

A Publication of the Upper Columbia River Group

## NOVEMBER 2021 ELECTION

# SIERRA CLUB STRONGLY BACKS SHERAZI AND ZAPPONE

Sierra Club has endorsed Naghmana Sherazi and Zack Zappone for Spokane's City Council.



### NAGHMANA SHERAZI FOR SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL. DISTRICT 1

The Upper Columbia River Group (UCRG) and the Washington State

Chapter of the Sierra Club have endorsed Naghmana Sherazi in her race for Spokane City Council, District 1 (NE Spokane), in the 2021 General Election.

Naghmana Sherazi is a single mom, scientist, community leader and educator with a proven track record for working with and amplifying the voices of those who are marginalized and often overlooked. She fights for people, not polluters.

She would be the first immigrant of South Asian descent elected to City Council, is the first unionized campaign in Eastern Washington, and if elected, would be the only home renter on the City Council.

She has been energetically involved in social and racial justice issues since she moved here in 2012, co-chairing No Discrimination Spokane, networking with Gonzaga students to connect them to local racial justice advocates, providing training to Gonzaga employees on the benefits of diversity, working with the interfaith community to promote tolerance.

Her deep interest in the environment has motivated her to be a volunteer to clean beaches in Karachi and Houston, projects focused on improving habitat for sea turtles. Two years ago, she rallied to support an initiative to save the Orcas and stabilize the Puget Sound ecosystem so salmon could spawn and thrive.

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### ZACK ZAPPONE FOR SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL. DISTRICT 3

The Upper Columbia River Group and the

Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club have voted unanimously to endorse Zack Zappone in his race for Spokane City Council, District 3 (NW Spokane), in the 2021 General Election.

Zack Zappone is a good candidate that we are pleased to endorse again. After his barely-failed attempt last year at running for Washington State Representative for the 6th Legislative District, the young educator ran strong this summer in the Spokane City Council primaries. He will be on the ballot for City Council in District 3 in north central and northwest Spokane, opposite his opponent, Mike Lish, who did not reply to our initial endorsement query.

While Zappone's opponent has accepted funding from the real estate and building industries, Zappone enjoys grassroots and union support. In fact, Zappone likes to link good jobs to environmental issues. "Now is the time to confront climate change and a stagnant local economy with broad investments in clean, modern infrastructure. We can create good-paying, union jobs across industries, and lay a foundation of sustainable growth that can withstand the demands of climate change and a growing economy."

In our interview with him, Zappone pledged that he would work to help to establish as city policy important elements of the City of Spokane Sustainability Action Plan, which exists now in draft form. We can see how the city sustainability plan



Original art by Olivia Longie.

and Zappone's own policies converge. For example the sustainability plan emphasizes the "substantial" reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Zappone wants to "scale back unsustainable energy sources and invest in greener alternatives - not double down on the energy sources that have contributed to the dire position we find ourselves in today. I oppose efforts to expand fossil fuel use."

On his campaign website, Zappone also highlights his plan to invest in green spaces throughout the city. He wants a walkable, bikeable city with electric-powered mass transit. Furthermore, he pledges to "push for infill and density in our centers and corridors." This accords well with the Sierra Club's official Urban Infill Policy.

It's important to note that city officials can make a difference in our fight for cleaner water. A former Spokane mayor twice requested the EPA to rescind its water quality standards for the Spokane River. Zappone, on the other hand, told us that he was "excited by the recent work to release 51 adult Chinook salmon in the Little Spokane River at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve and Wildlife Area." He agrees with the Sierra Club that the area waterways should be clean enough to be fishable. The Washington State Department of Health does not advise eating more than one fish a month from the Spokane River, one of the dirtiest rivers in the state.

Environmental justice is another of the Sierra Club's important goals. Polluters will often consider certain places, like the Spokane River, as "sacrifice zones," places inhabited by those who have less political power. States candidate Zappone: "Sacrifice zones have no business in policy making and reflect a cruel and oftentimes racist way to prioritize certain people over others." It is noteworthy that Zappone's website is available not only in English but also in Spanish and Russian.



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