



**Preston McCollam | County Prosecuting Attorney**

**Professional licenses or experience:** Juris Doctorate-Gonzaga University School of Law & Bachelors-Eastern Washington University.

**Campaign Website:** <https://prestonforprosecutor.com/>

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

I love taking my family downtown around Christmas to see the lights and the trees at Davenport Hotel.

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**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?**

The level of crime and violence on our streets is directly connected to state and local policies that have tolerated open drug use and failed to confront the disorder that follows. Public safety downtown can improve greatly with stronger enforcement tools, real consequences for repeat offenders, and a serious commitment to keeping illegal drugs out of our communities. As county prosecutor I will efficiently and consistently enforce the laws on the books, while aggressively advocating for better tools wherever current law falls short. We need to stop "experimenting" with criminals and return to evidence-based approaches to keeping our communities safe.

A prosecutor's first responsibility is to enforce the law, but that role also requires speaking plainly about whether our laws are working and advocating for changes that better protect the public. I cannot legislate from Olympia, but I can identify what is not working, challenge failed approaches, and press for policies that restore accountability, expand treatment, and protect residents and businesses. We can no longer ignore that our local mental health, medical, and criminal justice systems are straining under the crushing load of the current drug and mental health crisis.

Meanwhile our businesses and hardworking residents are increasingly forced to absorb the cost of policies that have made our public spaces less safe and less inviting. Put simply, Washington's current approach is not working, pretending otherwise only prolongs the damage. We need honesty in this arena, and I will provide it. Just as important, elected leaders and the business community must speak clearly, frequently, and publicly about the need for change. We do not need a scapegoat or a villain to move forward, we just need to acknowledge what doesn't work and boldly strive for what does.





At the end of the day, the answer is not to lock everyone up. But the answer also cannot be to subsidize destructive choices while law-abiding residents, businesses, and families pay the price. A safe and healthy community requires both compassion and accountability, and we have spent far too long pretending we can have one without the other. I for one firmly believe we can redeem our downtown corridor. It will take patience, persistence, and grit. It will not be easy, and it will not be overnight, but it can be done.

**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?**

I am currently heavily involved in the work of the Safe and Healthy Task Force and am thankful for many of the relationships that have been cultivated through this process. As the county prosecutor, I have been and will keep fighting for a treatment first and accountability approach to public safety because our families, our neighbors, and the people caught in addiction cycles deserve better than what our current approach guarantees them.

High on my priority list of recommendations is to improve communication across all the relevant disciplines or systems. This is an area that needs immediate attention (and is reasonably attainable) so that when each of the systems (medical, mental health, drug treatment, court, etc.) come under a load, they are able to effectively communicate with one another. Effective communication and data sharing will reduce duplication of efforts and allow for more efficient handling of cases. I believe this is goal that can accomplished with limited public resources.

Not every recommendation is without a cost however. I strongly believe we need to modernize and publicly invest in a more efficient and appropriate regional criminal justice center. One that is adequate for the needs of our growing community. The physical design and capacity of our current jail and courthouse facilities are not adequate for the size and needs of Spokane County. The physical limitations of our facilities result in millions of dollars each year in overtime costs, staffing inefficiencies, and reduction in overall services that could otherwise be provided. Importantly we should never be in a position where a repeat offender could be released to the streets due to capacity or staffing issues. Likewise, our current facility space does not allow for the inputs and treatment that would actually assist in rehabilitation and reduced recidivism. A modern facility would greatly improve public safety and safely allow for the adoption of many of the Safe and Healthy Task Force recommendations.





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

I am a husband and the proud father of four beautiful children. I care deeply about the future of Spokane County and preserving the values that make Eastern Washington a great place to live and raise a family. I want Spokane to be a place where our families and businesses can thrive. I believe in personal responsibility, strong families, safe neighborhoods, and a government that focuses on its core responsibilities rather than political agendas.

I have been actively involved in the Spokane community throughout both my professional and personal life. Much of my community involvement has centered around public service, mentorship, education, and supporting public safety initiatives throughout our region. Professionally, I served as an Adjunct Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law from 2015 to 2022, teaching Trial Advocacy and Mock Trial. I have also served as an instructor for organizations including the Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association, the National Homicide Investigators Association, and the Northwest Gang Investigators Association, helping train law enforcement officers and legal professionals across the region.

The duty of the Spokane County Prosecutor is first and foremost to protect public safety, uphold the state and federal constitutions, and faithfully enforce the law on behalf of the people of Spokane County. The Prosecutor's Office exists to serve victims, support law enforcement, ensure fairness in the justice system, and hold offenders accountable when they violate the law. It is not a political office meant to advance ideological agendas — it is a position of public trust that requires integrity, sound judgment, and a commitment to justice. The County Prosecutor also serves as the legal advisor to every other elected county official and county department. This role is critical as it must provide experienced and competent legal advice to our elected leaders.

If elected, my responsibility is to ensure the Prosecutor's Office remains focused on its core mission: protecting our community and enforcing the law fairly and consistently. That means aggressively prosecuting violent criminals, repeat offenders, drug traffickers, and those who prey on children and vulnerable individuals. It also means standing up for victims and making sure they are treated with dignity and respect throughout the legal process.

I believe success starts with strong leadership and experience. With more than a decade of criminal and civil prosecution experience, I understand both the legal and operational responsibilities of running a prosecutor's office. I have served as Spokane Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Chief Criminal Deputy, and Interim Civil Chief, and previously worked as a Benton County Deputy Prosecutor. Those experiences have given me firsthand knowledge of how to manage complex cases, support deputy prosecutors, and work collaboratively with law enforcement agencies across our region. I bring honesty, grit, and experience to this role.

