



PO Box 2388 | Seattle, WA 98111 | 206-324-2570

## 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Please return to [endorsements@equalrightswashington.org](mailto:endorsements@equalrightswashington.org)

Equal Rights Washington (ERW) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring and promoting the dignity, safety, and equality of all LGBTQ Washingtonians. ERW's current work priorities are Trans Justice, LGBTQ Youth Empowerment, Racial Equity, and Gender Equity.

All candidates seeking ERW's endorsement must complete a candidate questionnaire. Endorsements will be made on a rolling basis after the May 17<sup>th</sup> campaign filing deadline.

**Date: July 11, 2019**

**Name: Isabelle Kerner**

**Position Seeking: Seattle City Council – District 7**

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**Volunteer Experience: Team Read, Seattle Art Museum Teen Advisory Program, Northwest Art Show, Former intern Maria Cantwell**

**Please list any organizational endorsements you have received:**

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***For the questions listed below, please provide a direct response and brief two or three sentence explanation.***

1) What is the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity?

The LGBT acronym describes the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community; therefore the first three letters (LGB) describe sexual orientation. The 'T' references issues regarding personal gender identity.

Gender is an individual's own personal and internal sense of being a man or a woman or someone who does not fit into that binary.

Sexual orientation refers to the physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person.

Individuals who are transgender may be straight, lesbian, gay, or bisexual. If a person transitions from female to male and is solely attracted to women, that individual would typically identify as a straight man.

2) Do you believe businesses should be allowed to refuse service to LGBTQ individuals based on personal religious beliefs? Why or why not?

No. I believe in full personal freedom to express one's own individuality and do not believe discrimination of any type against this protected class should be tolerated.

3) Do you think transgender people should be banned from serving in the military? Why or why not?

No. I think any individual who is willing to risk their life to serve for our country should have the chance to do so regardless of their personal and individual identity.

4) Would you support a ban on gay panic and trans panic as legal defenses for violent crimes against the LGBTQ community in Washington State?

Absolutely not.

5) In 2017, the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism reported a third consecutive year of increases in hate crimes nationally. That year, Washington State experienced a 32% increase in hate crimes. Additionally, we are seeing a steady increase in the bullying of school-aged youth. If elected, what would you do to address the epidemic of dramatically increasing bias crimes and bullying?

I would lead by example. While I do not identify as LGBTQIAAP, I am a bit different and have never fit into the box. I know it can be isolating and have experienced ridicule, been called crazy, threatened, and pre-judged as a result.

Bias crimes and bullying—particularly cyber bullying, verbal and physical abuse has absolutely no place in this country. We are supposed to be united regardless of our personal and socioeconomic identity.

6) Approximately 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. What would you do (or have you done) to address this issue?

I have a plan to address this that involves creating immediate housing with all services on site. We will temporarily use 23 vacant empty plots of City-Owned land. Each site will have 22-25 40 x 8 x 8 cargo containers.

The containers will be modeled into dorm-like lockable units. There will be 8 campers per container depending on the situation and size. Each unit inside the container will be 75-85 square feet each (this includes the divider walls). Two or three of the containers at each site will be used for showering, portable toilets, and cooking. Campers that are swept by the Navigation Team will be placed at a site that best matches the issues they are dealing with (whether it is drugs, mental illness, domestic abuse, ect). For example, we will not put the severely drug-addicted near the non-drug addicted and severely mentally ill. This means like-minded people will be placed with others who are struggling with similar issues and have a common identity. Those enrolled in the program will have the option to choose their roommate and will have 3-8 months to live in the units for free while they receive job training and earn money that is deposited into a tax-exempt account. Once individuals have earned enough money to afford the upfront costs of affordable housing and have secured a long-term job that will sustain their ability to afford housing, they will exit the program and get out of the cycle that perpetuates those who are recycled back onto our streets with little protection.

7) Do you believe Title IX protections should include gender identity? Why or why not?

Yes. Gender is a protected identity class and should not be excluded from Title IX under any circumstances.

8) Should the teaching of consent be a mandatory component of Washington State's K-12 public education curriculum? Why or why not?

Absolutely. Children and adolescents must be educated about all types of sex. Parents are often very awkward in having these discussions. They are also typically limited to antiquated beliefs about sexual identity.

9) Have you ever attended or participated in an LGBTQ-focused event? If so, what was it?

Not recently due to a violent attack against me by individuals who I later learned identified as gay. For my own safety and fear that if these individuals see me, will try and harm me again—I do not yet feel comfortable in crowds or visiting areas I know these individuals frequent.

10) What have you done to support or promote diversity within your community?

While attending Garfield High School, I volunteered for Team Read, a nonprofit

organization that pairs high school students with 2nd & 3rd graders with reading & writing deficiencies. Though the elementary school I volunteered at was predominately white, nearly every student in the program was a minority. Most students in the program came from low-income, single parent households or households where parents worked multiple jobs. The children explained to me how no one in their household was available to read with them, some students coming from families where English is a second language.

I also volunteered at the Seattle Art Museum as a member of its Teen Advisory Group, I noticed that the demographics of the museum's local visitors didn't accurately reflect the cultural and ethnical variation of Seattle & suggested that SAM expand its radius of advertising to include Seattle's more diverse neighborhoods. The expanded advertising increased diversity and established a program to provide teens from all socioeconomic backgrounds with free art instruction to retain newly accumulated variation.

11) What is the most important and/or pressing issue you will address if elected?

The most important and pressing issue for me to address is the camping crisis. While some call it a homeless crisis, my experience in talking with these people has proven that this is about more than housing. It is about mental health, addiction issues, societal shortcomings, and violence.

12) Why should Equal Rights Washington endorse you?

I am as transparent as a piece of glass. I look at all points of view and work to get others to understand those who have different beliefs than others. I would love for everyone to be treated equally, fairly, and with dignity.