



MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

THE TREASURER OF SPOKANE COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

April 8th, 2020

Contact: Jarred Mac, (509) 688-7048 jmac@spokanecounty.org

Treasurer Baumgartner Encourages Local Investment through “Pledge 1200” Initiative

Spokane County, WA--Treasurer Michael Baumgartner has endorsed Pledge 1200, a growing nationwide initiative that encourages able Americans to pledge to spend their upcoming federal stimulus benefits at local & small businesses. Co-founded by a Spokane County Treasurer’s Office employee and recent graduate of Washington State University, the organization since its inception has received over 300 pledges across 25 states totaling nearly \$400,000 in local pledged investment to date. Pledge 1200 is partnering with business advocacy groups including the Seattle Chamber of Commerce to share the stories of impacted business owners and their employees.

Small businesses employ half of the private workforce in the United States. They have also suffered the most rapid and severe economic consequences of the economic shutdown, needing support now more than ever. In response to this, a coalition of University of Washington graduates, Aubrey MacKenzie, Dominik Gorecki, Mason Delahooke, and Washington State University graduate Jarred Mac, Inter-Governmental Affairs Officer for the Spokane County Treasurer’s office, started the Pledge 1200 campaign to back small and local businesses.

“Cougs & Huskies working together have come up with a great mission to support our local economies during these trying times. Pledge 1200 is one more way for the people of Spokane County to support local during the COVID-19 crisis.” said Michael Baumgartner, Treasurer of Spokane County.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Congress passed the largest fiscal stimulus policy in U.S. history. Approximately 80% of adult Americans will receive a \$1,200 tax-free deposit because of the recently passed stimulus legislation. Pledge 1200 encourages Americans to commit to safely spending this stimulus, or as much of that amount as possible, at small businesses in their local economies. Pledge 1200 is not a donation, nor does the organization handle any money. It is a campaign that encourages Americans to support local bakeries, breweries, restaurants, and other boutiques—businesses that have served as the backbone of the American economy.

“We at Pledge 1200 see our current economic predicament as an unprecedented opportunity to rally Americans around a common cause: supporting our small business community” explains Jarred Mac. “We look forward to partnering with Spokane businesses and organizations to promote this message.”

Small businesses and organizations interested in partnering with Pledge 1200 are encouraged to contact the organization at info@pledge1200.org or through social media.

“Social media is a powerful tool in our efforts to support the small business community, and we hope to reach as many Americans as possible to raise awareness” said Aubrey Mackenzie, founder of Pledge 1200.



MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

THE TREASURER OF SPOKANE COUNTY

Pledge 1200 was most recently featured on Q13 Fox television, which can be viewed here:
<https://q13fox.com/2020/04/08/pledge1200-to-help-local-small-businesses/>.

Take the pledge at pledge1200.org and show support on social media by sharing the pledge using the hashtag #pledge1200.

###