

An Open Letter to the People of Seattle

Our Experience & Leadership Matters

October 19, 2017

As women, we know what it's like to have our professional experience, accomplishments, and credentials questioned, minimized and too often underrated. We were disappointed to read The Seattle Times Editorial Board endorsement in the Seattle City Council Position 8 race.

Teresa Mosqueda is a proven leader in our community – a forceful champion of a more just and equitable society. She helped lead the successful statewide effort to expand access to affordable health care by expanding coverage for all children in Washington. She helped make sure the Affordable Care Act worked for all our neighbors, workers and families when she served on the Exchange Board for four years as the consumer and patient advocate. Teresa is a fighter for women and working people—helping to lead the coalition and write the statewide initiative that raised wages and provided paid sick leave for workers. She has fought to protect the rights of immigrants and refugees, and to guarantee reproductive justice for women. She is running for office and working full time, and continues to show an unwavering commitment to show up for causes beyond her campaign. That's the kind of leadership our city needs.

Women should get credit for the work we do, and for our hard-won experience. We must stop making excuses or standing by while others overstate their resumes at the expense of women whose qualifications, experience, and track record are indisputable.

The Seattle Times Editorial Board lauds the “experience” of Teresa’s opponent, yet Teresa spent years helping craft the minimum wage and sick leave policy and leading the state-wide initiative that her opponent was hired for a period to work on.

Teresa not only has the real experience and applied skills to be an effective, inspiring Councilmember, she has the temperament to deliver while being deliberative and fair. At a time when our nation— and our city — are too often defined by what divides us, Teresa knows that to make real progress we must find common ground, build coalitions, and unite around shared values. A proven progressive, Teresa knows how to bring people together and get things done. Teresa respects people, she listens, and she is unafraid to speak her mind to create the changes our communities need. We need more people with these skills in City Hall.

That's why Teresa has earned our support, and the support more than 200 progressive organizations and diverse community leaders across Seattle. We hope you will join us in making sure our experience is honored and our voices heard. We hope you will also join us in voting for Teresa Mosqueda for Seattle City Council, Position 8.

Sincerely,

1. Abigail Doerr, Political Director Transportation for Washington*
2. Aiko Shaffer, community leader
3. Alex Alston, Policy Director Washington Bikes*
4. Alissa Haslam, Director WinWin*
5. Annie Wise, Logistics Director for MLK Central Labor Council*
6. April Sims, Field Mobilization Director for the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
7. Behnaz Nelson, Executive Director of Professional and Technical Employees Local 17*
8. Berit Eriksson, Sailor's Union of the Pacific*
9. Binah Palmer, APACE Board Member and staff at SEIU 925*
10. Brenda Wiest, Legislative Director Teamsters 117*
11. Carin Chase, President of the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women*

12. Cariño Barragán Talancón, Community Organizer at Casa Latina*
13. Cary Moon, Seattle Mayoral Candidate*
14. Charlene Strong, former Seattle City Council Candidate, small business owner*
15. Cindy Domingo, Chief of Staff to Council Member Gossett*
16. Dannielle Askini, Gender Justice League Founder*
17. Dawn Gearhart, Community Organizer for Teamsters 117*
18. Dawn Gearhart, Community Organizer with Teamsters 117
19. Debbie Carlsen, Executive Director of LGBTQ Allyship*
20. Debora Juarez, Seattle City Councilmember District 5*
21. Diane Sosne, President SEIU Healthcare 1199NW*
22. Doris Koo, Principle Consultant Yesler Community Collaborative*
23. Eileen Cody, State Representative 34th Legislative District
24. Elaine Rose, CEO of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii*
25. Elena Perez, worker advocate
26. Emily Van Bronkhorst, Executive Vice President SEIU Healthcare 1199NW*
27. Erin Haick, Political Director SEIU 925; Co-Chair NARAL Pro-Choice Washington PAC*
28. Erin House, housing advocate
29. Estela Ortega, Executive Director of El Centro De La Raza*
30. Faye Guenther, Secretary-Treasurer of UFCW 21*
31. Gabriela Quintana, President of Latino PAC of Washington*
32. Gael Tarleton, State Representative 36th Legislative District
33. Hannah Lidman, advocate for women and children
34. Heather Villanueva, Communications/Organizers SEIU 775*
35. Hilary Stern, Founding Director of Casa Latina*
36. Janet Chung, gender justice advocate
37. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, King County Councilmember
38. Jenny Durkan, Seattle Mayoral Candidate*
39. Jessica Juarez Scruggs, author and staff at National People's Action*
40. Jessyn Farrell, former State Representative 46th Legislative District
41. Kamaria Hightower, Communications Director MLK Central Labor Council*
42. Karen Deal, Executive Director of the Washington State Democratic Party*
43. Karen Hart, President of SEIU 925*
44. Karen Keiser, State Senator 33rd Legislative District
45. Karen Strickland, President AFT Washington*
46. Katie Garrow, Political Director MLK Central Labor Council*
47. Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, MomsRising*
48. Kristina Logsdon, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Rod Dembowski; APACE Board member*
49. Lauren Berkowitz, Burien City Councilmember*
50. Lauren Craig, housing advocate
51. Lily M. Wilson-Codega, Political Director Teamsters Joint Council 28*
52. Lisa Bogardus, Assistant Executive Secretary Seattle Building Trades*
53. Lisa Wellman, State Senator 41st Legislative District
54. Liz Berry, Executive Director Washington State Association for Justice*
55. Lorena González, Seattle City Councilmember Position 9
56. Lynne Dodson, Secretary Treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO*
57. Maggie Humphries, National Women's Political Caucus of WA*
58. Maha Jahshan, community advocate
59. Maiko Winkler-Chin, Executive Director Seattle Chinatown International Dist PDA*
60. Makini Howell, Owner of Plum Bistro Restaurants*
61. Maralyn Chase, State Senator 32nd Legislative District
62. Marcie Maxwell, Former State Representative 41st Legislative District
63. Maria Barrientos, Founder of Barrientos RYAN*
64. Marilyn Watkins, Economic Opportunity Institute*
65. Marissa Chavez, Latino Political Action Committee Board Member*

66. Marsha Botzer, Founder of Ingersoll Gender Center*
67. Misha Werschkul, Executive Director Budget and Policy Center*
68. Misty Shock Rule, APACE Board Member*
69. Nicole Grant, Executive Secretary Treasurer MLK County Labor Council*
70. Nicole Keenan, Director Fair Work Center*
71. Nicole Macri, State Representative 43rd Legislative District
72. Nina Martinez, Chair Latino Civic Alliance*
73. Noel Frame, State Representative 36th Legislative District
74. Pamela Crone, women and worker's right advocate
75. Phyllis Campos, President of the Seattle Education Association*
76. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenny, former State Representative 46th Legislative District
77. Pramila Jayapal, US Representative 7th Congressional District
78. Rebecca Saldaña, State Senator 37th Legislative District
79. Renée Hopkins, CEO Alliance for Gun Responsibility*
80. Sally Bagshaw, Seattle City Councilmember District 7
81. Sally Clark, former Seattle City Council Member
82. Samantha Grad, Political Organizer UFCW 21*
83. Sarah Cherin, Community and Political Allies Director UFCW 21*
84. Sejal Parikh, Executive Director Working Washington*
85. Shaine Truscott, Deputy Director for SEIU 775*
86. Shefali Ranganathan, Executive Director Transportation for Washington*
87. Simone Boe, Political Coordinator Washington Education Association*
88. Sterling Harders, Vice President SEIU 775*
89. Sudha Nandagopal, Environmental Justice Advocate and OneAmerica Votes Board Member*
90. Sue Taoka, community development advocate
91. Summer Stinson, President, Washington's Paramount Duty*
92. Susan A. Palmer, Secretary-Treasurer District Lodge 751, IAM&AW*
93. Susan Crane, Executive Director SkillUp Washington*
94. Sutapa Basu, PhD, Director Women's Center UW*
95. Tammy Morales, community leader and economic justice advocate
96. Tania María Rosario, economic and social justice organizer
97. Terri Mast, National Secretary-Treasurer, Inlandboatmen's Union*
98. Theresa Purtell, IAFF27; Washington State Council of Firefighters Representative*
99. Tiffany Hankins, Executive Director NARAL Pro-Choice Washington*
100. Tina Podlowski, Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party*
101. Toshiko Hasegawa, civil rights & police reform advocate
102. Tricia Schroeder, Executive Vice President SEIU 925*
103. Velma Voloria, former State Representative, Equity in Education Coalition*
104. Venus Velázquez, community member

** Organization names listed for identification purposes only.*