

PROGRESSIVE DONOR GUIDE

2023 General Election

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YOUR PROGRESSIVE DONOR GUIDE

2023 General Election Introduction & Political Landscape

The Progressive Donor Guide is designed to let you know about the most important races in Washington, and help you invest your campaign contributions as effectively as possible. Our goal is to help you support good progressives in the closest races where your contribution can make the biggest difference.

2023 is a year of local elections, so this Progressive Donor Guide is much shorter and has fewer national and statewide races than it does in even years. Our recommendations are based on candidates' positions and/or track records on progressive issues, their opponents, the competitiveness of their race, and opportunities to flip or defend the local balance of power. Generally, we prioritize races in places where the balance of power is at stake, in bigger jurisdictions, and/or places where people of color are significantly under-represented in their local governments.

We are recommending smaller contributions to more candidates this year - because there are more races in local years, and because local races are less expensive. The size of our recommended contribution is significantly influenced by the size of a jurisdiction's electorate.

CONTACT

If you have any questions about these races, or any races in Washington, please feel free to contact Aaron Ostrom:

Aaron Ostrom
206 - 498 - 2620
aaron@fusewashington.org

This year, there are real opportunities to shift the balance of power and add more progressives to existing city councils or local governments in swing areas across Washington state, and to support people of color and women running for office. We have also included several competitive school board races, as MAGA candidates have been increasingly targeting school boards to ban books about MLK and the Holocaust and eliminate sexual education curriculums. This guide highlights the most important races to support ahead of the general election.

Our recommendations are focused on progressive candidates with tough races in important places that need your help to win. That doesn't mean you shouldn't contribute to good progressives who aren't on our list. There are more local governments than we could include, and we don't generally target races with multiple progressives - although there are many reasons to support and reward good leaders. This guide generally represents the best progressives in the tightest races.

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STRONGLY RECOMMEND



LISA BROWN FOR SPOKANE MAYOR



Lisa Brown is the former state Senate Democratic Majority Leader and the former Director of the Department of Commerce. Brown's campaign is focused on increasing neighborhood safety, creating a thriving Spokane economy, increasing housing supply and home ownership, and addressing homelessness.

Why

It's time to end twelve years of right-wing mayors in Spokane, and Brown offers the chance to transform city and local government politics in Spokane. Brown has been a champion on a wide range of progressive issues over the years and is challenging a conservative Republican, incumbent Mayor Nadine Woodward. Woodward sparked outrage recently by appearing at a Christian nationalist event and accepting a prayer and endorsement from "domestic terrorist" and far-right former state Rep. Matt Shea.

LISA BROWN FOR MAYOR

PO Box 10442
Spokane, Washington 99209
www.lisabrownformayor.com

BETSY WILKERSON FOR SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Betsy Wilkerson is a progressive small business woman and current city council member who is running for the open City Council President seat. The City Council President is a city-wide office with the ability to set and drive the City Council's agenda. She has been a strong champion on a wide range of issues including housing, homelessness, and racial equity. The primary suggests a very competitive general election. Conservative candidates combined to match Wilkerson's 49% of the vote.

Why

The Spokane City Council President is an important city-wide position that drives the City Council's agenda. If elected, Wilkerson would be the first Black woman to be Spokane City Council President. Her opponent is Kim Plese, an anti-choice, anti-social services conservative.

PEOPLE FOR BETSY WILKERSON

PO Box 9673
Spokane, WA 99209
www.betsywilkerson.com

SUSANNA JOHNSON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF



Susanna Johnson has worked in law enforcement for 33 years, and is focused on rebuilding public trust, investing in employee wellness, increasing accountability, and addressing behavioral health through compassionate mental health and addiction treatment.

Why

Johnson is challenging first-term incumbent Sheriff Adam Fortney, a right-wing conservative who hired a known Proud Boy to the Snohomish County Sheriff's office and who lost the accreditation of the Snohomish Sheriff's office after he was elected in 2021, due to his office not meeting the professional standards of pursuits, use of force, and proper officer training. Fortney also recently invited far-right Arizona sheriff Mark Lamb to one of his campaign fundraisers. Lamb has expressed sympathy for January 6th rioters, refused to enforce the stay-at-home order during the pandemic, and has promoted the right-wing myth that sheriffs have constitutional authority to make up their own laws in the United States.

SUSANNA JOHNSON FOR SHERIFF

9010 Market Pl, PMB 123
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
www.susannajohnsonforsheriff.com

RE-ELECT JANICE ZAHN FOR BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL POS. 5



Janice Zahn is running for re-election to her seat on the Bellevue City Council. She is the Chief Engineer for the Port of Seattle and served four years on the City of Bellevue Transportation Commission. Zahn is a strong progressive who brings years of experience in transportation, infrastructure, emergency management, and public policy to the city council.

Why

If Zahn loses, the Bellevue City Council flips to a conservative majority. Jeremy Barksdale's departure leaves Zahn as the progressive cornerstone of the council. This race has become much more competitive and will likely be one of the toughest races on the Eastside this year. Zahn is facing Republican challenger Betsi Hummer. Hummer is being backed by conservative developers and her fundraising is quickly catching up to Zahn's.

FRIENDS FOR JANICE ZAHN

11900 NE 1st Street, Suite 300
Bellevue, WA 98005
www.janicezahn.org



RECOMMEND

RE-ELECT MASON THOMPSON FOR BOTHELL MAYOR



Bothell Mayor Mason Thompson works for a software company and serves on the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club in Washington state. He was elected to the Bothell City Council in 2019 and won by just five votes. Since being elected to the council, Thompson has unapologetically fought for progressive issues such as protecting the environment, improving accessibility, and expanding affordable housing.

Why

Mason is one of several council members who have moved Bothell in a more progressive direction. He has organized and built a bench of future candidates in Bothell, and would continue the progressive momentum he's built during his time on the council. The Mayor is essentially the city council president, elected by fellow councilmembers to lead the council. Mason's opponent is two-term councilmember James McNeal, a moderate who switched seats to run against Mason, in a targeted effort to challenge the progressive majority on the Bothell City Council.

ELECT MASON

11911 NE 155th St.
Bothell, WA 981011

www.actblue.com/donate/electmason

RETAIN OLGY DIAZ FOR TACOMA CITY COUNCIL POS. 7



Olgly Diaz was appointed to the at-large position on the Tacoma City Council in July 2022, and is running to retain her seat. Diaz is a longtime progressive advocate who has worked for One America and Planned Parenthood, serves as the vice chair of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, and works for the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Her campaign is focused on public safety, neighborhood viability, and economic development.

Why

Diaz is being challenged by Kristen Wynne, a moderate conservative with strong connections to the business network in Tacoma, who has advocated for criminalizing homelessness and addiction. Conservative business interests in Tacoma have targeted this race to unseat Diaz.

FRIENDS OF OLGY DIAZ

PO Box 7437
Tacoma, WA 98417
www.votediaz.org

KITTY KLITZKE FOR SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL



Klitzke is a longtime environmental champion. She has worked for both the Lands Council and Futurewise on local land use and transportation issues for two decades. She is the former chair of Spokane's Community Assembly Pedestrian, Transportation, and Traffic Committee. Klitzke is running to bring affordable housing, frequent transit and safe, walkable streets to all of Spokane.

Why

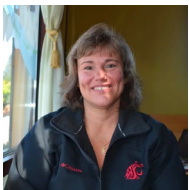
Klitzke is running against far-right conservative Earl Moore, who attended the Christian nationalist event along with Nadine Woodward and former Rep. Matt Shea. This will be the tightest Spokane City Council race and Moore is currently out-fundraising Klitzke.

COMMITTEE TO ELECT KITTY KLITZKE

PO Box 4942
Spokane, WA 99220
www.voteforkitty.com



JANET CALDWELL FOR CLOVER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT POS. 5



Janet Caldwell has been a public school educator in the Bethel School District for the past 29 years and currently serves as the Bethel Education Association president. She is focused on ensuring an excellent student education, retaining and attracting quality educators, and keeping students safe at school. As a longtime resident of Lakewood, she believes every parent and family wants their children to be respected and receive a quality education.

Why

Caldwell's opponent is Moms for Liberty-endorsed candidate Noa Bunting. Bunting is a 24 year old conservative and his campaign platform is focused on removing "needless politicization and fringe academic theories" from the educational curriculum – aligning with right-wing groups who want to eliminate sex education and historical accuracy from being taught in schools.

PEOPLE FOR JANET CALDWELL
PO Box 7437
Tacoma, WA 984172
www.peopleforjanetcaldwell.com

DAVIDA HAYGOOD FOR PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTOR POS. 5



Davida Haygood is a community leader with deep roots in Puyallup. She organized the Two-Way Racial Healing Project and currently serves on the Design Review & Historic Preservation Board. Her children are students in the Puyallup School District and she has a strong connection to, and investment in, local education's future. She believes that education is the key to unlocking children's potential, and her campaign is focused on equity and inclusion, mental health and well-being, teacher shortages and retention, and championing special education.

Why

The Puyallup school board faces three Moms for Liberty-backed candidates, a group that has advocated for banning books about MLK and the Holocaust while trying to whitewash our history in schools. We must elect a strong leader like Haygood and make sure Moms for Liberty candidates do not take over our school boards.

VILLAGE FOR DAVIDA

PO Box 994

Puyallup, WA 98371

www.vote4davida.com

JAIME STACY FOR MEAD SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3



Jaime Stacy is a teacher in Spokane Schools who leads equity and inclusion work at her school. She has kids in the Mead School District and is a former PTO President. Her priorities as a parent and an educator include supporting policies that are inclusive, anti-bullying and harassment, and creating a safe and equitable learning environment for all. If elected, she would be the first Black person to serve on the Mead School Board.

Why

Mead is running against conservative Jennifer Killman, who is part of the far-right attempt to take over school boards. This is a balance of power race; if Jaime loses extremists will have a majority on the Mead School Board. This is a low-cost high-stakes race and we feel Jaime has the talent and experience to serve her community well.

VOTE JAIME STACY

PO Box 48952

Spokane, WA 99228

www.votejaimestacy.com



EASTSIDE PROGRESS INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE

The balance of power is at stake on the Bellevue City Council. Betsi Hummer is running a strong and well-funded campaign against councilmember Janice Zahn, and progressive councilmember John Stokes is being out-fundraised by conservative opponent Paul Clark. Conservative development interests are spending heavily in these races to flip the council to a conservative majority. The Bellevue City Council has a narrow, 4-3 left-leaning majority and losing even a single seat on the council would likely result in a Republican mayor leading the city.

Fuse is organizing an independent expenditure campaign to defend the progressive majority on the Bellevue City Council. Our campaign will make sure voters hear why we need to defend Zahn & Stokes' seats.

Independent expenditures cannot be coordinated with the candidate and are not subject to contribution limits.

EASTSIDE PROGRESS

PO BOX 7388

Bellevue, WA 98008

[https://fusewashington.actionkit.com/donate/
Eastside-Progress-2023/](https://fusewashington.actionkit.com/donate/Eastside-Progress-2023/)



NATIONAL LANDSCAPE & BATTLEGROUND STATES FUND

2024 will be a challenging election year. The math in the US Senate is very tough; Democrats are defending 23 of the 33 US Senate seats on the ballot, and are defending seats in tougher states. A sober assessment of the odds suggests Republicans will flip the Senate. The mixture of Biden's approval ratings and age is also a real concern, and a small number of battleground states will drive electoral college results. If fewer than 40,000 voters in Arizona, Georgia and Wisconsin had switched their support in 2020, Donald Trump would have been re-elected.

That makes flipping the US House a very high priority for preventing a far-right takeover of all three branches of the US Government. We can reclaim the House by gaining a net of five seats.

There are battleground House races all over the country. The states with battleground Senate races are: Arizona, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Michigan, Montana, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The Presidential battleground states are Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Fuse has organized a Battleground States Fund to help our donors maximize the impact and effectiveness of their contributions towards defending Democratic majorities in the US House and Senate, and to elect Democratic Governors as a critical line of defense in battleground states. We develop and maintain a strategically-focused list of the most effective investments that our donors can make towards achieving those goals.

Please feel free to email Serena Carmona Hester at Serena@fusewashington.org for more information.

WHY TO GIVE

We believe there are six basic reasons to make campaign contributions:

SAVE THE COUNTRY

The rise of far right-wing extremism in this country is deeply sinister and concerning. MAGA Republicans and white supremacists are attacking democracy, rolling the clock backwards on women's health and other issues, while promoting racism and violence. We run the risk of losing ground on all of our policy advances if far-right Republicans win, and with so much at stake in every one of these elections, every donation to support progressive candidates is a tangible and impactful way to fight back against rising MAGA extremism.

HELP GOOD PEOPLE WIN

We believe the top priority is to support good progressives in close races who need your contribution to win.

REWARD PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP

Good people who provide strong leadership and take political risks deserve our support. They generate enemies and opposition with good votes, and if we don't support them it sends a powerful negative message to other legislators.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Contributions can build personal political capital with your elected officials, making you a more effective lobbyist for progressive causes.

DEFEAT CONSERVATIVE LEADERS

Take out incumbents or challengers who are real obstacles to progress.

ACHIEVE OUR POLICY GOALS

Whether your goal is to strengthen laws that fight carbon pollution, create a more equitable tax system, or increase funding for education, investing in the races that are the key to building a majority that supports your goals is the key to our success.

HOW & WHEN TO GIVE

In person: We recommend making contributions at events or in person where you can make a personal connection with the candidate. This way, you can communicate your concerns and priorities to a candidate when you make a contribution. We don't recommend contributing more than a nominal amount to a non-competitive race unless you are working to strengthen or maintain a relationship with the candidate.

By mail: If you can't contribute in person, we recommend that you mail them a check with a note, telling them you are supporting them because they were recommended in the Fuse Progressive Donor Guide. Sending them a check eliminates the credit card company's cut (which adds up) and allows you to add a message to your contribution.

Online: If you can't donate in person or by check, donating online is a good option.

Independent Expenditures: Most high profile races now have substantial independent efforts to bolster good candidates. Independent expenditures cannot be coordinated with the candidate, and are not subject to contribution limits. We are happy to provide insight and guidance about specific races and independent expenditures if you are interested.

SAMPLE BUDGET

Contribution limits for local candidates vary depending on the jurisdiction. They are usually \$1,200 per individual for the general election. Exceptions include the Port of Seattle (\$2,000) and Seattle City Council (\$300).

Our Budget Levels are based on sample political budgets of \$5,000 and \$10,000. Our Primary Donor Guide recommended reserving \$2,750 and \$5,500 of those respective budgets for the General Election. These are our recommendations for allocating those funds.

	\$2,750	\$5,500
STRONGLY RECOMMENDED		
LISA BROWN FOR SPOKANE MAYOR	\$350	\$700
BETSY WILKERSON FOR SPOKANE COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENT	\$350	\$700
SUSANN JOHNSON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF	\$325	\$650
JANICE ZAHN FOR BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL POS. 5	\$325	\$650
RECOMMENDED		
MASON THOMPSON FOR BOTHELL MAYOR	\$175	\$350
OLGY DIAZ FOR TACOMA CITY COUNCIL POS. 7	\$175	\$350
KITTY KLITZE FOR SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL	\$175	\$350
JANET CALDWELL FOR CLOVER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT, POS. 5	\$175	\$350
DAVIDA HAYGOOD FOR PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTOR POS. 5	\$175	\$350
JAIME STACY FOR MEAD SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3	\$175	\$350
EASTSIDE PROGRESS IE	\$350	\$700
TOTAL	\$2,750	\$5,500

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