



## Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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### Please list any/all social media account URLs.

<https://www.facebook.com/mikekellyforwashington>  
<https://www.instagram.com/mikekellyforwashington/>

## Getting to Know You

This next section will give you the opportunity to provide details about who you are as a person, candidate, and member of the community.

### Tell us about yourself.

**I am a Constitutional Conservative who has resided in Spokane Valley since 2019. I recently ran for the WA State Senate position in the 4th Legislative District vacated by Senator Mike Padden. I ran with his endorsement, as well as that of Michael Baumgartner, current Spokane County Treasurer. I have both a legal and accounting background and have served since 1997 as the Controller/CFO for two companies who perform construction work on Public Transportation projects. I am also a real estate investor and business owner with experience working with government on a number of levels. I am a married father of 3 and grandfather of 6. It is my hope to bring strong integrity and astute business acumen to the office of Spokane County Treasurer to ensure the public funds are being used both honestly and efficiently, and that the public is being served to the best of the office's ability.**

### List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.

As stated, I have training and work experience in both the legal and accounting fields. I have worked as the Controller/CFO for two related companies who perform construction work on Public Transportation projects. In that position, I have been responsible for taxes, pensions, insurance, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, HR, material and product acquisition, cash flow management, and fleet maintenance. I also have experience as the owner/co-owner of an insurance agency, a diesel repair shop, a salon & day spa, a trucking company, and a real estate investment firm. In all of these endeavors, I have

been responsible for making important management and policy decisions. I have hired, fired and trained multiple employees. I have also served as a volunteer on multiple HOA boards as President and/or Treasurer. In the past, I have been a licensed tax preparer, licensed insurance agent, FINRA licensed securities representative, and property manager. These various situations have given me insight and experience working with government agencies, as well as the laws, administrative rules, policies and procedures that must be followed. I also currently sit on the Spokane Valley Planning Commission.

**Describe your duty to the office you are running for and how you will achieve success.**

The Treasurer's office is responsible for a variety of services in support of several government and quasi-government entities, from County agencies to the airport, etc. Perhaps the highest profile responsibility is the collection of property taxes, both real and personal, from property and business owners throughout Spokane County. There are other revenue collection responsibilities for which the Treasurer is responsible that involved fees and assessments. I see it as the Treasurer's duty to ensure that all taxes, fees and assessments are made accurately and collected timely and efficiently, with clear records and accounting available for review, as well as follow up on delinquencies to minimize backlog.

Clear records of the disbursements of County funds are also important with strong verification procedures in place to ensure both the legitimacy and accuracy of the payments made by the Treasurer's office. I feel any disbursement process should require multiple approvals before final release, and auditing of those procedures to verify compliance are important.

The secure handling and safeguarding of County funds and assets in the custody of the Treasurer is also a primary duty. Sufficient background checks of employees entrusted with handling of funds or access to accounts should be made, and separation of responsibilities to create multiple points of verification are imperative. Also, as Treasurer, a strong policy of ongoing training of personnel would be a priority to ensure best practices and competence of office staff, especially as it pertains to investing County funds and overseeing investments.

Finally, in addition to the fiduciary responsibility of the Treasurer's office and its staff, there is the fundamental premise that as public servants, our duty is to the citizens of Spokane County. Consequently, the public needs to be treated with the utmost respect and provided maximum transparency consistent with confidentiality and practical limitations. All billings, delinquency collections, or foreclosures should be pursued judiciously and with the utmost respect.

**What does success look like for this position and what key performance indicators should voters use to evaluate you?**

Success as Treasurer would be to ensure both the financial stability of the County and a general sense of good welfare among public. This can be achieved by close monitoring of current budgets with adjustments/amendments as necessary, strong communication with County Commissioners regarding planning and coordinating with the 20 year Growth Management Plan, utility development and maintenance, potential fluctuations in revenue streams, contact with State agencies to anticipate mandates and changes in the law, as well as growth projections to anticipate increases in near-term financial needs.

Confidence and satisfaction from the citizens of the County can be achieved with strong communication with households, easy accessibility to Treasurer's office staff with meaningful and timely responses to questions or problems, as well as transparency with agencies and organizations that oversee the operations of the Treasurer.

Voters and the public in general can evaluate the Treasurer's performance, in part, by how stable their County initiated fees, taxes and assessments remain. Inflation is always going to impact the execution of fiscal policy; however, those in leadership positions should approach the management of financial resources just as carefully, if not more so, than if the money was their own, ensuring judicious and efficient use of funds, while actively seeking maximum returns on the public's investments and assets with the goal of keeping increases in taxes, fees, or assessments to a minimum.

## **What community activities are you engaged in? Have you held leadership roles in any of these organizations?**

I am a Precinct Committee Officer for Precinct 4481, and I am considering becoming a District Leader. I sit on the Spokane Valley Planning Commission. I am engaged in several private organizations and community groups that seek to shape public policy, as well as educate and engage the general public. I am working with the Washington Policy Center to become a mentor. I have previously volunteered with Boy Scouts of America and have been invited to sit on the Boards of a handful of nonprofit charitable organizations. As previously mentioned, I have also been elected to the Boards of at least three HOAs where I served as President or Secretary.

## **Your Political Beliefs**

This section contains a series of questions about your alignment concerning broad governmental philosophies as well as some specific issues.

### **Where do our rights as citizens of the United States come from? Under what conditions can government infringe or suspend them?**

Our rights are God given, and as recognized by the Declaration of Independence, all men have been endowed with them, and governments are instituted among men to preserve and protect those rights. Since all men share these rights, each person has a responsibility to exercise his/her rights in a way that does not infringe upon the rights of others. In instances where disputes arise about the limits or impact of one person's exercise of their rights, modern, civilized society has agreed to let the government adjudicate those disputes. In order to fulfill its most fundamental responsibility of protecting its citizens, government also has also been empowered to set limitations or restrictions on the behavior of its citizens, deriving this power from the common consent of the governed. This is done by creating laws by way of elected representatives who remain accountable to the electorate. When a clear violation of law has occurred and is proven through due process, the government can impinge on the rights of an individual, up to and including the right to liberty or even life in rare instances. However, at all times, the government should limit the exercise of its power and authority to those actions and activities most necessary and vital to the proper functioning of society. Otherwise, it should be left to the citizens to experience true liberty via the right to self-determination, to conduct their lives and affairs according to the dictates of their own conscious, and to work out their differences among themselves as they see fit.

### **Do you consider yourself a constitutional originalist or do you prescribe to it as a living document? Please explain.**

I consider myself an originalist. The fundamental principles spelled out in the Declaration of Independence explain the philosophy underpinning our society and form of government. Those principles are put into action by way of a federal governmental structure outlined in the Constitution, and at the state level by the Washington Constitution.

The fundamental needs of the people and the realities of human nature do not change, although the circumstances by which those needs and that nature may manifest itself likely will. Therefore, all matters or situations for which the government may find brought before it by its citizens can be dealt with using these principles as a guidelines, and should not be compromised to placate the temporary passions of the public, or for ease or expediency. In my view, arguments that the Constitution is outdated or antiquated are mere sophistry to erode the power of the people and place it in the hands of the government, usually by those in the government or allied therewith.

### **What is the purpose of government? If elected, how will you perform your duties based on that "purpose?"**

It can be argued that the government has a variety of purposes, but first and foremost, it is to protect the God given rights of the citizens it represents. This protection could be from physical harm, financial fraud, threats, intimidation, invasion, or such other acts or influence that is immoral. Government is also needed to set and implement policy necessary for the good and orderly operation of society. In term of the Treasurer's office, the purpose is to carefully and wisely execute the financial related policies and responsibilities of Spokane County and to do so with the benefit and welfare of the public top of mind. Government should collect no more funds than are necessary for the operation and secure outlook of the Constitutional activities of the County government, and to use those funds as wisely and efficiently as

possible. While the County Commissioners set the policy, the Treasurer can ensure that the funds are used as intended and as economically as possible.

**When does life begin and at what point does the government have a duty to protect it?**

I believe life begins at conception and the government has a duty to protect it from that point forward. It is up to the people's elected representatives of each state to decide what policy they wish to implement within their respective jurisdictions, but as with most matters of morality, it must be determined by appealing to those principles or guidelines put forth by the giver of the moral law.

**Do you have any criminal convictions, ever filed for bankruptcy, have any active or unresolved tax liens, any conflicts of interest that may jeopardize your candidacy?**

As I disclosed in my campaign for the Washington State Senate, I was arrested and convicted in 1989 for the attempted possession of a controlled substance for which I was sent to federal prison. I was able to eventually secure my release by successfully challenging my original convictions and have had no criminal charges or activity in the subsequent 35 plus years. I have never filed for bankruptcy and have no other matters in my past or pending that would bring my fitness for this position into question. Because my actions from 35 years ago did not involved dishonesty, I have been able to be licensed since then with both state and federal governmental agencies as a tax preparer, insurance agent, and securities broker.

**Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative, adhering to the values and answers you've provided in this questionnaire.**

I think the most important thing a public servant can do is be present in the office of his position and available to the public. Being in the office everyday, reviewing procedures and staff performance for problems or potential improvement is important. By putting in the time, one can identify problems and identify opportunity for improvement. Being answerable to the public and the County Commissioners and providing reasonable access to the public is fundamental to establishing trust and conveying the idea that the Treasurer is truly a public servant.

**Please provide any feedback, comments, or questions that you have for the SCRCC.**

I have none at this time.

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