



# 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 immediate 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: Sasha Anderson</b>	<b>City Council District: 4</b>
<b>Party Affiliation: Democrat</b>	<b>Phone Number: 206-228-6845</b>
<b>Email Address: info@sashafor4.org</b>	<b>Facebook: www.facebook.com/sashafor4/</b>
<b>Website: sashafor4.org</b>	<b>Twitter: twitter.com/SashaFor4</b>

### CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

<b>Political Consultants: KC Commissioner (former) Deputy Chief of Staff</b>
<b>Campaign Manager: Laurel Thacker</b>
<b>Fundraiser: In Process of Hiring</b>
<b>Money Raised to Date: 25,000</b>
<b>Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher Program? Yes</b>
<b>Total Democracy Vouchers Collected: 956</b>
<b>Money Raised Outside of Your District Vs. Within Your District: The vast majority has been raised within the district</b>
<b>Fundraising Target for Primary Election: 75,000</b>
<b>Fundraising Target for General Election: 75,000</b>
<b>Total Doors Knocked On: 3,500</b>
<b>Please list all endorsements you have received: Jack Guinn, Co-Founder of Hellbent Brewery. Leah Zaccaria, Owner of Shefa Yoga and Haute Yoga, Joe Woods, Seattle Small Business Owner. Rajesh Sampath Associate Professor, Sandra Jones, Deputy Director of Conflict Resolution.</b>

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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?

First, we need to address our affordable housing crises. It is not true that the majority of our city's homeless population are addicts. Only between 20-30% of the total population is. The real reason that people are on the street is that Seattle is not affordable. Many of our unhoused neighbors are so because they have been pushed out of the housing market.

Second, for those in the homeless population who are battling substance abuse, we need to train more resource officers and rehabilitative mentors to get out into the streets, meet people where they are and start a dialogue.

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

The issue of affordable housing is multi-faceted and will require financial resources. This money does not need to come from taxpayers, who are already overburdened. I believe that a reallocation of resources may be necessary to fund training programs for resource officers and mentors as well as to address our housing needs.

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

First and foremost, we need to start a conversation between City Council and the people who live and serve this community. We cannot implement change without knowing exactly what resources we need and how to allocate them best. Expertise from people who work and live in these fields will be crucial.

### 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 transit 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?

Transparency is at the heart of everything I do because, without transparency, there is no trust and no dialogue. At all stages of an initiative, I would require audits and reports. I would make those reports public so that the people we serve have access to that data. I will use social media and community outreach to educate the public further so that important information gets out there and not buried in the weeds of bureaucracy.

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

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Public safety and reliable transportation are vital components to my platform, and I firmly believe we need to invest in our infrastructure. I would do this by instituting a congestion tax, beginning in downtown Seattle, where the profits would go to make public transportation in the area free, thus encouraging people to take transit, and making it cheaper to do so. This initiative would be enacted by working with SDOT, King County Metro, and Sound Transit to make sure there are robust first and last mile solutions that can get riders to the light rail and make it easy to do so, thus making it a natural choice for people to go with public transit over driving.

## **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?

I believe an absolutely critical component of ensuring our city is welcoming and affordable for all is to expand MHA and focus on more residential zoning, as detailed in the latest Neighborhoods For All report, and move on from single-family zoning so that we can become the denser city that we need to be in order to be affordable. Additionally, I think it is imperative that we raise the current \$30,000 ceiling that seniors have to live under to receive breaks on their property taxes and utilities. It is nearly impossible to live under this, and the seniors that I have spoken to who do have a severely diminished quality of life. Another critical component of affordability is in our infrastructure. Currently homeowners are responsible for the cost of fixes to their side sewers, and evidence shows us that over 80% of our plumbing infrastructure is beyond its lifespan, meaning that within the next 10-20 years residents will need to pay for it to be fixed, which can cost anywhere from \$10,000 - \$40,000, all of which is up front. In a city where people are already cost-burdened, an extreme expense like this could be the final straw that forces a resident from their home. This is unacceptable. I want to explore ways that the cost can be shared with the city so that homeowners will not be at risk to such an extreme expense unexpectedly.

Renters are another extremely vulnerable group, and I will work hard to institute policies on rent stabilization so that renters do not get priced out of their apartments, houses, and neighborhoods. An example of a system like this would be to institute two-year leases and pass legislation that states clearly the maximum at which a landlord can raise rent within a year.

## **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 significant increases in people and jobs.

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

Seattle should direct new growth towards its middle and working class. I would work to expand MHA and focus on more residential zoning and less single-family zoning in Seattle so that the city can be truly affordable for all people. This will not only help renters to be able to afford homes but will also help keep vulnerable populations, such as our senior citizens, in their communities as they age.

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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?

We need to rebuild the relationships of the past between City Council, and its business giants. Seattle has been given the incredibly unique position of having one of the world's biggest tech sectors pop up in our yard. As you suggested in your question, this has brought opportunity and challenges to our city. There is no going back though, and I believe it is time that City Council members harness the power of the tech industry to build a greener and more inclusive Seattle that benefits all. I will strive to garner support from tech industry leaders and will work together with them to create smarter and greener infrastructure and build a more inclusive city for all of Seattle.

## **Public Safety**

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

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

Over and over again, I hear from future constituents that petty crime, burglary, and drug use are plaguing our neighborhood and making people feel unsafe. I understand these concerns, and I want to address them. I know that it is a complex issue with no silver bullet, but we must work together to make inroads. We must also educate the public on the data. While they might believe that drug use is rampant in the homeless population, this isn't the case. Education and community building will be crucial.

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

First, I would look at what we are spending and where then I would reallocate resources as necessary. We need to bring people together so that communities of housing-secure and the housing insecure can find common ground and support one another.

## **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?

Transparency is always vital to creating trust. I will show people who I am, what I'm doing, and why at every critical juncture.

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

I would use my staff and my training to evaluate spending priorities and measure their effectiveness.

## **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.

Taxation- Sales Tax, B&O Tax, and Utility Tax.

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

This is something that I am working on learning more about. In a meeting with former City Councilman Johnson, he explained that City Council has much fewer resources than the public believes. This is due to previously allocated spending and other means. Once elected, I will address this issue more in depth, but I do think that Seattle has the revenue to move forward.

## **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 childcare for Seattle families?

My campaign is run and managed by mothers of small children. While not a mother myself, I have seen the struggles that they have undergone trying to find good, affordable childcare. We must do more as a city to address this issue. First, by incentivizing developers to make more centers and then by increasing resources to ease the financial burden on parents. Finally, we must train more teachers, and pay them a fair and living wage.

## **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?

Immediately. Diversity of thought brings about better solutions. The data backs me up on that. I would engage all parties at the start of this discussion.

## **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?

I would restart the dialogue with our top business leaders. The tension that has been building must be tamped down so that we can build a better future that serves us all. Neither City Council nor our Businesses can get that done alone, and we must work together.

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 believe in a greener Seattle that builds jobs and futures for everyone. Every Seattleite, whether they have lived here for four months or forty years, takes our role as environmental stewards seriously. We appreciate how close we are to hiking trails and campsites, and genuinely value our lakes, parks, and rivers. Because of this, we strive to do better, and with a deep understanding of the current state of our global environment, we know we need to do more. However, to build a stronger economy and a stronger city, we must continue our fight to protect our natural resources. I believe the booming tech industry that Seattle is lucky to be a part of will be integral to building a greener economy and am excited to work together in the future.

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