



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 24th by 5:00p.m.

To submit your completed questionnaire, or if you have any questions, please contact Michael McIntyre at Michael@casecampaigns.com

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.

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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.

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	
Candidate Name: Emily Myers	City Council District: 4
Party Affiliation: Democrat	Phone Number: 360-559-1486
Email Address: emily@emilyforseattle.com	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/EmilyforSeattle
Website: EmilyForSeattle.com	Twitter: emilyforseattle

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION	
Political Consultants: NWP Consulting - Christian Sinderman & Erin Schultz.	
Campaign Manager: Ceiran Carihfield	
Fundraiser: Katherine Bobman	
Money Raised to Date: ~\$68,000 (give or take, there are a lot of uncounted vouchers that probably put us closer to \$75000)	
Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher Program? Yes	
Total Democracy Vouchers Collected: 2340	
Money Raised Outside of Your District Vs. Within Your District: 919 individual donors. 425 in district (\$25,405), \$30,000 out of district. This is based on most recent SEEC data. We have since raised \$12,000 primarily all in district four, so we estimate that our numbers will look more like ~\$35,000 in district, \$35,000 out of district.	

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Fundraising Target for Primary Election: \$75,000

Fundraising Target for General Election: \$75,000

Total Doors Knocked On: 5300

Please list all endorsements you have received: Electeds: Teresa Mosqueda, Ryan Calkins, Claire Wilson, Vandana Slatter
Labor Unions: MLK Labor Council, SEIU 1199NW, 775; UFCW21; Protec17; ATU587; UAW4121; LIUNA242.
Organizations: King County Young Democrats

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?

Diversion: expanded caseworkers on navigation team, rental assistance, eviction reform, and tenant's rights to help people stay in their home and prevent outsized rent increases.

Permanent supportive housing: building & expanding permanent supportive housing to address chronically homeless population, for whom affordable housing alone will not support.

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

Yes, there doesn't seem to be any way to address the high levels of support needed to address the complex needs of this diverse population without additional resources. The State has made significant mental health allocations in the current budget, but I believe we will still need resources at the local and county levels to make significant long term gains in reducing homelessness.

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

We need to change how we are interfacing with people experiencing homelessness. We should expand programs like LEAD to help those experiencing chronic homelessness, who often also have co-occurring mental illness, including substance use. If we have a robust set of dedicated caseworkers, identifying and diverting these individuals away from the criminal justice system and into chemical dependency programs and permanent supportive housing we will help these people and alleviate public safety concerns rising in districts, including my own. That means expanding LEAD

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training in Seattle's police force, fully-funding a larger staff of caseworkers on the navigation team, and increasing the number of rooms available in permanent supportive housing.

The second piece of my strategy - diversion, also requires a strong set of caseworkers who can identify potential diversion strategies: helping someone pay a downpayment, get a job placement, connect with a family member for shelter, etc. People entering homelessness often need just a small amount of upfront monetary support, and if we use our funds in this way, it will ultimately lead to more long-term savings, because it prevents the trauma and stress of prolonged homelessness which ultimately increases the need for long-term services.

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?

We have to recognize that the Move Seattle Levy was intended to expand multimodal opportunities and make Seattle's transportation grid more workable for both the environment and our growing population. Therefore the metrics must focus on these goals. We should track increases in bike ridership, public transit use, and pedestrian mobility as our top goals because these are the sustainable modes of transit we should be targeting. Rapid Ride buses, like those funded by Move Seattle, have shown consistent increases in bus ridership, and *protected* bike lanes, like 2nd Ave, also demonstrate success in the data. Therefore, we need to focus on the most transparent and efficient means to enact these best practice policies.

Second, large budget overrides are not indicative of government trust and accountability, and I agree that we need to have full transparency whenever projects run way over their budget. Whenever we get budget forecast adjustments on large transit projects, I will work to make transparent those changes as soon as possible and intake feedback on the changed budget forecasts. I believe we have to look at affected communities when we decide to shrink a project based on potential budget overruns and weigh the sunk costs with potential risks to other planned projects, but we have to also be careful about too much public deliberation which further delays and increases costs to key projects. Finally, I will center equity and environmental impact in the measures of success for these projects.

I am running against an opponent who publicly opposed the Move Seattle Levy and ST3 who often references accountability around these projects. It is important that when we talk about transparency and accountability for over budget transportation projects that this NOT be a frame to cut back and underfund our urgently needed transportation infrastructure as our city grows and as congestion increases. I am committed to transparency around these projects with the goal of helping them *succeed* and making the most out of our investment.

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

What I hear most consistently in my district is that people want to use more transit and drive less, especially because of traffic, but they feel disconnected from and unsafe getting to the light rail. They also feel that bus routes are less connected to downtown than desired. To fix this there are a few key issues. The first is the "last mile problem". Too many residents are ~1-1.5 miles from a light rail stop, or soon will be once new stations in the U District and Roosevelt are open. This distance is prohibitive to make the Link a viable commute option, but if we had improved east west bus routes and more protected bike lanes connecting to new light rail stops, it would reduce the burden of this last mile and increase ridership. I also hear from many residents, especially elderly residents and those with mobility disabilities, that

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cracks in sidewalks and poor or no curb cuts, in some cases no sidewalks whatsoever, make even getting a couple of blocks to a bus stop unsafe. We need to make sure that sidewalk infrastructure improvement is planned around bus stop locations to ease the connections between people's homes and their potential public transit access. We should be mapping transit use in a multi modal way always - looking at bus route overlays with sidewalk and bike plan maps to predict and plan for improved transportation infrastructure. It would also be beneficial to get expanded access to Lime and Jump bike data to better understand how bikeshare users are traveling around the city and connecting to transit, to improve those high-use routes.

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 am a strong supporter of MHA policies and will work to protect and, in the future enhance, the important gains made in this process. We must show unity to make sure we do not suffer erosion from opponents, including "NIMBY" opposition expressed by another prominent candidate in my race. Looking to the future, I think we need to identify land on which we can develop non-profit and publicly owned affordable housing. The Mercy Magnuson project is a great example of successful affordable housing development in the district, and this project is already benefiting students at UW, who are getting access to lease new apartments this upcoming year. We need to focus on where we can expand on this success because low-wage workers and students at UW are getting rapidly priced out of the district and it is essential we provide options as soon as possible. To do so, we need to find the land and begin to work on environmental assessments and to work with the neighborhoods to get projects off the ground.

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 need to build density at the highest levels near resources: transit, businesses, grocery stores. The goal should be to realistically have a highly walkable, urban core in every neighborhood. However, we also need to expand our zoning rules to legalize small apartments like triplexes in all "single-family" zoned neighborhoods. At this time, there are not enough options for middle class people, who wish to buy homes and build their assets, have few options besides high density, small apartments or moving to the suburbs. Although a triplex in a neighborhood a couple of miles from the Link does not mean a fully-walkable neighborhood, its significantly better than someone needing to drive in 20 miles from a suburb. By building dense, higher-occupancy buildings near transit in accordance to new zoning in MHA and additional expansions, and freeing up zoning regulations for more income diversity in all neighborhoods, we can quickly meet our city's needs for growth.

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?

I believe that businesses have an opportunity to lead by staying in Seattle. Seattle is a progressive city that supports unions and worker right *and* a city with booming business and prosperity. We have the opportunity to demonstrate to

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the rest of the country that good sick leave, schedule stability laws, high unionization rates, and a strong growing business community can co-exist and thrive. The highly skilled workforce will stay in Seattle because the quality of life, if we build up our housing and transit options, and this is a benefit for employers. I will also work with labor unions to build out apprenticeship programs to expand the number of high-skilled workers across industries and continue to stabilize the highly-skilled workforce in Seattle. We have the opportunity to display that prosperity for business does not come at the expense of workers and that the best and strongest businesses thrive when workers are happy, healthy, and protected.

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.

At the doors I hear a lot of concern about low level property crime-- from packages disappearing from porches to car prowls and other non-violent offenses that erode confidence and quality of life. These issues, combined with interrelated concerns about cleanliness in our parks and open spaces, I believe form the majority of public safety concerns in the district.

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

As we open additional light rail stations and continue expanding transit to and through District 4, we will have the opportunity to build more partnerships and coordination among Metro and ST security, Seattle Police, and UW Police operations and enforcement. Additionally, we will work to get more officers trained on LEAD, which is not currently active in the U District and can serve as a tool to decriminalize offenses that are caused by poverty. Often low-level property crime is a symptom of poverty, as we see the same offenders are often experiencing homelessness and in need of additional resources. Expanded LEAD in the U District would help to reduce recidivism and cycles of incarceration that also has a public safety effect on the district.

In the neighborhoods, I am very supportive of improving community policing programs that build stronger relationships and trust. I also believe that by responsibly addressing homelessness and addiction, we will address a human rights crisis, while also alleviating many of the real or perceived public safety issues I hear about from my District 4 neighbors.

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?

I believe we need better outreach and more visibility of local government. I am planning to hold office hours across the district so residents can speak with me locally. I also would like to increase open access to data and data visualization to ensure our communities stay informed on our progress, including better use of social media and other channels

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

We must line up our spending priorities to tackle our largest challenges. This means investing in green energy and **infrastructure**, affordable housing, and a multifaceted approach to the homelessness crisis. As someone who put **themselves** through college and lives on a **graduate** stipend, I understand the need to prioritize our spending, and re-evaluate spending as our city changes. We should establish what is expected and possible outcomes are prior to

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starting new projects, and continuously collect data to evaluate if projects are on time, on budget, and are making progress towards a state goal. As a scientist, I am constantly collecting data and re-evaluating projects, receiving feedback, and asking for expert to review my work. I will take this approach at the city.

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 general fund includes revenue from: property tax, sales tax, B&O business tax, utility tax

Levy funds: Housing, Transportation, Education, Library levies

Fees: Building permit fees, park fees, parking fees, etc

There are also small amounts of revenue from parking lot tax, gas tax, and vehicle licensing fees.

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

No, I do not. I believe that Seattle can and should use its current revenue more efficiently to address crises like homelessness, however, I think we're facing an impending climate and refugee crisis that requires a large investment in publicly owned housing which will require more revenue and a large up-front investment in the long term prosperity of our region. Seattle is already growing rapidly and the gap between the wealthy and the working class is growing along with it. Without publicly subsidized and publicly owned housing, we do not have the ability to control pricing and maintain stable affordable housing. Although summer fire smoke will continue to be a health problem, compared to dramatic floods and storms in other parts of the country, scientists expect Seattle to maintain a more safe and stable climate and economy, in the decades to come. For this reason, we expect migration to Seattle to stay high, and to meet the demands of this growth while increasing equity and equality, I believe our city must increase its budget to build housing and expand social services.

We're interested in several potential revenue streams. First of all, I believe we should considering using our bonding ability to make an upfront investment in more permanent supportive housing to house people experiencing chronic homelessness. Because permanent supportive housing requires maintenance of services, we also should consider expanding the housing levy to include maintenance funds to support people in permanent supportive housing. Finally, I believe we should look at alternative business taxes, aimed at pay inequity, wherein we tax companies based on pay disparity between executive pay and lowest or median-worker pay. This could be used to fund initial investment in public housing, which would serve to support those low-wage workers. Sustenance of this public housing would ultimately be supplemented by at market-rents because social housing, mixed-income public housing, reduces segregation and increases the ability for higher-paid workers to pay into the construction and maintenance of publicly owned housing.

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?

I have a multi-step plan to increase access to [high-quality, affordable child care](#) and it is a cornerstone of my campaign. First, I believe we need to increase the number of childcare facilities. We can encourage this through several policy

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programs, some of which are already being considered or implemented at city hall. We can change zoning requirements for facility size and proximity to greenspace to increase the number of properties, offices, etc that can house a childcare facility. We can also consider incentives or requirements in housing developments and offices of a certain size to include a dedicated and subsidized space for rent to a childcare provider. This would ease the burden for people looking to start a facility but struggling to find space.

Second, we need to study means by which we all contribute to childcare. That means considering how to split up contributions between parents, public funds, and businesses of a certain size. The largest issue for childcare providers that drives up costs is slot stability. If a daycare slot is tied to a job, then the child may be moved in and out of the facility with short notice, leaving the provider with extra staff to pay and less money coming in. We are interested in assessing means by which large businesses and the city could financially guarantee a set number of slots at qualifying childcare centers, which would then be available to employees of that business at a subsidized rate. This reduces cost for parents and stabilizes the annual income of the childcare centers. Stabilized income allows childcare providers to forecast how many employees and how large of a space they require. We'll have to look at things like what employer size would pay into this program, the cost-sharing split, and how many slots per number of employees would stabilize childcare costs without overburdening businesses. We expect a policy like this would help parents return to work on their best schedule for them and reduce the pay gap, help employers hold on to high quality employees, and reducing inequity in the city.

Third, we have to protect childcare workers. Childcare workers are often underpaid and face schedule volatility. We must ensure that city-subsidized facilities employ union workers. Further, we have to consider how to balance licensing requirements which may increase quality of early learning but also increase burden on childcare workers, and thus also increase costs. Many childcare workers' primary language is not English, but most of the trainings are currently only available in English and sometimes require a year or more of community college classes -- only attainable at Seattle community colleges in English. We should work with the state to find alternative training options, such as those provided through the Imagine Institute, to help non-English speaking workers attain high-quality childcare jobs without a significant upfront cost.

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?

My door will always be open to the business community to discussion over new labor laws. However, as with any proposal, I'm going to respond to the data. If I have significant data demonstrating that a new labor law will improve quality of life for workers, I will need to be presented with clear, unbiased data explaining potential risks or harms of said policy in order to reconsider or rework the policy. It is important that the metrics used in analyzing the risks or benefits of a policy come down to impact on livability, quality of life, healthcare, and equity - does a given policy reduce inequality or increase it? does a given policy help people care for sick loved ones or make it harder for them to take time off throughout the year? I expect data-driven arguments about profit-line always tie back to their effects on people, as my policy approach will always be data-driven and centering human rights.

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.

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

While large businesses can afford lobbyists and dedicate resources to address the City Council, medium, small, and micro-businesses are often left behind. I would enjoy working with the diversity of our business community to develop and nurture voices who can help all of us better understand and appreciate the complex needs of businesses large and small, established and new.

I believe we must bring greater transparency to the City Council process--meaningful deliberation and an evidenced-based approach--when considering tax changes and business regulations that will better allow business owners and employees to stay involved in the lawmaking process. As I mentioned above, my door is open to discussion with the business community because I believe building coalitions and finding common ground can be more productive as we push for progressive policy. As I would expect from any constituency, I will listen in good faith and expect those who meet with me to approach a working relationship to do the same.

If I am elected to the City Council, I will actively seek input from businesses of all kinds across my district to learn about the specific and general problems they face and how we can work together to make them more manageable. I am interested in strengthening grassroots neighborhood input and constituent services. I believe that incorporating the voice of small businesses, and particularly women- and minority-owned businesses into the decision making processes will be a part of this process. Further, we should be assessing the potential impact of zoning changes, transportation improvements, and labor guidelines on businesses of all sizes. We have to approach this through an equity lens, looking at both employer size as a factor of the number of potentially affected employees, but also looking at business size as a measure of potential vulnerability to changes and ensure that proportional and equitable input is incorporated into decision making. I believe we should be using an evidence-informed approach to identify strong, representative leaders from different parts of Seattle's diverse business community when making large policy decisions and city leadership can be facilitating community organizing work by bringing labor, business leaders, and affected communities to the table, together, when planning large policy proposals.

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?

First of all, I will continue to support BIAs to identify the ways in which the goals of business communities and the city's challenges intermingle and develop strategies to work on shared goals. BIAs continue to be essential in identifying public safety goals and developing evidence-based diversion strategies like LEAD which help people ultimately transition out of chronic homelessness and end the cycle of incarceration. Additionally, I believe that we can work together to develop strategies around housing infrastructure. A business community that drives economic opportunity relies on a skilled workforce that wants to live in Seattle. Our ability to build affordable housing that *retains* its affordability is a critical policy problem shared by business and the city. Although we may differ on the specifics of the best balance between zoning changes, taxpayer-funded non-profit and public housing, and incentivized private affordable development, I will work with business to understand the ways in which the community at large can support this increase in density and housing stock and to understand how various tax proposals would affect their bottom line.