



### 2017 Seattle Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you in advance for taking the time to answer this questionnaire, which was developed by members of the Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy (CASE). Please note, answers will be shared with CASE members and we reserve the right to publish any information provided in this questionnaire.

Your responses to the following questions will be used as part of CASE's endorsement process.

**Responses are due by noon, Wednesday, May 24.**

To submit your completed questionnaire, or if you have any questions, please contact Monica Fouts [monicaf@seattlechamber.com](mailto:monicaf@seattlechamber.com) or 206-389-7303.

#### **About the Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy**

The Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy (CASE) is a political action committee sponsored by the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. CASE is the strongest political voice for businesses, large and small, in the Seattle metropolitan region. We represent employers and organizations from every industry sector in the region.

CASE supports local candidates and issues that help create a healthy economy, competitive business climate, and high quality of life for the Seattle metropolitan area.

BASIC INFORMATION	
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Candidate Name:	Jessyn Farrell
Party Affiliation:	Democratic, non-partisan race
Phone Number:	
E-mail Address:	info@jessynformayor.com
Website:	electjessyn.com
Twitter:	twitter.com/jessynfarrell1
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QUESTIONS
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- 1) Please describe why you are seeking CASE's endorsement and how you would use it in your campaign.

As the representative of the 46<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in the Washington House for the past five years and a member of the Commerce & Gaming Committee, and before that as Executive

Director of Transportation Choices Coalition, I have worked to cultivate the shared prosperity that makes our state a great place to work and live. Now I want to bring that experience to my home city. My vision for Seattle focuses on sustainable, equitable growth that makes room for everyone to live, work, play, grow, learn, and get around. I am asking for CASE's endorsement because I would like to work with the business community to make that vision a reality.

- 2) Seattle is one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S. Is this a good thing? What steps can the City take to help effectively plan for continued growth?

Yes. Seattle is reaping many benefits from growth, from a booming economy to a vibrant cultural scene. In this time of flux, it's important to have a plan for smart growth that will keep the city affordable. We need transit-oriented development that increases density to provide a large enough supply of housing for both newcomers and longtime residents, and makes the city accessible for those who live elsewhere. To plan for this growth, we need to accelerate the expansion of light rail and push for increased mixed-income housing, incentives for building affordable housing, and up-zoning.

- 3) What constitutes a healthy business climate in a city, and why is it important?

A healthy business climate provides an environment where we can create and sustain jobs, foster the growth of small and large businesses, build valuable infrastructure, educate a skilled workforce, and maintain a varied economic base. By these means, we can grow while achieving broadly shared prosperity and allowing all the diverse communities and neighborhoods of Seattle to flourish.

- 4) What is the City's role in supporting business growth and economic development?

The key to economic development is job creation. That means growing our diverse economic base, supporting our small business owners, encouraging creativity and fostering innovation, and working aggressively to be on the forefront of the clean energy economy. We must be insistent on developing the emerging markets of clean energy, manufacturing, and technology, which will encourage Seattle's economic success regionally, nationally, and globally.

- 5) What would you hope to accomplish in your first year in office? Do you have specific legislation that you plan to introduce? If so, please describe your strategy to get your idea implemented.

In my first year in office, I plan to accelerate planning for the expansion of light rail to West Seattle and Ballard. I will work with the business community, neighborhood groups, fellow ST3 board members and community stakeholders to prepare existing facilities like the downtown transit tunnel, surface streets, and the emerging waterfront redevelopment to facilitate expansion of light rail as well as bus transit and car traffic.

- 6) Top areas of interest for the local business community include: a healthy climate for business and entrepreneurship, affordable housing, homelessness, taxes, transportation, and labor laws. As Mayor, how will you work with the business community to address these issues and what specific policy ideas do you have to tackle these complex challenges?

My approach will be collaborative. I don't make decisions unilaterally; I bring voices to the table and keep the channels of communication open. We need an integrated and expanded network of mass transportation to increase the connectedness of the whole city without adding traffic. On transit, we need to go bigger and bolder and faster. As mayor, I will accelerate the expansion of light rail to Ballard and West Seattle. Broader access to mass transit will allow us to increase density in smart ways to bring down the cost of housing. At the same time, we need equitable growth that provides broad opportunities so that everyone can afford to live in Seattle. For those who have been left behind, we need policies that don't just sweep homelessness under the rug, but end it by putting housing first.