



# RAIN ELECTION 2025

## Voter's Guide



## CANDIDATE FOR CO-CHAIR

## Darrow Brown (he/him), DOH



Hello RAIN!

I am...

Darrow Brown (he/him/his). Wannabe baker extraordinaire, former DJ, vinyl (records, that is) enthusiast, social worker, parent, career-changer and perennial work in progress. I have more than a few years of experience in many things. For the past 2 years, I've been leading the Center for Inclusion, Belonging and Well-being at DOH. Prior to that, during the other era of challenging times (aka "the pandemic"), I led the Washington State Employee Assistance Program. In the Before State Job times, I had my own psychotherapy private practice, led a workplace violence prevention program, served as an IT Director, installed and maintained network servers and desktops, delivered classroom training and worked at the French fry station.

I'd like to be...

RAIN Co-chair. I've been a RAIN member for just over 5 years and would love to help amplify the many diverse voices in our communities. As Co-chair, I see an opportunity to continue the good work of previous chairs – sustain RAIN visibility, advocate for the first and few, promote and foster inclusion, belonging and well-being within and outside of RAIN.

What I bring...

Curiosity, compassion, care and conflict management skills (I needed another "c" word). I also have been known as someone who bakes and brings a mean chocolate chip cookie (yet another "c" word!).

In short...

Pick me. I have cookies.



## CANDIDATE FOR CO-CHAIR

## Kaity Cazares (they/them), OFM



Kaity Cazares (they/them) is a proud queer and trans Washington state employee with a passion for building systems where everyone can belong and thrive. For the past 1.5 years, Kaity has served as Co-Chair of the RAIN Best Practices Subcommittee, leading efforts to identify and share inclusive policies that support safer, more affirming environments for 2SLGBTQIA+ employees and the communities we serve. For their day job, they serve as the Acting Planning and Strategy Advisor for OFM State HR, providing strategic guidance on statewide HR policies, managing complex projects, and advancing DEIB and legislative priorities to support the goals of OFM and the Governor's Office.

Growing up as a queer kid in rural eastern Washington, Kaity knows firsthand what it feels like to be isolated from affirming spaces. That experience has shaped a deep commitment to expanding RAIN's outreach across the state—especially to rural, remote, and underserved areas where connection and visibility can be life-changing. For Kaity, RAIN has been more than a resource—it's been a place of personal transformation. It was through a RAIN training that they first began to understand their own gender identity, and through the community they found there, they gained the clarity, courage, and support to come out and lead.

At a time when queer and trans communities are facing increasing attacks on visibility, rights, and safety, Kaity believes we must rise to meet the moment with boldness and care. As Co-Chair, they will bring policy expertise, heart-centered leadership, and a lived commitment to equity to ensure RAIN continues to be a space of transformation—for people and for systems. They believe in building a future where we don't just survive—but thrive—together, across every region of our state.

## CANDIDATE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON

## Zoey Hogan (she/they), DOH



Zoey Hogan (any pronouns) came to Olympia from the Philadelphia area 15 years ago, and now it's stuck with her! Sometime after that she started at the Dept. of Health where she discovered a real passion for public health—combining her twin loves of being helpful and opening her big mouth to shout about equity. She lives with her spouse and their two beautiful goblins (cats) and spends her not-work time utterly wasting the natural beauty of the PNW by having almost exclusively indoor hobbies like crafts, sewing, and reading fantasy books.

## CANDIDATE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON

## Montse Walker My (she/her), ESD



Hi friends, my name is Montserrat (Montse) Walker My (far left) and I am pansexual. I have worked for the State of Washington for over 3 years, and I want to help 2LGBTQ+ state employees to cultivate community, increase representation in community events and feel safe at work. I am so thankful for this community and for your participation, and I hope to contribute in any way I can.

A bit about my journey: I have worked for ESD for nearly a year and was previously at WA State Parks & Recreation Commission. I am a co-chair for the ESD Pride ERG and in 2025 I coordinated the agency's participation in pride events across the state. I liaised conversations and meetings with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and ERG members for buy in, feedback, and funding. As a result, in 2025 we marched and tabled in 4 events throughout the state (Olympia, Spokane, Tri Cities, and Vancouver). I believe it was impactful and important for ESD to do outreach in the community and I'm thankful for all the participation from the agency that made this possible.

I am interested in being more involved in RAIN and work with the group and see what amazing things we can accomplish together!



## CANDIDATE FOR PROJECT MANAGER

## Ariel Kay-Barto (she/her), ESD



Hello fellow girls, gays, theys, and allies! I am so excited to be running for Project Manager of RAIN. I am currently an Equity Specialist at the Employment Security Department with a focus on using an equity and anti-racist lens to support agency research, analysis, and establishing how to measure success and improvement. I also love plums fresh from the tree, my very naughty cat, and when art is truly shocking.

I have held a few leadership roles within RAIN so am in the unique position to be familiar with processes, roles, and opportunity for process improvement RAIN has. I am excited for the chance to support RAIN leadership and members in building processes that are more sustainable and include more voices with a framework of change management when implementing new processes. The greatest gift of my life is being queer and I'm so excited to explore how queer we can make project management and state government together.

It's an honor to be nominated and no matter who gets the role y'all are in great hands!

## CANDIDATE FOR FINANCE &amp; BUDGET MANAGER

## Elizabeth Castro (she/her), DOH



I have been an active member of RAIN for over 8 years and find our impact on Washington state personally rewarding and professionally fulfilling. The finance & budget manager role intrigues me, because when I was co-chair from 2019 – 2021 we navigated policy work to address the constraints of running a BRG without funding. I'd like to continue now in a role dedicated to the funding that resulted from that work.

My capacity to serve in a RAIN leadership role opened up again when I became a strategy manager for the Department of Health's Center for Inclusion, Belonging, and Well-being in November 2024. RAIN's mission aligns well with this new position. I also bring my experience in learning and leadership development at DES, DSHS, and HCA.

My wife and I are empty nesters now with two kids in college and one grown and flown. It would be an honor to serve RAIN again in a leadership role. Thank you for your consideration.