

# Our Endorsed Candidates WIN!!

Mike Miller

Endorsed by the Spokane Education Association, **newly elected Spokane School Board member Deana Brower and Spokane City Council Ben President Stuckart** thank the SEA for member support, helping them win their respective positions in local elections.

A former secondary teacher, Brower feels that both training and member support were critical for her success. “The endorsement of the SEA was extremely helpful in two areas in particular,” Brower explained. “The candidate training seminar was extremely helpful from a strategic standpoint, and the network of communication and volunteer support was critical as well,” she said.

Spokane coordinator for Communities in Schools, Stuckart agrees with the importance of the SEA’s support. “Numerous people commented as I was out door knocking that they knew I was endorsed by SEA and told me they were voting for me for that very reason,” Stuckart explained. “SEA also helped by supplying volunteers to drop literature, knock on doors and calling voters right before the election,” Stuckart continued.

Seeking the endorsement from the Spokane Education Association was important for both Brower and Stuckart. “The SEA represents the educational professionals in Spokane Public Schools and I felt it was very important to have the support of the professionals working closest with our students every day,” said Brower.

For Stuckart, having the association’s endorsement had a family connection. “My mother was a longtime SEA member and many of my values come from what she taught me,” Stuckart said. “I have worked closely with SEA for the past 4 years in my role as Executive Director of Communities In Schools and we all understand that in order to make our society stronger we need to work together to support our children,” he continued.

Now that Brower and Stuckart are elected, both have goals for what they plan to accomplish. “I am interested in ensuring that our upcoming replacement levy is understood by our local voters,” Brower said. “The state is considering unprecedented financial cuts to our school budget, making our reliance on the replacement levy more significant than ever. With funding in place, I am interested in exploring educational options and programs which yield the greatest results for our students,” stated Brower.

As Stuckart looks to the future, he sees building support for moving forward with his City Council Agenda. “There are going to be times when we need supporters to show up and testify and support our common goals at City Council meetings and community forums,” Stuckart outlined. “It will be important to mobilize people fast as we move forward!” he concluded.