



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 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

Candidate Name:	Jenny Durkan
Party Affiliation:	Democrat
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
E-mail Address:	info@jennyforseattle.com
Website:	www.jennyforseattle.com
Twitter:	@jennydurkan
Facebook:	@JennyDurkan

QUESTIONS

- 1) Please describe why you are seeking CASE's endorsement and how you would use it in your campaign.

I believe the next Mayor must demonstrate the ability to work with all stakeholders in our vibrant city and growing economy. I am committed to making sure Seattle's dynamic economy continues to thrive, and I am equally committed to ensuring that our economic growth includes businesses and workers alike. Our economic success and growth must become more fully inclusive of all Seattleites. As I said in my announcement speech, the most successful economy is one with a diverse base of jobs, better wages, more apprenticeships, and broader opportunity. I have lived through economic downturns in this city. I was here when the infamous billboard cautioned the last person leaving Seattle to turn out the lights. I know that an innovative economy does not just happen – it must be deliberately fostered. We must have jobs to build the kind of City we want. I will work to support and keep a vibrant and diverse range of businesses, including taking extra care to nurture the small businesses that form the backbone and provide the vitality to so many neighborhoods.

An endorsement from CASE would be displayed on my voter contact materials: campaign website, direct mail, and other places.

- 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?

Growth is both inevitable and beneficial, and our growing economy comes with amazing opportunity. But it also presents enormous challenges. Housing affordability, growing income inequality, rising homelessness and traffic congestion are just a few of the problems we are facing. We run the risk of having two Seattles – one for those who can afford to be here and those who can't. We must work together to tackle these challenges head on. We must build today, the future we want tomorrow. We want Seattle to be a place where millions still come to visit, and leave inspired by our beauty, or natural environment, our innovation and the City we have created.

Specifically, in addition to addressing the issues above, that City government can be an active partner in effectively planning by making wise land-use decisions, thoughtfully addressing the balance between adding needed density and maintaining the special characters of our different neighborhoods, and actively promoting Seattle as the place to launch and grow businesses. I support the historic HALA Grand Bargain between affordable housing advocates and developers and will work to implement that and build upon it going forward.

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

A healthy business climate can be measured by standard indicators – unemployment rates, job growth, business starts, tax revenue, reduced inequality, and more. But a healthy business climate also means a civically engaged business community. Seattle is the land of innovation, where amazing global companies are launched and headquartered. It is also the home to many smaller, critical businesses that often provide the backbone of so many neighborhood gathering spots. I will engage our local businesses – large and small – to build a healthy business climate in our City.

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

The City plays a critical role in supporting business growth and economic development. Ensuring our City has clear rules and regulations for business to follow is key to allowing businesses to have predictability. In the past, the City has played a role in preserving and growing economic clusters, including around aerospace, manufacturing, life sciences, high-tech startups, maritime and tourism.

We must also have strong infrastructure (roads, transit), a strong education system (K-12, higher education, apprenticeship programs, career training), smart land-use and taxation policies, and a laser-like focus on the basics necessary for a well-run and highly-functioning city. The reality today is that other cities, states and countries are competing hard to attract businesses. We must continue to be the place companies and their workers want to be.

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.

Our City is facing big challenges. My priority issues are addressing homelessness, affordability and police reform. Specifically, on homelessness, I will work to implement the reforms outlined in the Pathways Home report and work closely with King County on development and implementation of a regional solution to the problem of homelessness. I will also work to implement HALA, looking for ways to more efficiently accelerate opportunities to make more affordable housing available

On police reform, I will continue our push towards full and effective compliance with the Court-ordered consent decree, ensuring that we continue making progress around the development of new policies and training and the implementation of new practices and accountability on the ground.

I am also focused on growing our workforce development, career training and apprenticeship programs in the city. We must focus on development of middle wage jobs.

- 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 is to bring people together to solve tough problems. This includes our diverse businesses in Seattle. Voices of business leaders, small business owners and workers are critical in any conversation. We are not going to solve our big challenges discussed above – homelessness, affordability, transportation choices, educational, police reform – unless we are working collaboratively. Our successes didn't just happen by accident; a vibrant, growing economy that includes everyone requires a leader that is willing to bring people together, listen but then be able to make tough choices.