



# 2019 Seattle City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you in advance for taking the time to answer this questionnaire, which was developed by 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 the screening process to determine which candidates are interviewed as part of our endorsement process.

***Responses will be accepted on a rolling basis but are due no later than Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> by 5:00p.m.***

To submit your completed questionnaire, or if you have any questions, please contact Michael McIntyre at [Michael@casecampaigns.com](mailto:Michael@casecampaigns.com)

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

The Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy (CASE) is a political organization representing diverse local business interests. Sponsored by the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, CASE is committed to creating an affordable, livable, and safe city for all Seattleites to thrive.

CASE endorses candidates who demonstrate a strong commitment to improving the quality of life and economic opportunities for all Seattleites. CASE is focused on four core issues:

### **Good Governance:**

**Trust:** Seattle deserves a City Council we can trust to put our city on the right track, not one that has failed to make meaningful progress on many of the critical issues we face.

**Accountability & Transparency:** Seattle deserves a City Council that is accountable to all of us and acts transparently. We need to know whether our city's resources are being used wisely.

**Solutions:** Seattle deserves a City Council that stays focused on issues facing our city and our neighborhoods - and offers ideas that work. We need leaders who will take a balanced approach and work collaboratively with local leaders, not fight them.

### **Homelessness:**

**Big Picture Thinking:** Seattle deserves a City Council that will advance long-term systemic reforms to address homelessness in our city, which continues to rise while the U.S. average remains almost flat. We need to do better to help our homeless neighbors.

**Best Practices:** Seattle deserves a City Council that provides resources to effective programs and groups and holds contractors accountable for meeting performance standards.

**Regional Approach:** We need prompt implementation of thoughtful, regional solutions with clear leadership and accountability to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.

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## Affordability:

**Housing for All Income Levels:** Seattle deserves a City Council that recognizes the importance of building housing for people and families of all incomes. We have a diverse population and broad-based economy, and we all do better when more people can afford to live close to jobs and transit.

**Local Businesses & Jobs:** Seattle deserves a City Council that is focused on the success of all our neighbors, especially those getting left behind as our city experiences incredible prosperity. We need leaders who will help grow local businesses and expand family-wage jobs.

## Transportation:

**Congestion & Livability:** Seattle deserves a City Council that prioritizes improving transit, reducing traffic congestion, and helping people and goods move around the city faster. We need leaders who continuously strive to make Seattle one of the best places in the nation to live and work.

### BASIC INFORMATION

<b>Candidate Name:</b> <i>Logan Bowers</i>	<b>City Council District:</b> <i>District 3</i>
<b>Party Affiliation:</b> <i>Democrat</i>	<b>Phone Number:</b> <i>206-650-8928</i>
<b>Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:logan.bowers@gmail.com">logan.bowers@gmail.com</a>	<b>Facebook:</b> <a href="https://facebook.com/loganforseattle">https://facebook.com/loganforseattle</a>
<b>Website:</b> <a href="https://votelogan.org">https://votelogan.org</a>	<b>Twitter:</b> <i>@loganb</i>

### CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

<b>Political Consultants:</b> <i>Dayna Lurie, Hilltop Solutions</i>
<b>Campaign Manager:</b> <i>TBD</i>
<b>Fundraiser:</b> <i>Katherine Bobman</i>
<b>Money Raised to Date:</b> <i>\$83,000</i>
<b>Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher Program?</b> <i>Yes, I already maxed out and have already been released from the primary spending limit. I have over \$20,000 in vouchers "banked" for the general.</i>
<b>Total Democracy Vouchers Collected:</b> <i>\$66,000, \$43,000 have already been paid out</i>
<b>Money Raised Outside of Your District Vs. Within Your District:</b> <i>39% in district, 83% in city</i>
<b>Fundraising Target for Primary Election:</b> <i>\$120,000</i>
<b>Fundraising Target for General Election:</b> <i>TBD</i>
<b>Total Doors Knocked On:</b> <i>1,200 by me personally, my goal is 6,000 personally</i>
<b>Please list all endorsements you have received:</b> <i>Laborers Local 242</i>

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## ISSUE Questions

### 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?

*We have 11,200 homeless individuals in King County, but service capacity for only 6,000. Our service capacity has not changed in over a decade; we need to close this gap. My top priority will be to fund data collection so we know exactly who among our homeless population need what services, and shift our spending accordingly. For example, right now the city appears to overspend on emergency overnight shelters, and underspend on low barrier, 24/7 shelters. We have to match the services we provide to the actual needs of the homeless if we expect them to utilize services.*

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

*All independent studies suggest that additional money will be required to fully address homelessness. But we won't be able to shoulder the burden alone; homelessness is a regional problem and we must work with the County and neighboring cities to fully fund the system.*

*But we must first get our own house in order. As I meet constituents at the door, it's clear that voters will not accept a new tax without trusting that the money will be well spent. The current council has completely eroded that trust and it must be rebuilt before any new taxes are potentially enacted. There is a significant likelihood that with a combination of optimizing our services and sharing the load with neighboring jurisdictions, we can completely close the funding gap.*

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

*Based on my experience leading in the private sector, we need three things:*

- 1. Clear analysis of the scope of the homelessness issues and a quantification of the specific needs (e.g. how much low barrier housing is needed? How many family oriented shelters? How many case workers? Etc.)*
- 2. Clear operational goals and well-defined organizational responsibility for achieving those goals*
- 3. A clear capital expenditure plan that builds the long-term infrastructure needed to provide homeless and public sanitation services.*

*The council should be funding this level of analysis, pushing through department reorganizations where necessary, and then working to build a credible funding plan that includes our regional neighbors. It has not done any of this work to date.*

### 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?

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*Project prioritization and spending plans are notoriously difficult to get out of SDOT (even by public records request), and I suspect it is because they don't exist. Externally, SDOT's choices appear to be haphazard and disorganized.*

*The council should be setting clear rules for all departments, not just SDOT, that define how projects are prioritized. All departments should have a clear, real-time, priority-ordered backlog, and those should be available for inspection at any time.*

*The council to date has not required departments to be clear and transparent about how they deliver work. I will change this.*

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

*Rapid Ride on Madison St, basic street infrastructure (pot holes, sidewalk curb cuts), and connected bike lanes between downtown and Capitol Hill.*

*I will influence these and other SDOT priorities by, among other tactics, more tightly controlling spending through budget provisos and conditional funding, if necessary. The Rapid Ride project will need special attention as it is currently very costly and requires extremely esoteric busses. We'll need to prioritize value engineering to get the costs to something that is fundable.*

## **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.

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

*Between 2011 and 2018, Seattle added over 100,000 workers to downtown alone, but only added 45,000 housing units citywide. This structural gap in the housing supply means no matter what other policies we enact, thousands of people have and will get displaced until we close this gap.*

*My top priority will be to address this housing shortage through upzoning. I estimate we're short 30,000 homes and we can add 35,000 homes affordable to median income households by adding just one triplex per block citywide.*

## **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?

*Growth will be necessary in 100% of the city both due to equity concerns and because in an area that is already geographically constrained, further constraining where growth occurs makes the problem unsolvable.*

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?

*There are a great many small ways we can make Seattle a better place to live and work: streamlining city permitting and other services, improving mobility by all transportation modes, etc. But the overriding factor right now is housing*

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availability. Businesses will cite themselves in Seattle if they have access to workers and customers, and won't if they don't. Housing is my number one priority for this reason.

For both climate change and traffic purposes, I am prioritizing a "100% Walkable City" goal: every home in Seattle should have the basics (groceries, childcare, a café/restaurant) within walking distance of their home. This will greatly increase the opportunity for small businesses to serve local neighborhoods.

## **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.

*We have basic safety and sanitary concerns in our city due to systemic failure to effectively police and enforce our laws when necessary. District 3 is also facing a rise in gun violence.*

*My top priorities are to root out the perpetrators of gun violence in D3 and prevent their recurrence by building stronger ties between the community and the police. Second, we need to address the sanitary and safety concerns surrounding our deficient response to homelessness.*

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

*We need to fix the systemic issues in our criminal justice system so that police and public safety workers are spending less time with familiar faces and have more time available to work on other priorities. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion is a good example of a program that mitigates the costs of frequent offenders and we can benefit significantly from streamlining their work and the work of similar programs to be less labor intensive.*

## **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?

*Many residents understandably believe the city does not prioritize the needs of the community and that many decisions are made for political purposes. I bring with me a toolbox of tactics and techniques to set clear goals and priorities designed to build constituent trust and demonstrate transparent governance.*

*When legislating, I will work with the council to set clear metrics and a goals. For example, with housing, my high level goal is 30,000 additional housing units, the accumulated housing deficit over the last construction cycle. By establishing the goal first, we have a clear way to measure progress and the effectiveness of new proposals. This is instrumental in focusing the council and establishing a rational basis for its actions. If we applied this discipline to the ADU/DADU legislation, we'd see that while it's a great start, it only adds a few thousand new units and won't materially approach the goal. We need to be doing much more.*

*For the city departments, the Council is currently shirking its oversight role. I bring with me a leadership value from my time in the private sector, "Dive Deep." That means that on a regular basis, the Council should be diving deep into the details of different areas of each city department to understand how well the department is functioning, and making organizational changes when problems are detected. Additionally, the council should be requiring all city departments to establish explicit, measurable goals for all its teams and those goals should be reviewed by the council both when they're established, and then regularly throughout the year to monitor progress. Explicit goals are an important tool to ensure organizations have clear direction and are accountable for making progress.*

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*In specific cases where departments have a backlog of work, such as SDOT, the Council should establish rules for how the department prioritizes projects, require the department to publicly maintain a priority-order stack rank of all projects, and work on them in priority order. It's not possible to build trust with the electorate without transparency about why the city makes the choices it does in fulfilling projects.*

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

*As I mentioned above, I will expect all city departments set clear, actionable, and measurable goals for their work, and I will monitor their progress. On homelessness, for example, I will require greater measurement of shelter inventory vs need, and better tracking of which services we over provision and which services we under provision. My first goal for homelessness will be to increase our service capacity from 6,000 people to 9,000 people (the amount needed to cover all individuals in tents), and push both policy and execution towards the changes we need to meet that goal.*

## 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.

*Total appropriations for 2019 are \$5.9B. City Light, SPU, SDOT constitute slightly more than half of the total budget. These services are largely funded by service fees, though a considerable fraction of SDOT is funded by a commercial parking B&O tax and other licensing and usage fees.*

*The General Fund constitutes \$1.3B and funding is dominated by retail sales tax, property tax, and the B&O Tax, though miscellaneous taxes and fees constitute another 40% of the budget.*

*Another \$1.3B is spread out throughout many departments with purpose-specific revenue sources.*

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 believe we're close and potentially can close the gap in a few critical areas without new taxes. On my top issue, we can address our housing shortage without public money for public housing by making prudent changes to our zoning code.*

*As a region, we underspend on homelessness. For comparison, New York City shelters nearly all its homeless and spends \$230/person/year. In King County, total spending (cities and county) is only about \$93/person/year. I believe we can spend less per capita than New York, but we will need to spend more. If we can negotiate with our neighbors to share the load, I think we can fully fund necessary services without raising taxes.*

## 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?

*One of my top goals is to build a 100% walkable Seattle. That means making childcare facilities legal in many more places throughout the city, lowering costs and making care more available.*

*Child care workers are in short supply in the city largely because they have been priced out. By addressing our housing shortage, more care workers will be available within the city and at lower costs.*

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## **Labor Laws**

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?

*At the very beginning before any decisions have been made.*

## **Business Climate**

Seattle's business community is a willing partner and expects 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?

*As a fellow business owner, I recognize the role of business in the prosperity and livability of our city. I consider the business community an integral partner to making Seattle a welcoming, affordable, and livable city rich in opportunity for everyone.*

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?

*My commitment to you is that you will be engaged in policy discussions before decisions are made. As a fellow business owner, I understand the challenges and constraints of operating in this city. I will work with you to make sure policies are fair, reasonable, and make sure your concerns are incorporated into the discussion.*