



SPOKANE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

CANDIDATE EVALUATION, VETTING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Spokane County has over 250 elected offices, 21 are partisan where the candidate declares their political party preference and the remaining offices are non-partisan. **Partisan** offices include the Congressional 5th District (1), State Legislative Districts (5 Districts, 1 Senator, 2 Representatives each), and County Commissioner Districts (5). **Non-partisan offices** include Mayoral; City Council; Town Council; School Board Director; Spokane Valley Fire, Spokane County Fire District, Water District, Cemetery District and Park District Commissioners, and Judicial. Each of these offices have their own specific function but collectively they impact our quality of life, property, safety, education, and the economy.

The Spokane County Republican Party's Vision is to *"fill every seat in Spokane County including local, city, county, state and federal offices with people who support the **Constitution of the United States and the Republican Platform***. It is the Spokane County Republican Party's **Mission** *"to promote good government by Getting Republicans Elected at all levels, **Support Them, and Hold Them Accountable**" while they campaign and once elected*. In return the Spokane County Republican Party will itself be accountable to the candidate and its members to ensure we not only support and promote our candidates but we shall also defend them when unfairly attacked regardless of the originator or nature of the unfair attack.

The first step in this Mission is the process to recruit, evaluate, and vett quality candidates who are challenging or running for an open seat or engage incumbents, evaluate their performance, and determine if further support is **deserved**.

Our team of elected Republican Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) are committed to recruiting and evaluating candidates of unimpeachable character, virtue, and integrity who align to our organization's Vision, Strategy, and Mission. We invite interested candidates and incumbents to participate in this grass roots led process, build relationships with our great team of patriots, and together chart the course that *"secures the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity"* as our Founders charged us to do.

For information about the Candidate Evaluation and Vetting Process or a position you are interested in running for visit us at spokanegop.com/become_a_candidate or email the Candidates Committee Chair at candidates-chair@spokanegop.com.

If you are interested in supporting our Mission to elect candidates that share our values please visit spokanegop.com/donate.

Please provide the following information:

*Name: Sue Kuehl Pederson

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*Email: campaign@citizens4sue.com

*Phone Number: 253-359-3022

*Candidate for: WA Commissioner of Public Lands

Website: Citizens4Sue.com

Social Media: Facebook.com/SueforPublicLands
Twitter.com/SuePublicLands
*Required Instagram.com/suewapubliclands

Tell us about yourself: your family, education, occupation, and interests; why you are running for

My mother's family settled in Washington in the late 1890s. Mom was born and raised in Klickitat county, the eldest of 7 children including 2 sets of twins. My father's family immigrated legally from Germany to Wisconsin. Dad was their second US-born child. He worked 39 years as a fish culturist for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, in Alaska, Utah and California, and was finally stationed in WA at the Little White Salmon hatchery, where I grew up.

My childhood in the Columbia River Gorge was enchanting and full of freedom to explore nature. I ended up becoming a Biologist, studying at Western WA University. I have 2 older sisters who were both in college when I graduated from high school. Since my family was of modest means, I worked my way through college. In between quarters at WWU, I was very blessed to work seasonally on fascinating research projects at many Columbia and Snake river dams. NOAA Fisheries (formerly National Marine Fisheries Service) designed and implemented radio telemetry studies of adult salmon passing upstream over dams, and between dams. Then the Army Corps of Engineers used our reports to engineer and retrofit dams with improved fish passage facilities. I learned all aspects of the research (e.g., trapping, tagging and tracking random fish; plotting their paths on maps, writing reports) and became the project manager after several years. At WWU, I wrote a thesis on salmon migration and earned credit and an A+.

That experience set the stage for a really interesting career based on my curiosity of how nature works, and a fearless desire to always learn more. In a way, without really trying, I was blessed with a full circle of understanding many of the challenges that continue to face us in WA—namely the value of hydropower, forestry and fisheries to Washington's economy and sustainable industry.

this office and what life experiences, qualifications, and skills make you a good fit for this position; describe your leadership style, experience, and successes. (500 words or less please)
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The following questions are intended to provide a view into the candidate's character, values, political philosophy, personal experience, leadership style and will be used to evaluate fitness for office by the Spokane County Republican Central Committee (SCRCC) membership.

The SCRCC welcomes all points of view as we believe healthy, productive discussions, informed

solutions, and we encourage you to answer them honestly and completely:

Experience, Leadership and Service

1. Do you have leadership experience as an elected official, volunteer or in the private sector and if so, what was your position and key accomplishments?

Please go to Citizens4Sue.com, ABOUT. Scroll down to my Resume button.

2. Describe your duty as related to the office you are running for and how your leadership style will be employed to influence others and achieve success.

The distinction between myself and all other candidates (career politicians) who have entered this race so far is that I am a Scientist with over 30 years of full-time employment in natural resource management, including Forests, Habitat, Fisheries Research & Management, and Energy Management. Although unplanned, my background is uniquely suited to this position, because the subject of natural resources has always interested me, since early childhood.

My passion for the restoration of a healthy environment in WA will steer my leadership as I educate and influence others to look at “big picture” interrelationships between water, soil & geology, climate, energy sources and plants. We operate in silos and need a lot more cross pollination between scientific disciplines. I am prepared to lead those conversations. As my sister said recently, “We don’t know as much as we think we know.”

I am also at an ideal point in my personal life to give myself fully to this job. My two children are “launched” and I am a widow with only myself to take care of now. I’ve already enjoyed several years of retirement, and feel a strong desire to “give back” to my beloved WA state.

3. What does success look like for this position and what measures or key performance indicators should your voters use to evaluate your performance?

My vision of success for this position includes:

- Reducing the budget and size of the Department of Natural Resources by at least 15%
- Streamlining and reducing regulations among DNR and similar state and federal agencies
- Creating/supporting private sector jobs in Forestry, Agriculture & Fishing (using historical land management methods as a guide)
- Advising the energy sector on a practical mix of resources for consistent service to residential and commercial customers (includes saving our treasured hydropower), as well as transportation fuel choices
- Reaching out to tribes for areas of cooperation
- Navigating the popular “climate change” ideology and finding connections with common-sense, scientific findings

4. What Community Activities are you engaged or associated with (non-profit organizations, clubs, churches, boards, commissions, etc.,) where you have been of service to others. Have you held leadership roles in any of these organizations?

BOARD MEMBER: Ghana Together; Commencement Bay Rowing Club (youth program); Small Faces Child Development Center; Carp Lake Improvement Assn, Stevenson High School Alumni Board

TRUSTEE: United Methodist Church.

Property Rights- are highly relevant to the position of Commissioner of Public Lands and the Department of Natural Resources which the Commissioner oversees. Some view Property Rights as the foundation of all other rights.

The Right to Bear Arms- I come from a family of hunters, and I am a lifelong member of the NRA. I am also alarmed at the trend to reduce law enforcement, and as much as I hate to think this, I believe citizens may at some point need to defend themselves against a government that is no longer a constitutional republic.

Limited Government- Clearly, the Department of Natural Resources has burgeoned, even during the past 4 years when the full-time employee count went from 1500 to 1700, not counting seasonal firefighters (currently 400). I believe many of the functions of DNR should be privatized, especially concerning forest management.

Jobs, Economy and Currency- Ever since 2016, when I first ran for state senate, my highest goal has been to restart the historic, renewable natural resource economy of WA, including timber, grazing. I cannot bear to see our lands burn up, in the tens of millions of acres. The wildfires of 2014 were my wakeup call, when I first saw "white smoke" fires.

National Sovereignty, Immigration & Defense- I believe WA has abundant resources that should be made available to diminish our reliance on China and other nations, for example lumber for housing.

Family Values- My two children are my highest priority.

6. Regarding interpretation of the United States Constitution, do you consider yourself an originalist or prescribe to it as a living document? Please explain.

I am definitely an Originalist. I believe our Constitution was constructed under Divine influence. No matter what has happened between its drafting and even into the future, I think of it as our solid foundation that supports whatever we are facing at the moment. "And underneath are the Everlasting Arms." Deuteronomy 33:27

7. What is the purpose of government in a Constitutional Republic and if elected how will you perform your duties based on this “purpose?”

We have a REPRESENTATIVE government that serves WE, THE PEOPLE. Unlike my Republican opponent, I will serve my constituents' needs. I will create private sector job opportunities and steer our natural resources toward abundance and sustainable management, as I witnessed during my early lifetime in WA. We have strayed very far from responsible lands management and I will restore past forestry and agricultural practices, with modern improvements, to bring our lands and waters back into balance with nature.

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

As a biologist, I understand that life begins at conception. That is when a new, unique individual is formed through the splitting and pairing of DNA from two parents. I believe every parent, male and female, has a duty to protect this new life or face God's judgment at the Pearly Gates. I think the role of government should be to educate and strongly encourage birth control and elective sterilization. I am appalled at the use of abortion for birth control.

Transparency and Accountability

9. Do you have any criminal convictions, ever filed for bankruptcy, have any active or unresolved tax liens, any conflicts of interest (personal or professional) that may jeopardize your candidacy or compromise you if elected?

None of the above.

10. Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative, adhering to the values and answers you have provided in this questionnaire.

As the Commissioner of Public Lands, I will work with the state legislature to ascertain the best interests of WA citizens. I will also rely heavily on my own background in natural resource management to communicate and collaborate with legislators, citizens and stakeholders on subjects that will improve the health and productivity of our treasured renewable resources, while increasing revenues to the state. I will work diligently and cooperatively with the federal government to manage their 28.5% of WA lands in the best interests of our citizens.

Feedback from the Candidate

Please rate this process on a scale of 1-4 with 1 = terrible, waste of my time; 2 = did not meet expectations; 3 = met expectations; and 4 = exceeded expectations.

Circle one: **1** **2** **3** **4**

Please use the text box below to provide feedback or questions you may have for the SCRCC Candidates Evaluation and Vetting team you are working with.

Score = 3

I really appreciate the questions asked. I consistently had problems making JotForm work for me, without erasing my entries. This happened at least three times. I am grateful for the chance to try again using a Word document. THANKS!