



Tony Kiepe | State Rep. Legislative District 3, Position 1

Professional licenses or experience: Insurance.

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Help us get to know you, what is your favorite event or small business downtown?

Gena's Mexican food on 30th. Gena started her restaurant last year and is trying expand but can not get the permitting to finish the build out. Its been 4 month's.

Cultivate Commercial Activity: Downtown depends on attracting investment, supporting businesses, and creating a place where people want to live, work, shop, and visit. What policies or investments would you prioritize to strengthen downtown's economic vitality?

We have a problem with public safety and currently ignoring current laws. Business have fled out downtown area because the homeless have taken over. We need to enforce our laws, clean up our cities and bring businesses back to downtown. Tax revenues have declined because businesses have left. The answer is not tax more but look at current policies and make changes to bring businesses back to downtown. Downtown can't survive with 35% vacancy.

Enhance a Vibrant Experience: Maintaining public spaces, investing in infrastructure, and enhancing accessibility contribute to downtown's long-term success. What role will your office play in maintaining and enhancing the public spaces and infrastructure that support a vibrant downtown?

Must clean up our streets, especially as you enter downtown and all you see are homeless. This does not attract tourist to support our downtown businesses. Thanks to City Council policies we have more homeless and this has become a profitable business. We need to audit how the money is being spent and measure the success. The current goal is to provide housing. I believe that is the wrong goal. We need to be compassionate and get people off of drugs and good jobs. We need incentives for businesses to hire recovered addicts and give them dignity with a good paying job.

Build and Expand Housing Options: A growing downtown population supports economic vitality and community resilience. Achieving our goal of 3,000 new housing units over the next 10 years will require reducing barriers to development and expanding housing options. What policies or actions would you support to build more housing downtown?





We need the homebuilders association and other support groups come in and inform us on what needs to be done to improve housing. We need to look at contractors and what we need to change. I believe we need faster permitting for more houses. You saw the Governor just make Executive orders telling you that he knows these are bad policies to rebuild from the recent fires.

Improve Public Safety: Improving public safety requires balancing enforcement, prevention, and long-term community investment. How would you approach those priorities in supporting a safe and welcoming downtown?

We need to hire and train our police force. I want to see our visibility in our community with our police officers. People are not going to break in homes if there is a good police presence. We need to enforce our laws by putting and keeping criminals in jail. The entire system is broken from the judges down. The best thing we can do for our community is to invest in a jail. We don't need a jail with all the bells and whistles.

Support Funding, Facilities, and Services for People to Get the Help They Need: Addressing homelessness, behavioral health, and substance use requires coordination across multiple levels of government. Recently, the Safe & Healthy Spokane Task Force released a set of recommendations to improve public safety, behavioral health, housing, and system coordination. If additional public resources become available, what investments related to the Safe & Healthy Spokane Task Force recommendations would you prioritize?

First off, the primary responsibility for government is public safety and that is fully funding every resource that protects citizens. First Priority is to fund our police and provide them the tools needed to protect our citizens. We need to review the recommendations made by the Safe & Healthy Spokane Task Force and seek their guidance in improving public safety. Everything must be measured and given six months to show signs of success. If something is not working, we can't keep providing money.

Setting the Foundation: Public resources are limited, and elected officials are often required to balance competing priorities when making investment decisions. How do you evaluate competing funding priorities, and what principles would guide your decisions when investments affect downtown Spokane?

How is their money being used? Is the program successful. Can you do the same with less money? What would happen if we reduced funds for one year? Let's take a look at what happens with fewer dollars. Let's do a complete audit to see how the program is working. The successful programs we fund more the following year while cutting programs that are not showing the success that is expected.





DOWNTOWN SPOKANE PARTNERSHIP

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

I believe in a complete government audit. We need to know how money is being used. My first approach is to cut waste, fraud and abuse. Washington's budget has gone from 30 billion to 80 billion in 15 years. Why? The easy thing to do is to raise taxes now we have to look at priorities and make cuts.



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