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Climate activist and Amazon organizer, Maren Costa announces run for Seattle City Council

SEATTLE – Maren Costa, [illegally fired in 2020 for organizing Amazon workers](#), announced her campaign for Seattle City Council in District 1 today, the seat held by retiring Councilmember Lisa Herbold.

“Everyone in our community deserves a livable wage, safe working conditions, and affordable housing. Costa said. “And we need Council members who understand that ‘feeling safe’ means different things to seniors, or to families, or to those of us who are LGBTQ+, or to the unhoused, or to people of color. And it is critical that at this moment, we look for solutions that also help us respond to the climate crisis.”

In 2019, Costa founded “Amazon Employees for Climate Justice,” an organization within Amazon to pressure the retail giant to do more to address their climate impact. The group’s mission expanded in 2020 to include better working conditions for warehouse workers during the pandemic. Costa’s organizing efforts led to thousands of tech workers standing up for climate justice, Amazon’s Climate Pledge, and Jeff Bezos’ \$10 billion dollar Earth Fund. However, despite her fifteen-year tenure at Amazon, they wrongfully terminated her for her activism early in the pandemic.

Costa added: “I put my job—and possibly my entire career—on the line because as a mom, I simply can’t sit by while worker protections and our children’s future are being sacrificed to turn a profit.”

Her termination garnered national headlines when Senators Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, Bernie Sanders and then-Vice President Kamala Harris, along with more than a dozen Attorneys General across the country signed

an open letter to Jeff Bezos contesting the firing. With the additional support of local leaders and labor groups, the National Labor Relations Board filed suit against Amazon, and Costa won.

Recently, Costa worked at Microsoft as a principal user experience designer leading the shopping team. She launched “Ethical Shopping” for Bing — making it the first search engine to allow for ethical shopping filters. She was also leading the internal effort to make Microsoft’s 401k plan climate-safe. Finally, she is also an advisor for three climate startups: Power Bloom Solar, Carbon Zero, and Impact Karma.

A 20-year resident of West Seattle, Costa is an LGBTQ mom of a non-traditional, blended family. Her partner and his two teenagers live in White Center and she and her two teenagers live in West Seattle, and all four kids are in Seattle Public Schools.

To learn more, please visit www.votemaren.org.

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