



ABOUT SEATTLE HOSPITALITY FOR PROGRESS

Seattle Hospitality for Progress seeks to educate candidates on issues facing the hospitality community and endorses and supports candidates for office in the City of Seattle. We represent the diverse restaurant and hotel sectors of Seattle's economy, which includes more than 2,700 restaurants and 100 hotels.

2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Responses are due Friday, April 14th by 5:00 p.m.

To submit your completed questionnaire, or if you have any questions, please contact Skylar Schmitt at skylars@wahospitality.org.

Basic Information

Candidate Name: [Isabelle Kerner](#)

Party Affiliation: [Non-Partisan](#)

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Website: <https://kernerforcouncil.com/>

General Questions

1. Who is your political consultant?

[TBD / NA – At this time](#)

2. What endorsements have you received?

TBD / NA – At this time

3. How much money have you raised to date?

Very little. I am a business owner and so I will not be focusing on fundraising until I know whether or not there will be a primary election.

4. Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher program?

Yes.

5. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for this office (again) because I believe that Seattle must vote to elect a collaborative City Council that is capable of working together and also willing to think critically and creatively to:

- Implement common sense solutions that will address the root cause of the crises that have left thousands on Seattle's sidewalks, streets, and parks where criminal activity continues to run rampant.
- Improve public safety while also re-building trust between the public and our safety providers, like the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) and the Seattle Police Department (SFD).
- Urgently and immediately deal with the amount of waste and trash that continues to accumulate around the City and its perimeter, so we can once again actually look like the green City we used to.
- Balance a budget so the needs of the general public is prioritized over 'special interest(s)' and conduct regular audits.
- Establish training sites for individuals displaced or unemployed in order to increase the supply of skilled workers so we can add high-paying jobs that meet current workforce demands.
- Incentivize education in areas where we are falling behind (STEM).
- Hold elected individuals and local leaders at every level personally and professionally accountable.

In 2020 I started my own business and better understand the issues businesses of all sizes have been facing, both before and after the pandemic. While I have heard various elected leaders of Seattle claim that crime has gone down, that Seattle is safer, as someone who

lives downtown that is not consistent with my own experience or anyone else I know in the area—particularly in the Downtown Corridor.

I believe that underlying issues with public safety have only gotten worse since the last time I ran in 2019. While I could write a book on why I am running for Seattle City Council, the overall reason is that I believe that we as a City can fix these problems. At this point to do so, we to change the perspective of how we think in order to actually get these things done—immediately. I do not believe we can talk, study, or buy our way out of the problems the City is facing. Solutions need to start now.

6. What is your vision for Seattle?

My vision for Seattle starts with urgently and immediately addressing the camping crisis we know is not only about housing, but also very intertwined to drug use, mental illness, and revolving door liberal policies that while may have started with good intentions, have had tragic results. My vision for Seattle includes:

- No more heroine needles all over the sidewalks, parks, on buses.
- No more organized retail crime.
- Stores downtown that can prosper without compromising the safety of their employees or customers and guests.
- More trees and grass where children can play.
- Public transportation that is usable without having to fear assault, drug exposure, other violence.
- Simple civility amongst people. People opening the door for others, being kind, offering to help.
- No people looking or possibly dead.
- No more cross street gun violence.
- No open drug markets.

I remember what Seattle used to be. And I know that when I was a child, Seattle wasn't a big City. And we are now. So I know we can't just dial back the clock. But I do think that we have lost touch with the sense of community we once had. I think this is partially due to repeated violence. Further, I think one thing that kept Seattle safe especially in the downtown area was that businesses were open and there were actually people who are not homeless or involved in active criminal activity that felt safe going out and would. I feel in many ways having more people and open businesses this was a safety net.

To sum this up, my vision for Seattle is 360 degrees. It is easy to just avoid one area and say, '*oh it looks great*' when two blocks down it is the exact opposite. My vision for Seattle is seeing common sense ideas and solutions actually become a reality.

7. What are the main issues you see facing the hospitality community in Seattle?

The primary issues I see facing the hospitality community in Seattle is the increase in homelessness, camping, drug use, violent crime, littering which threatens Seattle's former

reputation as a beautiful and safe city for everyone. This obviously reduces the likelihood tourists will want to visit, therefore causing a decline in service workers.

Simultaneously, Seattle has become so unaffordable that many of those who work in Seattle's hospitality industry can no longer afford to live here. This means these workers must either spend more time commuting, and if it is not safe—will probably quit.

I don't think we can just build more cruise terminals or develop new sports arenas and expect much to actually change unless the same economic interests financing and backing these 'projects' are willing to put their interests aside by understanding there won't be much interest anyway if Seattle continues down the path it has been for at least four years now.

8. What would you do to support the hospitality industry in Seattle?

I would refer to the answers in questions 5 and 6 to first actually make Seattle *'hospitable'*.

9. Why are you interested in the endorsement of Seattle Hospitality for Progress?

I can't say I am that interested in the Seattle Hospitality for Progress's endorsement. Having a great deal of prior experience in the hospitality industry, as a business owner, and having a large amount of experience in the legal industry—I am not yet convinced what Seattle Hospitality for Progress cares more about the City of Seattle or just money. That's just my honest answer.

10. How would you use the endorsement of Seattle Hospitality for Progress?

Aside from adding it to the list I submit in the Voter's Pamphlet guide, I would use it to collaborate on win-win solutions only if leaders of Seattle Hospitality for Progress were willing to temporarily put personal, monetary, and competitive interests aside for the purpose of obtaining the best and most optimal long-term solutions together. This would ensure that future outcomes do not reflect a zero-sum scenario—or even a worse one where there are no winners at all.