

Your Name: Lindy Verhei
Position: Local
Name of Office: Kennewick City Council Position 1
Congressional District: 4th
Legislative District: 8th
Status: New Candidate
Date of Election (mm/dd/yy): 11/07/2017
Candidate Website: lindy4kennewick.com
Candidate Facebook: Lindy Verhei For Kennewick City Council
Candidate Twitter: @lindy4kennewick
Candidate Email: lindy4kennewick@gmail.com

Do You: Believe in the need for Campaign Finance Reform/not support Super PACs/Citizen's United?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Campaign finance should be as transparent as drinking water. Every candidate, from local to national, should be able to have a list of their donors available to the public.

Do You: Believe in Medicare/Medicaid/single-payer for all?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: I believe that is the direction that our country is going in. The ACA wasn't perfect, but it did help a lot of people get insurance who weren't able to afford it before. The new AHCA plan would strip 22-24 million Americans from coverage- to me, that's a human rights issue. The single payer system is in use in most first world countries, and overall it actually costs less than what we pay now. Taxes would increase slightly but we would have no more medical bills. No one would be denied care due to inability to pay. Emergency rooms would be less crowded because people would be seeing family care doctors before their medical issues became urgent. No one would have to choose between life saving medical care and paying rent.

Do You: Believe in LGBTQ marriage equality/equal rights?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate: Because a person who identifies as LGBTQIA is a human being, and deserves every right that we all do. Simple.

Do You: Believe in tax-paid public accredited college access for all who are accepted and free tuition at all public colleges?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: If we can figure out how to pay for it, then I'm all for it. People my age have crushing debt from college, and as a result we're not buying houses, and starting families much later because we can't afford kids. If the next generation graduates debt free, they will be able to invest in our local economy by buying houses and having families, but also a person with no debt is able to take more risks, and that breeds innovation and advancement.

Do You: Support college loan repayment relief and college loan monthly payments no more than 10% of net income?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: It has a lot to do with the previous answer- crushing debt

inhibits growth. It's pretty simple. Also, I would love to look into predatory student lending. Sallie Mae/ Navient is the biggest offender, and should be held accountable.

Do You: Believe in closing corporate tax loopholes?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: American tax payers are shouldering the burden of these loopholes. Everyone should pay their fair share.

Do You: Believe in a \$15 Minimum Wage (graduated in, over 4 years, at a maximum)?:

Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: Because a person working a full time job should be earning a living wage. Minimum wage could pay for college tuition when my parents were in college. The price of college has increased 1000%, but wages are stagnant and have not risen with the cost of living. If we truly value hard work as a character attribute, then we need to put our money where our mouth is.

Do You: Prioritize repairing infrastructure?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: I would prioritize repairing infrastructure because lives are at stake. When bridges collapse, people die. Funding infrastructure repair is the right thing to do.

Do You: Believe in Police/Prison Reform (end private prisons, drug treatment vs. prison, possible Body Cams, demilitarize/retrain police, etc.)?: Yes

Why or Why Not? Please Elaborate.: The privatization of prisons has been the worst mistake that our justice system has made. We have the highest rate of incarceration of any nation. This is a human rights issue. As a former chemical dependency counselor, I can tell you that if a person goes to treatment willingly, they will get more out of their treatment and have a better chance at lasting sobriety. I'm in support of training police in how to de-escalate situations safely. There are identifiable warning signs to when an officer might shoot- the biggest one being witnessing a suicide. Our officers volunteer to put themselves at risk, and we need to do everything we can to support their mental health in times of stress, so that they can make the right decision in the heat of the moment. We need to identify and reward outstanding officers, and retrain or terminate officers that show lack of stability in times of stress.

Do You: Believe in finding a way to reduce the power of the military industrial complex and constant state of conflict/war?: Yes