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Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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Please list any/all social media account URLs.

Facebook: Mike Kelly for Washington

Instagram: Mike Kelly for Washington

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'm a resident of Spokane Valley, a businessman, a property owner, a husband, a father to three stepchildren, and grandfather to six grandchildren. I grew up with my younger sister in an average middle-class household in a suburb of Portland, Oregon. I participated in all the normal activities of childhood: had a paper route, played high school sports, earned an Eagle Scout, worked summer jobs, and even played in some high-school garage bands. My parents worked hard to provide for us and kept us engaged in our church community. I went to college, leaving early to take a job in the financial industry, and later worked in the legal field. My wife, Kristi, and I have been married for nearly 19 years and began the process of relocating to Spokane Valley in 2019 because we love this area of Washington and to be closer to family.

Being a student of history, I've always had a respect and admiration for the United States, its unique founding story, and for those who established it or helped build it. I recognize that the only way to honor and preserve their legacy is for me to be informed and engaged, both as

a citizen of my community and of my state. To fulfill this obligation to those from whom I have inherited so much, I have actively sought out opportunities to serve and participate in the process of guiding the development and implementation of the policies of Spokane Valley. This has led me to assist in political campaigns, connect and serve with the local Republican Party, and to my appointment to the Spokane Valley Planning Commission. Additionally, I remain active in my local church community and serve on the Board of a local non-profit that provides services for those with intellectual disabilities.

List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.

I have accumulated a broad spectrum of experience from the various opportunities to lead and/or serve I have had in my life. From my early days as a Financial Planner/Investment Counselor, my time as a Trial Assistant/Paralegal, to my current role as Controller/CFO at KT Contracting Co., Inc., I've developed expertise in establishing and overseeing the financial and administrative policies crucial to successful business operations. My role as a landlord has given me many chances to help others in tight financial situations, as well as offer help and advice in other ways.

My background includes:

- Controller/CFO Roles: Overseeing financial activities, including AP, AR, Payroll, HR, and Fleet Maintenance, while ensuring compliance and managing cash flow for two sister companies in the transportation sector of public contracting.

- Entrepreneurship: I have formed, acquired and/or managed multiple successful ventures covering a variety of industries, including Millennial Capital Investors, Millennial Property Management, Millennial Risk Management (dba Oregon City Allstate), AMC Holdings (AMC Fleet Services), Atrium Transport, and Bella Vita Salon & Day Spa. Each venture provided its own valuable insights into business administration and operations, financial management, personnel oversight, risk mitigation, regulatory compliance, and government relations.

- Real Estate Investments: I began pursuing my interest in real estate in my early 30's, when I purchased my first multi-family property, which was also my home. From there, I sought out other opportunities, and I now own or manage multiple residential and commercial properties. Having been both a tenant and a landlord, I've developed a broad understanding of the rental/leasing process and the importance of the relationship between a landlord and tenant. Further, this journey equipped me with expertise in property management, landlord/tenant law, and real estate transactions, and provided me with the opportunity to be involved in short-term funding for real estate purchases, eventually leading to both my purchasing a diesel/heavy engine repair and maintenance shop, and my current interest in renovating homes for resale.

Throughout my career, I've maintained meticulous financial records, navigated complex tax and regulatory situations, and tackled diverse challenges inherent in entrepreneurship. I've also learned how to get along with people with competing interests and who are sometimes unpleasant to work with.

In addition to my businesses and career, I have been a Republican Precinct Committee Officer for about a year, as well as a Sub-District Leader and Spokane County GOP Executive Board member. A little over a year ago, I was appointed to the Spokane Valley Planning Commission and have been engaged in the early stages of updating our Comprehensive Plan and incorporating all the mandates from Olympia having to do with growth and development. I also campaigned to replace retiring State Senator Mike Padden with his support and endorsement. I gained a great deal of insight into both campaigning and interacting with the public. It helped me develop a deep appreciation for the thoughts and feelings of the general public. In the past, I have also been a Scout leader and basketball official, both teaching valuable skills for interacting with others.

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

A city council is responsible for managing a broad spectrum of administrative and functional obligations to its citizens. Chief among these, in my opinion, is public safety. Every person has an inalienable right to defend him/her self, his/her family and their property from harm or theft. To avoid the inevitable chaos and anarchy that would emanate from each individual enforcing their own version of justice in pursuit of this right, we have agreed to delegate that responsibility to our local law enforcement, overseen to a large degree in Spokane Valley by the City Council. When any such body fails or refuses to prioritize this obligation and creates an unsafe environment, then it is the right of the people to reclaim that right for themselves. Therefore, a governing body's first priority should be to fulfill this duty, thereby keeping civilization civilized.

Beyond this primary purpose are a great number of other important functions that are best done collectively through the government. Included are the management and maintenance of roads, the oversight of growth and development, the providing of waste collection and waste water treatment, utility oversight, and the maintenance of parks and other common areas. All of these responsibilities must be carried out with careful attention and a awareness of the cost, as managing the allocation of revenues is also an important function of the Council.

As previously detailed, I have extensive experience with managing projects, finances, and the moving parts of an organization and seeing to their cohesive operation. A city is not much different than a business other than the source of the revenues and the nature of the customer, our citizens. My keen attention to detail, my ability to understand complex concepts and situations, as well as my experience in making multiple parts of an organization work together places me at an advantage in assuming a role on the Council and working with others to accomplish our goal of keeping Spokane Valley as affordable and functional as possible, while making City government responsive and transparent.

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

I believe the success of any elected official comes down to how well he/she promotes and protects the values and priorities of their constituents and shields them from policies that further infringes on their economic or personal freedoms, or burdens them with additional costs, either directly or indirectly. Engagement of the public is also a key metric. When people feel part of the process and heard, they will be engaged, which will result in better policy.

Success as a City Councilor, as suggested earlier, would be if there was a general sense of safety and well being among the citizens of the City, and whether this was achieved at a reasonable cost. Property taxes are the single biggest tax that citizens pay in the City, whether it is as an owner or in the lease payment as a renter. Keeping these costs low must be a priority, which begins in the budgeting process by prioritizing expenditures and ensure everything authorized can be paid for with current revenues, as well as developing a reserve fund for unexpected costs or for when unanticipated circumstances lower revenues.

Voters should evaluate the City Council by how well they work together to meet their primary functions, such as public safety, how effective they are at setting and accomplishing stated goals, how efficiently the City functions, and how transparent and responsive the Council and City Staff are to the public.

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

I have been involved in the Spokane County GOP in various roles for the past 5 years. I started by working on a committee tasked by past Chairman Brian Steele with creating bylaws for a 4th Legislative District Committee. I was later elected a PCO and then a Sub-District Leader for 4B.

During that time, I was also appointed to the Spokane Valley Planning Commission, where I continue to serve, and was invited to join the Board of Directors for L'Arche Spokane, a non-profit that serves adults with intellectual disabilities. I recently agreed to be the Treasurer for that organization.

Other community activities include a campaign for the Washington State Senate position for the 4th Legislative District, and holding various responsibilities in my local church.

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?

In the United States, we recognize that our rights as individuals were endowed upon us by our Creator and, therefore, cannot be usurped or unjustly infringed without offense to He who gave them. This true principle is articulated in the Declaration of Independence, where it is stated that governments are instituted among men to secure the rights of its citizens and that governments can only derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Of course, our state and federal Constitutions were written to establish their respective governing bodies, and to place limitations on the powers that were granted to them. These limitations represent basic boundaries within which the government must operate, and the violation of which would find the government infringing on the rights of its citizens. However, our supreme governing documents were also written with enough flexibility to allow for the continued operation of government in all areas and necessary situations, including those not necessarily contemplated at the time of their ratification, with the establishment of multiple branches to act as a check and a balance to one another. Unfortunately, this flexibility has been used to expand the powers of government far beyond what I believe was originally contemplated and envisioned by the drafters of those documents. Consequently, our various governments have long ago exceeded their just powers and began to exercise unrighteous dominion over their citizens.

Unfortunately, a lack of education and increased secularization of the citizenry has resulted in a general belief that our rights are granted by government via legislation or regulatory mandate and, therefore, are no longer to be guarded or protected. Instead, a belief in a different kind of rights, or entitlements, has emerged, such as a "right" to housing, food, subsistence income, etc, thereby replacing the fundamental, inalienable rights recognized in our founding document.

In the Constitutional paradigm, governments can only infringe or suspend the rights of a citizen or citizens if it is done within the enumerated powers granted to it by the document (Constitution) that first established that government. Therefore, a government may only infringe upon or suspend the rights of citizens in limited circumstances, among which would be in furtherance of a clear public interest, the need for the peaceful order, or in response to criminal activity that infringes upon another's liberty. In the latter instance, it wouldn't be an infringement of rights but a protection of them, since it is the Government's duty to protect its citizens. I will stand for our God-given rights and strive to keep the government within its proper confines.

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

I believe the Constitution of the United States is an inspired document, created by wise and righteous men who were raised up by our Creator for that very purpose. Based upon that belief, I must label myself an originalist. I believe our Constitution needs to be read and understood in the light of its original meaning and intent, with deference given to the overarching objective of protecting citizens from a too powerful government. Our Founding Fathers created the Constitution as the foundation of our country, thereby giving the world the greatest country it has seen. We need to be respectful of the effort, sacrifice, and inspired wisdom necessary to create our Constitutional Republic. We can do that only by seeking to understand the original intent of our Constitution and evaluate all laws in light of that intent. To do otherwise opens the door to abuse and expansion of powers that are difficult, if not impossible to reverse.

It is true, however, that the Constitution did not contemplate all possible situations and did not envision many of the new and practically unimaginable issues we are finding it necessary to deal with some 237 years after it was fully ratified. In expectation of that inevitable dilemma, the Constitution provides for an amendment process. However, it was intentionally and wisely made to be difficult and daunting. Only when a serious and obvious need for such a change arises should we avail ourselves of that avenue. However, even in such a situation, it is imperative that we look back to the wisdom of our founders and adhere to their vision and objectives; giving the citizen maximum liberty to pursue happiness as he defines

it, so long as it does not infringe on the same right of others.

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

The purposes of government as envisioned by the framers are articulated in the Preamble to the Constitution, wherein they stated their intent was to "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty..." To accomplish these goals, they established a central government with limited, enumerated powers, while leaving all remaining authority to the individual States and the people. All governments should operate with the same objectives, with their powers being proportionate to their proximity to the people; the more local the government, the more control it should have to determine policy.

I believe the general purpose of government is three-fold. First, government should protect the citizens, both from others who would seek to harm them, take from them, or otherwise infringe on their right to life, liberty and property, as well as from foreign threats, such as invasion, or attacks on the interests of the people laying outside their physical borders. A standing army at the national level, as well as law enforcement agencies at all levels, exist to accomplish these purposes, always functioning on the premise that it is the rights of the people that are being protected and served, not the other way around. Providing criminal and civil courts to facilitate justice is also part of this function of government.

Second, government is there to facilitate and/or perform the necessary and beneficial tasks that provide for the common welfare of the people, and but would not be best achieved by private industry. This would include desirable endeavors such as building roads, utilities, and other forms of infrastructure that should be available for all to use or benefit from, and that could be potentially monopolized should it be left to the private sector.

Third, there is a necessity for government to exist to facilitate trade and relationships among its citizens and member municipalities. Establishing standard rules for commerce and industry allows the orderly, efficient, and amenable exchange of goods, services, and other general relations. For a sovereign entity to be successful, cooperation among its citizens is imperative. Government helps set the framework for those interactions, so that the people can enter into agreements, take action, invest money and labor, and pursue worthwhile goals, all with a reasonable expectation of the process and outcome. For those instances where disputes arise, the government provides the means of resolving those disputes.

Given these fundamental principles, I would undertake my responsibilities on the City Council with the idea that government is to set the framework for the private sector to operate, with minimal interference. It is not to promote one industry or business over another, to redistribute wealth, or pick winners or losers. All forms of wealth belong to the private sector, and government should take sparingly and use those resources both efficiently and with the greatest benefit to all. It is a serious, God-given responsibility that we have taken too lightly for too long.

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

I believe that life begins at conception and that we as a nation, state, community or individual have a duty to protect that life.

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?

I have never declared bankruptcy, have no unresolved tax liens, nor do I feel I have any conflicts that would jeopardize my candidacy. I have a supportive family and am blessed with a business that allows me to control my work schedule. I am at a point in my life where other duties and responsibilities no longer require full-time attention.

I do, however, have one criminal conviction from 36 years ago, which I have openly talked about on my website and to any individual who has asked with sincere interest and without malicious intent. In 1989, I was charged by the United States Government with the attempted possession of a controlled substance. That substance was cocaine. As a result, I was sentenced to 181 months of incarceration. Once situated, I undertook to utilize my time by becoming immersed in one of the few intellectual activities that were

available to me: the study of the law and the legal system.

I began to assist others in understanding their individual cases from a legal standpoint, and to help evaluate what options, if any, they might have. Through this process, I discovered that I, myself, might benefit from my new knowledge when I realized that the conduct with which I was charged and had plead guilty to was actually a misdemeanor, and yet I had been sentenced for a very similar, but more serious felony. This discovery formed the basis of a petition to the sentencing court to be resentenced, which, after additional court proceedings, resulted in a substantially reduced sentence and my release in April 1995 after less than six years of confinement.

Looking back, I am grateful that I was held accountable for my mistake. Not only did it force upon me the introspection necessary to mature and put my life on a positive, law-abiding path, but it gave me rare and precious insight and experience. It shaped my world view, and while the “suffering” involved was deserved, it was also sanctifying. Just as importantly, I gave me a profound respect and appreciation for our justice system by showing that it can be stern, but forgiving and redemptive, as it always strives for justice if overseen and administered by moral individuals of strong integrity.

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.

My intention is to honestly and accurately represent the people of Spokane Valley. This can only be done by knowing and understanding their values and priorities. This necessarily requires that I proactively interact with them via email, newsletters, town halls, open houses, social media, by phone and, when practical, in person. I intend to have an open-door policy with all my constituents who reach out with a desire to interact in a respectful manner and with honorable intentions. I will always make myself readily available for them as their public servant. I will continue to stay involved in my community and church, and I will continue to seek out ways in which I can better serve the great people of the City.

I will strive to ensure that my votes always reflect the best interests and well-being of the citizens I represent. That is my duty as their elected representative. In addition, it will always be firm in my mind that my wife and myself are residents of the City and decisions affect us as much as anyone.

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

I have been involved with the Spokane County GOP for the past 5 years in one capacity or another. During that time I've worked with a number of people in various ways. As previously stated, I also ran for the 4th Legislative District Senate seat last summer. During all of my involvement, I have met many hard working, sincere, God fearing people who want to preserve the great principles upon which our community, or State, and our Country were established. They have sacrificed time and energy for no compensation other than the satisfaction of being part of a process critical to the survival and operation of our Constitutional Republic form of government. They have served as a motivation and inspiration to me in pursuing public service and working to protect our Faith, Family and Freedom.

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