?

From my conversations with small business owners, I have learned that safety is one of their biggest concerns, whether it is walking to their cars or grabbing lunch nearby. I believe we need stronger partnerships with nonprofits, more support for security and safety downtown, and meaningful incentives for small business owners such as tax breaks or rent reduction. If we show businesses and their employees that downtown is safe and welcoming, more people will return, and we will see stronger commercial activity.

2. Enhance a vibrant downtown experience: Essential services downtown like graffiti abatement, litter collection, landscaping, street sweeping, snow removal, etc. are especially important to ensure a clean and welcoming downtown. How will you ensure a vibrant downtown experience for people that live, work and visit?

We do not need to reinvent the wheel when it comes to these essential services. We already see how effective these efforts can be when large events like Bloomsday, Pig Out in the Park, and summer concerts take place. I believe we should apply the same level of commitment year-round. I also believe in involving our community by encouraging volunteers and creating opportunities for paid work that help us keep downtown beautiful. A clean, vibrant downtown experience will keep families, visitors, and workers coming back.

3. Build and expand housing options of all types, for all incomes: A growing downtown population supports economic vitality and community resilience. Achieving our goal of new housing units requires bold action, especially to support middle-income and workforce housing. How would you support these efforts?

I believe a growing downtown population is essential for a strong and vibrant Spokane. To make that happen, we need to work together across sectors to create strategies that truly deliver results. Middle-income and workforce housing must be a priority, not just luxury units. I support efforts that bring the city, developers, nonprofits, and community voices to the same table so we can align incentives, reduce barriers, and make smart investments. By combining bold action with collaboration, we can build more housing options downtown that serve the people who live and work here.

4. Improve public safety, deter crime and negative behavior: A safe, secure, and welcoming downtown is critical for everyone, but concerns about public safety are a top theme we hear from residents across the city. How will you address public safety concerns and perceptions in downtown Spokane?

Perceptions of downtown Spokane will not improve until the city takes stronger action on one of its most important responsibilities, which is public safety. I believe we must prioritize visible law enforcement presence, invest in community policing, and partner with social service providers to respond appropriately to different situations. People need to feel safe when they are downtown, whether they are business owners, workers, families, or visitors.

5. Support funding, facilities and services for people to get the help they need: Homelessness and open drug use is a crisis in Spokane. What role should the city play in addressing homelessness and behavioral health challenges downtown?

The city must take a stronger leadership role in addressing homelessness and behavioral health challenges. Enforcing the laws we already have is an important first step, but enforcement alone is not enough. We are allowing people to sleep and die on our streets, and that is not compassionate or humane. I believe we need a regional approach where housing and wraparound services are offered together. I support bringing back initiatives like Prop 1 and creating accountability so that

treatment, shelter, and long-term housing are accessible. We need to balance compassion with responsibility so that people get the help they need and our community can move forward.

Given the fragile state of downtown's recovery, what is the role of the city in getting people the help they need while fostering economic revitalization?

The city has to play a balanced role in both supporting people and ensuring that downtown can recover and thrive. Getting people the help they need means investing in treatment, shelter, and long-term housing, but it also means enforcing the laws that keep our streets safe and welcoming. At the same time, we need to foster economic revitalization by creating an environment where businesses feel confident to invest and families feel comfortable spending time downtown. If we can connect compassion with accountability, we can help people move forward in their lives while bringing new energy and growth to downtown Spokane.

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

Spokane is my home, the place where I am raising my children, and the community I care deeply about. I am running for City Council because I want to bring people together, listen to every voice, and focus on the practical solutions that make our neighborhoods and our downtown thrive. I believe in hard work, collaboration, and accountability, and I will always put our community first.



DISTRICT 2 (SOUTH HILL)

Kate Telis

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Please list any professional licenses or other relevant professional experience.

I bring diverse experience to Spokane's City Council: former prosecutor for domestic violence cases, nonprofit director serving homeless families, chair of Spokane's Moms Demand Action, and an active community volunteer—from my son's classroom to local campaigns. These roles have prepared me to lead with vision and a deep commitment to making a difference.

Before we dive in, tell us a little about what you think about downtown Spokane.

What's your favorite restaurant or small business in downtown Spokane—or somewhere you spend a lot of time?

There are so many, but if forced to choose one, it would be Wooden City.

What is downtown's greatest asset?

Downtown Spokane's greatest asset is its people: the small business owners, workers, artists, and community members who bring life and energy to the city's core. Their creativity and resilience, paired with downtown's unique mix of historic character, natural beauty along the Spokane River, and cultural amenities, make it the heart of our community. By investing in safety, housing, and smart planning, we can ensure downtown continues to thrive as a place where everyone feels welcome.

What is downtown's greatest challenge?

Spokane faces the challenge of balancing a vibrant downtown and business corridor with the urgent need to provide trauma-informed mental health and addiction services for the unhoused. Like many cities across the country, we are grappling with a crisis of housing affordability and opioid addiction. We must work together and invest in proven, evidence-based strategies to address these challenges now. Public and private partnerships and collaboration will be needed throughout this process.

Each of the following questions were developed through the lens of DSP's five core policy priority areas:

1. Cultivate commercial activity downtown: Supporting employees on their return to work downtown is a priority for DSP because a steady and consistent flow of people eating, drinking, and shopping is essential to supporting our small businesses and a vibrant downtown. What specific partnerships, incentives, or infrastructure investments would you pursue to support and attract new commercial activity downtown?

Supporting and growing downtown requires both immediate partnerships and long-term planning. I would prioritize collaboration between the City, Spokane Transit Authority, and local employers to make commuting downtown more affordable and accessible—including incentives for using transit, biking, and walking. Expanding housing options near the core will also ensure more people live, work,

and spend time downtown. On the business side, I support partnerships with local universities and trade programs to attract early-career professionals, as well as streamlined permitting and small-business incentives that help local entrepreneurs succeed. Finally, investments in public safety, green space, and cultural programming will keep downtown vibrant, making it a destination for residents and visitors alike.

2. Enhance a vibrant downtown experience: Essential services downtown like graffiti abatement, litter collection, landscaping, street sweeping, snow removal, etc. are especially important to ensure a clean and welcoming downtown. How will you ensure a vibrant downtown experience for people that live, work and visit?

A vibrant downtown starts with the basics: clean, safe, and welcoming streets. I will advocate for sustained investment in essential services like graffiti abatement, litter collection, landscaping, and snow removal, while also strengthening partnerships with DSP, neighborhood associations, and local businesses to keep downtown cared for year-round. This is going to require a group effort and the city, businesses, and residents should all be involved. Beyond maintenance, I support community policing, more housing near the core, and cultural programming that ensures downtown is not only clean but also lively, **inclusive, and safe for everyone who lives, works, and visits.**

3. Build and expand housing options of all types, for all incomes: A growing downtown population supports economic vitality and community resilience. Achieving our goal of new housing units requires bold action, especially to support middle-income and workforce housing. How would you support these efforts?

I believe Spokane's downtown can only thrive if people of all income levels can afford to live there. I would support zoning reforms and incentives that promote mixed-income housing, streamline permitting for infill projects, and reduce barriers for developers building workforce and middle-income housing. My experience working with unhoused families taught me that stability begins with housing, and I will advocate for policies that balance affordability, smart growth, and strong tenant protections to ensure downtown remains livable for all.

4. Improve public safety, deter crime and negative behavior: A safe, secure, and welcoming downtown is critical for everyone, but concerns about public safety are a top theme we hear from residents across the city. How will you address public safety concerns and perceptions in downtown Spokane?

A safe, secure, and welcoming downtown is essential for residents, workers, and visitors alike. Public safety isn't just about policing—it's about addressing root causes. I will support community policing to increase trust with law enforcement and increased foot patrols to provide increase law enforcement's visibility, expand mental health and substance use response teams, and invest in housing and services that reduce instability. I'll also champion efforts to make downtown cleaner, more vibrant, and better lit, ensuring it feels safe for families and businesses. By following evidence-based strategies that have worked elsewhere, we can recreate a downtown where everyone feels secure and welcome.

5. Support funding, facilities and services for people to get the help they need: Homelessness and open drug use is a crisis in Spokane. What role should the city play in addressing homelessness and behavioral health challenges downtown?

The City has a responsibility to lead with both compassion and accountability. My work with unhoused families showed me that housing stability and access to behavioral health services are the

foundation for recovery. I will advocate for expanding trauma-informed treatment, diversion programs, and supportive housing while also coordinating with law enforcement and service providers to keep downtown safe. There is no one-size-fits-all solution, but by investing in evidence-based strategies and building partnerships within the business community and residents of downtown, the City can address homelessness and open drug use in ways that restore dignity and safety for all.

Given the fragile state of downtown's recovery, what is the role of the city in getting people the help they need while fostering economic revitalization?

The City must lead with a dual commitment: ensuring people get the behavioral health, housing, and workforce support they need while also strengthening the economic vitality of our downtown. That means expanding access to treatment and supportive housing, building partnerships with service providers, and investing in evidence-based solutions to address root causes of instability. At the same time, we must support small businesses, streamline permitting, and improve public safety so that downtown remains a destination for residents, workers, and visitors. By addressing human needs alongside economic revitalization, Spokane can build a downtown that is resilient, welcoming, and thriving.

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

I strongly believe in collaboration in everything I do. If elected, I will be easy to reach and will listen to all points of view. (My campaign phone is 509-655-4574 and my email is kate@votekatetelis.com. If you have any other questions - please reach out to me directly.) This is a nonpartisan position and should be so. In most issues that come before the City Council, there are very valid and real concerns on either side. I am a hard worker, and I won't rest until we have drafted policy that effectively addresses all concerns.