



Danny Tarkenton | County Prosecuting Attorney

Professional licenses or experience: I hold a Washington State Bar License and a Juris Doctor from Gonzaga University School of Law, earned with Pro Bono Distinction. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Spokane County, I prosecuted misdemeanor cases and worked on involuntary treatment proceedings. I hold undergraduate degrees in philosophy from Gonzaga University and psychology, Summa Cum Laude, from Eastern Washington University. I am pursuing a Master's in Forensic Psychology at Arizona State University and presented research at the American Psychological Association's annual conference in Washington, D.C., this past August. Before law school, I served six years in the Army National Guard, including four on activated status and a 2016 deployment to Iraq.

Campaign Website: www.dannyforprosecutor.com

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

My favorite event is Spokane Pride! Downtown is also where I do most of my shopping. I love browsing the vintage scene at Entropy, Petunia & Loomis, Merlyn's Comics and Games, and the other small vintage shops nearby, along with Auntie's Bookstore and Uncle's Games. For a bite or a night out, Gander & Ryegrass and Cease & Desist are two of my favorites.

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?

As a former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I held people accountable for misdemeanor offenses like theft and assault. My background in psychology gave me a clearer view of the behavior behind those cases and what it would take to resolve the harm. This led me to pursue a Master's in Forensic Psychology to build on that foundation more deliberately.

Effective prosecution means using the right tool for each case, not the same approach for every one. That could mean treatment courts and diversion that hold someone accountable while interrupting a cycle of addiction or untreated mental illness, or full prosecution where accountability comes through the traditional court process. I am an evidence-based, community-oriented prosecutor. None of this works without investment in the programs that make prevention possible. As prosecutor, I'll support funding and partnerships that expand access to treatment and diversion, because a safe, welcoming downtown depends on stopping harm before it happens, not just responding after it does.





DOWNTOWN SPOKANE PARTNERSHIP

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?

If additional resources become available, I'd prioritize the cross-system data coordination the task force recommends, connecting the jail, ER, probation, pretrial services, therapeutic courts, and behavioral health providers so we can identify people cycling through multiple systems and build a real plan around them. I'd also prioritize referring more eligible nonviolent cases into treatment courts and diversion programs, and advocating for the crisis stabilization capacity this community needs. Violent crimes will still be prosecuted, and so will anyone who violates the terms of their diversion or treatment. This is how this office puts its resources where they actually change outcomes.

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

I'm running as an Independent because my loyalty belongs to the Constitution and to this community, not to a political party. Party labels provide more resources and financial support, but they also bring party interests that have no place in the prosecutor's office. My campaign is built entirely on the support of the people and organizations here with similar values. In that way, my campaign isn't so different from the small businesses that make up downtown Spokane. Both exist because this community chooses to support them, not because an institution backs them. I was raised here, and everything I'm doing is for the community that raised me.



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