

WELCOME!!

Agenda

Review Of 2024

Council Member
Voting Records

Plans and Ideas for
2025

Questions

REVIEW OF 2024

HighLights

- Added 10 Police officers!
- Affirmed commitment to Dams and Natural Gas
- Committed Opiate Funds To Ending the Fentanyl Outbreak
- Agreement that drug possession should be Felony
- Made Spokane Valley a Purple Heart City
- Added some requirements to contracting and some performance measures
- Fully Funded Cross Course Phase 1

MidLights

- Looking at public safety cameras, maybe speed cameras
- Grants Pass overturned Boise, City Can control homelessness again

Lowlights

- Tax Money Wasted
 - Sprague Road Diet
 - 16th Circle of death
 - Political attacks against me
 - Countless empty grant commitments
- No new officers for 2025 😞
- No real comprehensive plan for homelessness
- Unnecessary Taxes remain (license plate tax, stormwater tax)
- Pines Road Separation has gone nowhere
- Scraps is still a fail

MY REVIEW AND COUNCILMEMBERS VOTING RECORD

Priorities in order

1. Public Safety, Homelessness, drug crisis
2. Maintain commitment to Dams and Natural Gas
3. Reduce Taxes, efficient budget
4. Look at growth management, apartments, congestion
5. Reform City Contracting practices

My Review is Mixed

- Public Safety:
 - I worked hard to advocate for new officers in early 2024, making a speech at each meeting until 10 (the most we could viably get) were approved
 - Jail is still a problem
 - The next 10 have not been approved in 2025, leaving us still 20 short
 - I proposed comprehensive strategies for Homelessness and Drug Crisis
 - Homelessness strategy was not adopted, Drug Crisis was.
 - I went on many ride alongs to understand exactly what our public servants deal with, and the experience was eye opening.
- Maintain Commitment to Dams and PNG, YES

continued

- Taxes and Budget

- I was not successful at reducing either the licenseplate tax or stormwater tax
- I was not successful at stopping the Sprague Road Diet 😞
- I was not successful at questioning the Circle of Death
- I was not successful at stopping 600k contract to buy land on barker
- I submitted a budget that would pay for officers and eliminate unnecessary taxes but it was not approved.
- The city (mostly Manager John Hohman, but the council was complicit) wasted more than 100,000 attacking me politically with no gain

continued

- Growth Management
 - Several times I introduced ideas to review building and planning decisions but all were rejected. This will be more important in 2025 during the comp plan amendment
 - I supported Valley residents against Painted Hills Development
- Contracting
 - I was successful at pushing some light reforms to city contracting including requiring a written RFP process, and including some performance indicators in contracts.
 - Much more work is needed here.

Rating Myself

- I would give myself 2 out of 5 stars.
 - Until we have all the officers we need I think I should get a 2
 - I have held strong to the priorities you all gave
 - I have accomplished many of the larger tasks
 - I have not been successful with many lower priority tasks
 - I have certainly worked the hardest... (more on this next)

Approval



Al Merkel

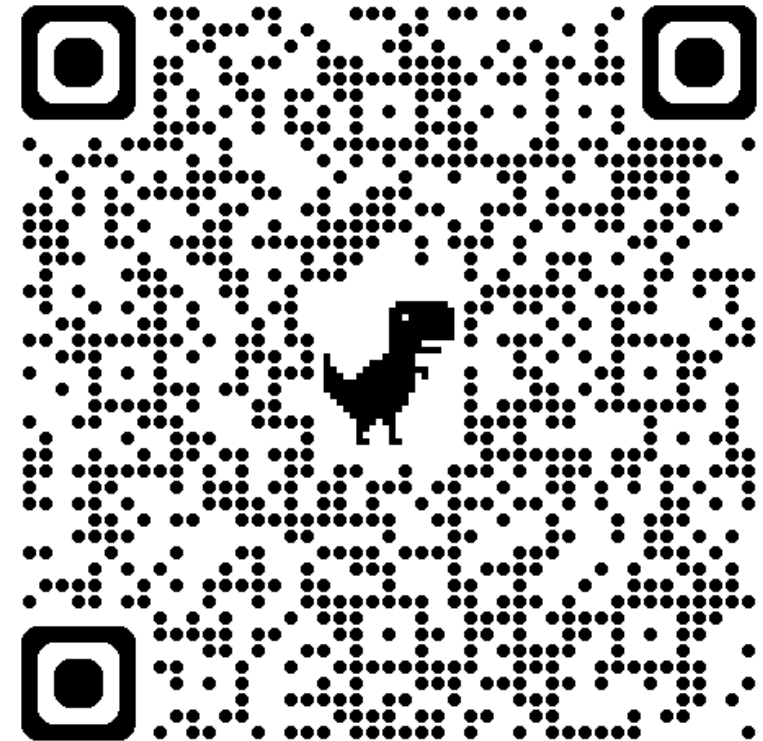
Dishman Hills · 20h · 



Do you Approve of Al Merkel's Job Performance in 2024 as your Spokane Valley City... [See more](#)

I approve of Al Merkel's Job Performance 66%

I disapprove of Al Merkel's Job Performance 34%



COUNCILMEMBER VOTING RECORDS

Voting Records Data



Some Interesting Take Aways

- How Hard is AI Working?

Row Labels	Count of Advance Agenda ITEMS
HALEY	1
HIGGINS	3
MERKEL	62
PADDEN	7
WICK	5
YAEGER	18
Grand Total	96

- Hattenburg Had No Advance Agenda Items.

Row Labels	Count of TYPE	Count of TYPE2
City	82	46.07%
APPOINTMI	7	8.54%
BUDGET	7	8.54%
CITY CONTI	27	32.93%
CITY ORGA	19	23.17%
GRANTS	10	12.20%
LEG AGENI	2	2.44%
OTHER	1	1.22%
PUBLIC SAF	7	8.54%
TAXES	2	2.44%
HALEY	1	0.56%
PUBLIC SAF	1	100.00%
HIGGINS	3	1.69%
CITY ORGA	1	33.33%
OTHER	2	66.67%
MERKEL	62	34.83%
BUDGET	3	4.84%
CITY CONTI	7	11.29%
CITY ORGA	15	24.19%
OTHER	2	3.23%
PUBLIC SAF	32	51.61%
TAXES	3	4.84%
PADDEN	7	3.93%
CITY CONTI	1	14.29%
CITY ORGA	1	14.29%
PUBLIC SAF	5	71.43%
WICK	5	2.81%
CITY ORGA	1	20.00%
GRANTS	1	20.00%
OTHER	1	20.00%
PUBLIC SAF	1	20.00%
TAXES	1	20.00%
YAEGER	18	10.11%
CITY ORGA	6	33.33%
LEG AGENI	1	5.56%
OTHER	7	38.89%
PUBLIC SAF	4	22.22%
Grand Total	178	100.00%

Who Passes the most Advance Agenda Items

- Merkel Passed the Most by almost double (16)
- Also Introduced the most by wide margin

Row Labels	Count of PASSED?
City	73
n	1
Y	72
City	9
Y	9
HALEY	1
Y	1
HIGGINS	3
n	1
Y	2
MERKEL	62
n	46
Y	16
PADDEN	7
n	2
Y	5
WICK	5
n	2
Y	3
YAEGER	18
n	9
Y	9
Grand Total	178

Is AI Collaborative?

Proposer	AI Voted for City Proposed?	
City	82	
n	27	33%
y	55	67%

Voted for city proposals 67% of the time

Row Labels	Count of Minority Voted With Majority	
n	80	45%
y	98	55%
Grand Total	178	

Voted with the Majority 55% of the time

AI Supports Their Ideas		
Row Labels	Count of PASSED?	
HALEY	1	100%
y	1	
HIGGINS	3	33%
n	2	
y	1	
PADDEN	7	100%
y	7	
WICK	5	60%
n	2	
y	3	
YAEGER	18	72%
n	5	
y	13	
Grand Total	34	

Supported a generous amount of each council members proposals

How bout the Majority?

Row Labels	Count of Majority Voted with mi	
n	160	90%
Y	18	10%
Grand Total	178	

Majority only supported my proposals 10% of the time

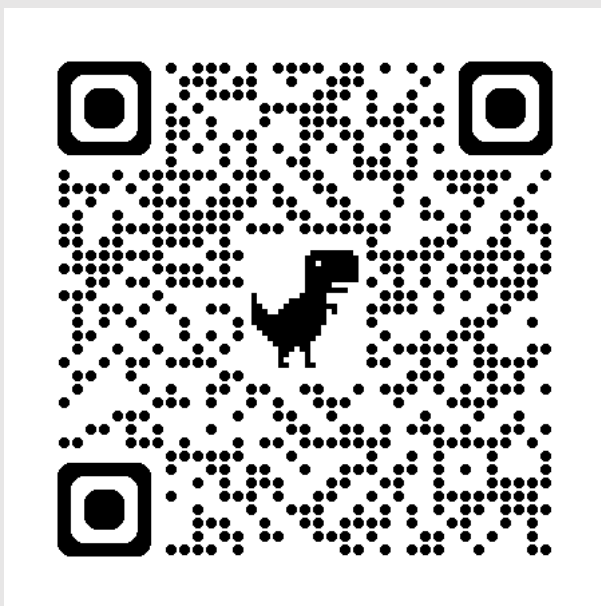
They Support Al's Ideas		
Supported Merl	Count of PASSED?	
HALEY	62	23%
y	14	
HIGGINS	62	19%
y	12	
PADDEN	62	23%
y	14	
WICK	62	21%
y	13	
YAEGER	62	26%
y	16	
HATTENBURG	62	26%
y	16	

By Council member supporting Al's Proposals

2025 IDEAS

2025 Priorities

- Public Safety
 - Add next 10 officers
 - Work with county for jail solution
 - Work towards comprehensive Homelessness strategy
- Comp Plan
 - Work hard to make sure planning and budgeting match resident expectations
 - Annexations?
- Budget
 - Continue to push back against wasteful albatross projects
 - Continue to try to illuminate unnecessary taxes
- Other?



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SPOKANE VALLEY GREAT