

CASE

2019 Seattle City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Homelessness

Most Seattle voters rank homelessness as their number one issue and believe the current City Council has not offered workable solutions despite increased funding.

Q1: What are your top two strategies for addressing homelessness?

Expanding affordable housing and providing additional mental health and treatment options for the small subset who need it.

Q2: Do you believe that achieving these objectives will require additional financial resources?

I believe these will require additional financial resources, though I am not convinced that we as a city will be able to raise the funds by ourselves. The federal government has significantly chipped away at programs that used to help cities tackle these issues, but we no longer have the necessary level of funding to address these issues. I am pleased that at the state level there has been significant work to expand the funding for cities though there is still more work that needs to be done.

Q3: What are the most critical things that must change in order to implement your strategy?

It is going to take significant lobbying on the council's part to get the state to provide additional funding and tools needed to address the lack of funding we have. I have never been one to run away from a challenge, and look forward to tackling this one.

Transportation

We need to meet our region's growing mobility needs, allowing employees to get to work and efficient transportation of goods. Traffic, congestion and public transportation are also top issues for Seattleites. Considering the approval of the 9-year, \$930 million Move Seattle Levy:

Q1: How would you pursue budget transparency and accountability for these funds, and what are your metrics of success?

I would pursue budget transparency and accountability by ensuring the public is included in every step of the process. My metrics for success are completing projects on time and under budget.

Q2: What are the top transportation needs in your district and how would you address them?

The top transportation needs in District 2 are making Rainier Ave safer for pedestrians and cyclists, improving the bus schedules, adding additional light rail links during peak hours and would also like to see increased communication between SDOT and business/residents to create new pedestrian options where practical.

Housing

Seattle must have more affordable housing to address critical workforce needs. The passage of Mandatory Housing Affordability is a first step in addressing this pressing issue.

CASE

Q1: Now that MHA has passed, what would be your top legislative priority be for creating more affordable housing options in your district?

I am a big proponent of transit oriented development, and as such I would like any new large scale affordable housing projects to be located near transit centers. There are lots of places along the light rail line through South Seattle that could serve as new locations.

Growth and Competitiveness

Seattle is a geographically constrained city experiencing unprecedented growth. We need City Councilmembers who can plan for the needs and challenges that come with that growth, including how the city can physically accommodate large increases in people and jobs.

Q1: How and where should our city direct new growth?

We should direct growth to the newly upzoned areas, as well as examine where else in the city we can possibly upzone in order to build even more housing.

Q2: As more neighboring cities develop the housing, transit, and commercial infrastructure needed to support larger employment bases, how will you as a Councilmember encourage employers of all sizes to locate, stay, and grow in Seattle?

Seattle has gained a reputation for being unfriendly to business, and we need to change that reputation. During the head tax debacle we saw neighboring cities like Bellevue and Tacoma introduce new incentives in an effort to entice companies to move. I truly believe companies want to remain and do business here in Seattle, and we must do a better job of working with them, not against them in making Seattle work for everyone.

Public Safety

Every Seattleite deserves to be safe in their neighborhoods. However, many Seattleites feel less safe in their neighborhoods than they did just two years ago.

Q1: Please describe the top public safety concern in your district.

Property crime, shootings, unsafe streets for pedestrians, and unclean streets.

Q2: How would you better allocate resources to address this issue?

We should invest more money in housing, expand mental health services and smarter policing, which I believe to be an opportunity to systemically address public safety problems. Our community needs to be safe, and I will fight to allocate resources in a way that prioritizes solving these public safety concerns.

Government Accountability

We know that most Seattle voters do not trust the current City Council. They want a Council that is transparent, accountable and delivers results.

Q1: What would you do to restore trust and accountability?

One thing I have been hearing out on the doors is that they feel as if no one is listening to them. I would make it a point to hold meeting hours in every neighborhood of my district in order to make sure I am hearing from all constituents. It is amazing to me that I have knocked on doors of people who have lived here their entire lives and I am the first candidate to ever take the time to come and talk to them. I am running to represent the people of this district, and I will do everything in my power to ensure all the voices in my district are heard

Q2: Specifically, how would you evaluate spending priorities and measure their effectiveness?

CASE

We must have a plan and willing to change course if our current spending on policy efforts isn't working. While cutting off providers that have been working with the City for years can be very difficult, at the very least we should be identifying potential new providers that have new approaches to solving our crises. The City should be doing a better job of making the budget public and should continue to solicit input from community about what spending is or isn't working in their neighborhoods.

Revenue

Many Seattleites believe that there is a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

Q1: Please list the different sources of revenue for the city of Seattle.

The city has 16 different sources of revenues, but 75% of the dollars come from property taxes, the Business and Occupation Tax, retail sales taxes, and utilities taxes.

Q2: Do you believe Seattle has enough revenue to address our most critical issues? If so, please explain which additional tools you would propose.

I don't believe Seattle has enough revenue to address our most critical issues. Seattle is responsible for a disproportionate share of the region's social services.

Our current regional approach to funding social services overburdens Seattle by resources and I would propose shifting more of this burden to our surrounding municipalities. Having said that, we also spend tax-dollars inefficiently and need to implement better accountability measures not just at the city budget level, but also at the individual project level.

Child Care

Seattle is facing a child care crisis. There are more kids that need care than there are available child care services.

Q1: How would you support increasing access to high-quality, affordable child care for Seattle families?

Lack of affordable childcare is a huge problem in Seattle. This has been a topic area that has come up repeatedly at the doors, with young families on waitlists for daycares and having to choose between staying at home to take care of the kids because it will be cheaper than paying for childcare. A particular issue around this is that there really isn't much space available for daycares, which is why I would like for daycares to be given a priority for any new space that opens up. We can't expect Seattle to grow if families can't afford to live here or have access to reliable child care.

Labor Laws

CASE

Labor laws like Washington's Paid Family Leave Law are most effective when they benefit both employees and employers.

Q1: If a new labor law is proposed, how and when would you engage the business community to help inform your position and approach?

I would engage the business community to make sure that any new regulations are proactively brought to their attention instead of waiting and potentially negatively impacting their businesses.

Business Climate

Seattle's business community is a willing partner that expect its elected officials to lead the public policy conversation around solutions to the pressing problems in our city.

Q1: How would you work with the Seattle business community if you were elected to office?

I would work with the Seattle business community to get things done. Seattle is a city filled with some of the brightest minds in the country, and we should be working together to come up with unique ways to address our cities problems.

Q2: Specifically, how would you collaborate with our members to address the city's current challenges while balancing the needs of a business community that drives economic opportunity?

I think the head tax had good intentions, but terrible implementation. We should be working with the business community to put together a progressive taxation plan that will benefit everyone in the community.