

**1. Please provide a brief bio.**

Born and raised in Billings Heights (go Falcons!), my family and I moved back to Billings in 2022. I'm a mom of two, economic development professional, small business marketing expert, and business owner. I am passionate about building a Billings where we can all safely live, work, and play. You can read more about me on my website here - [votekassistrong.com](http://votekassistrong.com)

**2. What made you want to run for city council?**

I feel as though Billings is "bubbling" with energy, and I want to make sure that energy is funneled in the right direction to help make Billings a safer, more enjoyable place to live. In the Heights, I'm particularly passionate about how we can encourage intentional business development that will create jobs and enhance the quality of life of our residents.

I'm also passionate about equal representation, and I believe we need more young people, women, and moms at the table for discussions related to the future of our city,

**3. What is your leadership style and how do you intend to bring a consensus to the Council?**

I lead with a heart for understanding all sides of an issue. I believe in using straightforward, calm communication when in conflict, and ultimately addressing everyone as a human being with value and brains. If elected, I will listen carefully to my constituents and bring their voice to the table instead of focusing on my own agenda and opinions.

**4. What do you see as the role and/or function of city government?**

I believe that the role of city government is to represent our community members and make decisions that will enhance quality of life and safety for our residents. This includes thoughtfully and responsibly managing the budget, supporting our public services and first responders, and encouraging intentional housing and commercial development that will meet our city's growing needs.

**5. What is the number one issue facing Billings for the next city council, and how do you intend to address it?**

Unfortunately, we can't address any of the issues most important to our community such as safety, parks and trails, and public works, until we address our budget shortfalls. With recent state legislation, Billings City Council is going to have to make some tough budget decisions. I intend to address this issue by encouraging council to research new, unique ways of raising funds and addressing the shortfall. I would love to see some research done on cities of similar size or ones who have gone through similar growth spurts as we are experiencing to see how they address funding their city. We don't need to reinvent the wheel, but we do need to try something new, and I believe the answer could be found by researching other communities.

**6. How would you determine and consider the agendas of other council members to be the most productive and prioritize the conflicting demands of Billings?**

I love how our city council members represent a ward but are also responsible for making decisions for the entire city. This allows us to hold conflicting opinions about what is best for our neighborhoods while also having open eyes to what is best for the entire town. I plan to work

with other members openly and honestly to address these conflicting demands in a way that allows us to represent our wards while still working together towards the greater good of Billings.

**7. How would you work with other entities to balance asks of the public for funding through levies and bonds?**

As mentioned above, I believe we need to find some new, creative funding mechanisms that could work for Billings. However, the need for levies and bonds won't go away, so working carefully with other entities to determine the need for their funds and ensuring it aligns with our larger goals for the city will be important.

**8. What do you see as the role of the Union in representing the 144 members of Local 521?**

I would like to meet with someone to learn more about this topic and how Local 521 operates; however, I believe that Unions should give a voice to the people they represent. They should advocate for them and negotiate for them.

**9. Currently Fire Station 5 is undergoing a renovation that is long overdue. There are four other stations that need considerable renovations and a growing need for a new station to support growth. What is your stance on maintaining what is currently in use versus building new stations?**

I believe that each station will need to be considered on an individual basis so we can make sure our city's limited funds are going to the most impactful projects. Ensuring safe working conditions in our existing stations is super important, and as our city grows we will need to seriously consider new stations.

**10. The men and women of Local 521 currently respond to about 18,000 to 20,000 calls for service each year. Departments throughout the nation that respond to a similar number of calls have between 200 and 250 members taking those calls. Currently, L521 has 144 members. What do you see as solutions to add staffing?**

As mentioned above, the budget constraints we are currently facing are a serious problem. Many parts of our city need additional staffing, renovations, new equipment, etc.. Finding a new funding solution will be the most important thing we can do to add additional staffing.

**11. Firefighters face significant risks from cancer, PTSD, and other occupational hazards. How would you support initiatives to improve firefighter health and wellness programs?**

Creating a safe, healthy community is a top priority of mine. We are in the middle of a mental illness crisis, and the need for support services is huge. I would love to support an initiative that helps our firefighters maintain a healthy mind and body. Without healthy first responders, our city is not a safe place for people to live.

**12. How will you approach contract negotiations with Local 521 if elected to city council?**

I would love to learn more about how this process has gone in the past, but I believe that Local 521 is a very important part of our community, and I will take these negotiations seriously.

**13. How would you support community risk reduction initiatives such as fire prevention education, wildfire preparedness, and public health partnerships?**

When I think about public safety, I am so thankful for our firefighters, police officers, and first responders, but I am even more interested in the possibility of preventing fire, crime, and other disasters through risk reduction initiatives. More education, preparedness, and public health partnerships are exactly what we need to help solve the problem from the ground up.