



For Immediate Release: March 25, 2024

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UW Assistant Policy Director Alexis Mercedes Rinck Announces Campaign for Seattle City Council

Mercedes Rinck will bring needed expertise in affordable housing, regional policy, and budgeting to the Council, relying on professional and lived experience to advocate for an affordable, safe, and welcoming Seattle.

SEATTLE– Alexis Mercedes Rinck, an Assistant Director working on policy and budgeting at the University of Washington who developed partnerships at the King County Regional Homelessness Authority and worked as a Policy Analyst with Sound Cities Association, has announced her candidacy for Seattle City Council. Mercedes Rinck will run in the 2024 special election to fill Position 8. Appointee Tanya Woo has also filed for the position, vacated when Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda won election to the King County Council.

“We need leadership on the City Council committed to the expansion of affordable housing we must have, the safe communities we all deserve, action to help people in crisis, and community investments that improve equity and opportunity,” said Mercedes Rinck. “I’ll bring needed budget and housing policy expertise to help shape these important conversations, rooted in shared values and commitment to outcomes and action.”

Alexis Mercedes Rinck was born to struggling teenage parents, and her grandparents stepped in to help raise her and provide needed stability. Having seen and experienced the difficult circumstances that many people in Seattle are facing today, Mercedes Rinck will bring these important perspectives to City Hall.

“Growing up, my family dealt with the traumatic cycles of incarceration, substance use, and homelessness,” she said. “I am thankful to have had support in my community and access to resources that gave me a pathway to a better future– but too many kids like me fall through the cracks. I want to be a voice for all young people who deserve support and opportunity for a better life. I want to bring life lessons– and policy expertise– to unite our city around solutions to the safety, behavioral health, and housing crises that too often divide us.”

Through financial aid and scholarships, Mercedes Rinck graduated college and attended the Evans School at the University of Washington. She has since used her policy expertise to support human services and public health for the 38 member cities of the Sound Cities Association, to

direct emergency response plans at the Regional Homelessness Authority, before starting her current role shaping fiscal policy analysis and budgeting at the University of Washington.

“It’s time for the next generation of Seattle leaders to step up and shape our city’s future,” said Mercedes Rinck. “I am ready to bring my experience to the City Council and be a real voice for all the people of Seattle. We face urgent challenges– local housing needs, national threats to reproductive and LGBTQ rights, and a global climate crisis. I want to build on my record of advocacy and action to keep Seattle a city that is affordable, welcoming, and leading the way to a better future.”

A renter, a transit rider, a former restaurant worker, and a multi-racial woman, Alexis Mercedes Rinck lives in the Central District and volunteers in her free time with Plant-Based Food Shares, ensuring families have access to fresh produce.

Learn more at alexisforseattle.com.

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