

2019  
TRANS  
JUSTICE  
VOTER  
GUIDE

**VOTE BY  
NOV 5**

Your secret ballot means it's all yours to decide. But hopefully this independent and local nonprofit-prepared guide by and for trans, gender non-conforming and gender diverse communities helps.

# TRANS VOTER GUIDE

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was prepared as a part of the Trans Justice Voting Project at Ingersoll Gender Center with generous financial support from King County Elections and the Seattle Foundation. Ingersoll is a 501C(3) non-profit and at no point do we endorse political candidates for any office. All candidates were asked the same open ended questions with the same character limits and questionnaire due dates. As you can see some candidates did not respond to our questionnaire. This should not be seen as an endorsement or rejection of any candidate.

**For more information on the Trans Justice Voting Project and the statistics sent to each candidate, visit <https://bit.ly/IGCTJVP>**



🌐 <https://ingersollgendercenter.org>  
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Founded in 1977, Ingersoll Gender Center is one of the oldest trans run organizations in the country. For over four decades we have been building community, connecting folks to resources and advocating for our communities.

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1

LISA HERBOLD

PHIL TAVEL

## PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR POSITION.

I believe that elevating the voices of people historically underrepresented or excluded is a critical part of my representation. I am responsive to advocates representing grassroots, people-powered interests. I show up to policy and budget conversations with diligence and transparency.

Seattle City Council represents local Districts, must uphold the City Charter, approves the City budget, develops and votes on laws, ordinances and policies intended to promote the health and safety of Seattle's residents.

## WHAT DOES TRANSPHOBIA LOOK LIKE TO YOU, AND HOW ARE YOU GETTING FURTHER INFORMED ABOUT TGNC COMMUNITIES?

Organizations like yours help me become informed about the challenges of the trans and gender nonconforming community. Transphobia & cis-sexism are embedded in our institutions based on binary assumptions of gender identity.

The absence of complete acceptance and respect for personal gender identification. Everyone should have the right to identify as who they are and be respected. I will consult with my friend who provides diversity and inclusion training to municipalities and work with TGNC communities.

## HOW WILL TRANS FOLKS BE CENTERED IN OUR CITY'S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS?

In 2018, I sponsored a Statement of Legislative Intent to work with people with lived experiences to develop new policy for homelessness service providers serving trans and gender nonconforming people. I have also advocated the Office of Housing to help fund LGBTQ affirming senior housing.

Any form of housing discrimination is unacceptable. People of all identities must have access to shelter and services. Any proposal I support must contain equitable provisions to emphasize and protect everyone, including TGNC communities, reduce barriers, and promote the right to fair treatment.

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1

LISA HERBOLD

PHIL TAVEL

## WHAT CAN THE CITY DO TO ENSURE BETTER ACCESS TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE?

I worked with Gender Justice League to change insurance policy at Kaiser-Permanente. Not everyone has health insurance. I intend to fund our local trans-focused organizations so that they can continue to provide advocacy, case management, system navigators to help people access the care they need.

The TGNC community should feel safe, comfortable and respected interacting with medical staff. I will promote policies that reduce barriers, improve access to funding, emphasize inclusion and diversity training for medical personnel and work with colleagues and nonprofit groups to solicit input.

## WHAT IMPACTS HAS THE SPD SAFE PLACE PROGRAM HAD ON COMMUNITY?

Working to prevent/end hate crimes is a top priority. "Safe Place" has been adopted in other cities, and may raise the profile of the issue. I am working to strengthen hate crime laws and support community-based organizations facilitate more reporting and take "Safe Place" to the next level.

Protecting LGBTQ+ individuals by registering local merchants and organizations to shelter and assist victims of hate or bias crimes. The program increased the reporting of hate crimes, connects law enforcement to businesses and LGBTQ+ communities, builds trust and communication, raises awareness.

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

**TAMMY MORALES**

**MARK SOLOMON**

## PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR POSITION.

As a Seattle City Council councilmember representing District 2, I would be a part of the legislative body that oversees the city budget and develops laws to promote the safety and well-being of Seattle residents. Such policies range from land use and zoning, to worker protections and civil rights.

I am running for Seattle City Council, District 2. The Seattle City Council establishes City policy through enactment of ordinances (laws) and adoption of resolutions. The City Council also approves and adopts the City's budget. District 2 includes Chinatown/International District, SoDo, South Seatt

## WHAT DOES TRANSPHOBIA LOOK LIKE TO YOU, AND HOW ARE YOU GETTING FURTHER INFORMED ABOUT TGNC COMMUNITIES?

Transphobia is the default of a heteronormative society- we're all a party to it . It's in the violent policing of gender presentation and its "designated places/uses", in the way people (even other trans folks) enforce the gender binary, and in how we fail to represent TGNC communities in media.

Transphobia is any behavior that interferes with our TGNC neighbors living safe and equitable lives and can happen through one on one interactions or policy such as bathroom bills or other harmful laws. My day job keeps me aware of hate incidents against TGNC people but I also look to leaders and or

## HOW WILL TRANS FOLKS BE CENTERED IN OUR CITY'S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS?

Our city needs to work in partnership with the trans community and trans youth to reduce barriers. From familial eviction to mental health needs because trauma/bullying, TGNC folks are at unique risk of experiencing homelessness. We need to train + enforce TGNC access to housing providers/shelters.

As a board member of YouthCare for over 25 years, I have seen firsthand the overrepresentation of POC and the LGBTQ community. We must eradicate the root causes of homelessness by increasing funding for education/outreach to combat transphobia, funding programs that serve at risk populations, refo

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

## TAMMY MORALES

### WHAT CAN THE CITY DO TO ENSURE BETTER ACCESS TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE?

High quality and gender-affirming healthcare access is critical. I want to ensure the city is working with TGNC communities to solicit, expand, promote, and maintain the existing referral network of trained providers who understand the needs and challenges of trans folks.

## MARK SOLOMON

### WHAT CAN THE CITY DO TO ENSURE BETTER ACCESS TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE?

Start by ensuring the City Healthcare plan provides equitable and gender affirming coverage. Using the City's plan as a model we can encourage other health care providers in our area to follow suit.

### WHAT IMPACTS HAS THE SPD SAFE PLACE PROGRAM HAD ON COMMUNITY?

The Safe Place program is small but impactful. It's hard not to spot it on window fronts and even teachers' classrooms. But when a community has a history of police confrontations and violence, there is a lack of trust that can't be easily mended. More training and emphasis on TGNC risk is needed.

Over 6,000 businesses across Seattle participate. It has greatly increased community involvement in pushing back on Hate against the LGBTQ+ community. It expanded to include any victim of a hate crime to seek help. Safe Place increases community awareness through outreach and Education.

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3

**EGAN ORION**

**KSHAMA SAWANT**

## **PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR POSITION.**

We are responsible for representing district constituents, establishing city ordinances, and approving budgets. As I've done as Director of PrideFest, I'll work with neighbors, community leaders, businesses, and nonprofits alike to address what's working, fix what's not, and give a voice to all.

As a socialist, I represent working people and social movements within a City Hall dominated by corporations and big developers. We won the historic \$15 minimum wage, and landmark renters' protections. We need to win rent control, and social housing and a Green New Deal funded by big business taxes.

## **WHAT DOES TRANSPHOBIA LOOK LIKE TO YOU, AND HOW ARE YOU GETTING FURTHER INFORMED ABOUT TGNC COMMUNITIES?**

Transphobia stops trans people, especially women of color, from living freely through pernicious discrimination based on gender-identity. On Council, I'll continue what I started with PrideFest, where I made Seattle Center bathrooms gender neutral and was an early and ardent supporter of TransPride.

Transphobia ranges from pervasive dehumanizing behavior to material discrimination in housing, jobs, and services. Grassroots organizing is the best way to fight. I marched in the first Trans Pride in 2013, when no elected official did. I've been honored to work with Gender Justice League, others.

## **HOW WILL TRANS FOLKS BE CENTERED IN OUR CITY'S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS?**

Because of systemic transphobia, trans folks are more likely to experience homelessness and housing discrimination. We must stop displacement from safer queer and trans communities and for those experiencing homelessness create more low-barrier, high-supervision shelters that are safe for all.

Stop the ineffective and inhumane sweeps, instead invest in tiny house villages, especially for the trans community. We need to fight for citywide rent control free of loopholes, and a big business tax to fund quality, publicly-owned affordable social housing, with accountability for discrimination.

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3

**EGAN ORION**

**KSHAMA SAWANT**

## **WHAT CAN THE CITY DO TO ENSURE BETTER ACCESS TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE?**

Healthcare is a human right, and it's especially important for trans folks. I will work to ensure fair and equitable coverage for all—including gender affirming care. We need to ensure that healthcare providers respect gender identity and that no one is denied coverage because of how they identify.

We need gender affirming Medicare for All. Seattle should support programs to fund services, like Gay City and Ingersoll, and fully fund public clinics by taxing the rich. Last year, through the People's Budget movement, we won \$100k to build an LGBTQ Health and Wellness Center at Nova High School.

## **WHAT IMPACTS HAS THE SPD SAFE PLACE PROGRAM HAD ON COMMUNITY?**

Safe Space can only have limited impact if those in need aren't comfortable with police. We need structural reform, building trust between police and community with armed and unarmed police that serve vulnerable communities with a culturally competent, representative law enforcement.

Unfortunately, the SPD Safe Space Program is little more than a sticker, and has not addressed the deeper issues of unaccountability, especially for people of color and the TGNC community. I voted against the latest police contract that rolled back even the limited accountability measures we've won.



# KING COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

## GIRMAY ZAHILAY

### **PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR POSITION.**

Councilmembers set policies and enact laws for King County. Since they impact the lives of 2.2 million diverse people, they must engage all communities and employ an equity lens when shaping and enacting policies. Councilmembers must innovate and take bold action to address major challenges.

### **HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS THE DISPLACEMENT OF TGNC COMMUNITIES TO PLACES WITH LESS ACCESS TO RESOURCES?**

I will ensure that any organization receiving funding from King County accommodates transgender people and keeps them safe from gender based violence and harassment. I will work with TGNC advocacy and support organizations to understand the obstacles and shape policies that prevent displacement.

### **WHAT DOES TRANSPHOBIA LOOK LIKE TO YOU, AND HOW ARE YOU GETTING FURTHER INFORMED ABOUT TGNC COMMUNITIES?**

Transphobia can look like hateful people attacking TGNC communities or policymakers shaping laws that exclude or make life more difficult for TGNC communities. I am getting informed by speaking with people who are transgender or gender nonconforming, and by reading articles that keep me informed.

### **WHAT CAN THE COUNTY DO TO ENSURE SAFER, MORE ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?**

We must move toward free public transit so that fare enforcement can transition to safety officers who keep TGNC communities safe. We must train drivers and the public to spot and respond to harassment of TGNC communities. We must bring TGNC communities to the table to shape transit policy.

### **INCARCERATION ISN'T HEALTHY FOR ANYONE, BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO TO MAKE THE COUNTY JAIL AND YOUTH DETENTION CENTER MORE ACCOMMODATING FOR TGNC COMMUNITIES?**

We must end our current system of youth incarceration and invest more in community based solutions and close-to-home facilities. Close-to-home facilities are smaller facilities that are oriented toward restoration and located in the community where the youth

# KING COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 8

**MICHAEL ROBERT NEHER**

**JOE MCDERMOTT**

## **PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR POSITION.**

Delivering government support when and where necessarily. While ensuring openness and opportunity in economic and social life.

The King County Council is the legislative branch of King County. We set policy and the budget for King County's government and 2.2 million residents. Key responsibilities include public health, Metro transit, public safety (law enforcement, court system, and jail), waste, and parks.

## **WHAT DOES TRANSPHOBIA LOOK LIKE TO YOU, AND HOW ARE YOU GETTING FURTHER INFORMED ABOUT TGNC COMMUNITIES?**

We must be sure to create a comfortable environment for our fellow American's. A person's self-identification should not be used against them.

Transphobia doesn't have to be purposeful or even fear or hate-driven. It is prejudicial words and actions, including ones that come from a place of ignorance, that harms and stigmatizes TGNC communities.

## **WHAT CAN THE COUNTY DO TO ENSURE SAFER, MORE ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?**

Discrimination based on identity should not and can not be allowed. Furthermore, any person found to have assaulted, verbally or physically, any person on public transit, should be barred from public transportation.

I prime sponsored legislation to add trans identity as a protected class in our statewide hate crime statute, and SPD is seeing some success with their Bias Crimes Unit. But repercussions will never make hate crimes disappear completely, only changing our culture will.

# KING COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 8

**MICHAEL ROBERT NEHER**

**JOE MCDERMOTT**

## **HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS THE DISPLACEMENT OF TGNC COMMUNITIES TO PLACES WITH LESS ACCESS TO RESOURCES?**

It's important for local and state governments to focus on triaging the needs of our vulnerable communities and ensure their safety. The only way we can address any of our local issues is to identify how we can help get people stable and back on their feet.

If TGNC folks experiencing homelessness are unsafe because of other shelter residents, then we may need more emergency housing options explicitly for TGNC communities. Further, complaints of improper treatment should be investigated and resolved – including terminating contracts when necessary.

## **INCARCERATION ISN'T HEALTHY FOR ANYONE, BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO TO MAKE THE COUNTY JAIL AND YOUTH DETENTION CENTER MORE ACCOMMODATING FOR TGNC COMMUNITIES?**

We must make sure our focus is triaging & helping individuals inside the criminal justice system become productive members of society. Part of that effort is to ensure they're safe and protected while serving their sentence, along with giving them the tools to improve their futures on the outside.

I championed funding for Project EQTY to train homelessness service providers how to center the needs of LGBTQ youth. We should consider a similar program to train law enforcement – and should have a zero-tolerance policy for officers that don't follow those guidelines.

## HOW TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT

Once you receive your ballot in the mail, fill it out, sign it and either put it in the mail or take it to a ballot drop box near you. Not sure where the nearest dropbox to you is? Go to [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections) to the ballot dropbox nearest to you.

## I CHANGED MY NAME SINCE I LAST VOTED & I'M WORRIED THAT MY BALLOT WON'T BE COUNTED.

No need to worry! Ballots are verified using your signature. If you've changed your name and updated your driver's license and reregistered to vote you should be fine. But, for extra security you could add your phone number and/or email to your ballot envelope making it easier for King County Elections to contact you if they have any troubles with your signature.

## I NEVER GOT MY BALLOT OR I GOT MY BALLOT BUT NOW I'VE LOST IT - WHAT DO I DO?

No need to worry! In both cases you can go online to <http://bit.ly/KCElect> to print a replacement ballot. Don't have access to a printer? Stop by the Ingersoll office at 911 E. Pike and we're happy to print a replacement ballot for you.

### HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

You can call us at (206) 849-7859  
or email us at [info@ingersollgendercenter.org](mailto:info@ingersollgendercenter.org)