



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: Jay Fathi, M.D.	City Council District: 6
Party Affiliation: Democrat	Phone Number: (206) 473-2488
Email Address: info@jayforseattle.com	Facebook: Jay for Seattle
Website: jayforseattle.com	Twitter: jay_fathi

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION	
Political Consultants: Northwest Passage, Blue Wave Political Partners	
Campaign Manager: DeLancey Lane	
Fundraiser: Liz Hall	
Money Raised to Date: \$68,478 total	
Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher Program? Yes	
Total Democracy Vouchers Collected: \$41,975	
Money Raised Outside of Your District Vs. Within Your District: 54% outside district /46% inside district	
Fundraising Target for Primary Election: \$75,000 (limit)	
Fundraising Target for General Election: \$75,000 (limit)	

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Total Doors Knocked On: 1,500

Please list all endorsements you have received:

- Tim Burgess, *Seattle Mayor (former)*
- Wes Uhlman, *Seattle Mayor (former)*
- Ruth Kagi, *State Representative (former)*
- Brady Piñero Walkinshaw, *State Representative (former)*
- *Seattle Hospitality for Progress*
- *SEIU 1199*
- *SEIU 775*
- *UFCW 21*
- Full list: <https://jayforseattle.com/endorsements/>

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?

- Building more stable, permanent, and supportive housing available for the chronically severely mentally ill who are homeless. Research and our direct experience show that the most cost effective and sensible approach is to provide permanent supportive housing, like that provided by Plymouth Housing and DESC. This works in Seattle, it works in other cities, and it's cost effective.
- Facilitating the opening of more mental health and addiction treatment facilities by working with local health care providers to open community health programs, and waiving building fees and/or other costs for behavioral health centers. Too often in my career as a family physician I have seen patients who are ready to seek

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treatment, but there are no facilities to take them in -- that's unacceptable, and we can't make progress on our homelessness crisis without this critical step.

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

Yes. While the City Auditor's report has shown us places where we can be coordinating efforts significantly more effectively, permanent supportive housing costs money. However, it more than pays for itself as a good investment over time in decreased costs in the realms of health care, law enforcement, the judicial system, and other public costs which burden municipalities when the chronically severely mentally ill are unsheltered.

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

As mentioned, additional financial resources will likely be essential to making real progress to address our homelessness crisis, including investments from the state in mental health, and additional resources from other level to address this regional issue.

We are also lacking leadership on this issue, and city leaders need to present a clear plan to all of Seattle, concisely highlighting data on the problem, the proposed solutions, the action plan with tactics, and to transparently implement said plan(s). These actions must be followed by a rigorous, ongoing analysis of data and metrics to see if the solutions are indeed producing the desired results, and if not, then the plans must change. These approaches are straightforward and regularly used successfully in both the health care and business fields. I look forward to leading on the council with these strategies, always rooted in accountability, to both make significant headway on this crisis, and restore trust with Seattle's voters.

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?

While recognizing the reality of federal political fluctuation and possible shifts in labor and construction costs beyond the control of the city of Seattle, I would work closely with SDOT to ensure plans are implemented in close coordination with external funding and project partners and internal divisions such as SPU. I will prioritize prudent delivery of our capital projects and maintaining realistic timelines, and will continue to check-and-adjust prior to each budget appropriation to ensure we are on track. I consider carefully, prudently implemented projects within realistic timelines a success, and accountability must be maintained.

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

Public transit opens doors to economic opportunity, healthy communities, and reduced environmental impact. Our city's transportation systems are not keeping up with increased demand, including in my district. Although we have laid a foundation for increased mass transit, and improved walkability and cycling options, unfortunately we are several decades behind where we need to be in our city.

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Seattle has an opportunity to create a comprehensive transit system where public transportation is integrated into our neighborhoods and encouraged in our communities. Getting around Seattle should be reliable, safe, and affordable—and it shouldn't require driving a car. Seattle should be a city where every part of the journey is accessible no matter the starting point or final destination.

These are some of the actions I would take to create a more accessible transit system:

- Make community input a key component of planning what light rail in District 6 will look like and where it will go. Currently, light rail to Ballard is scheduled for 2035, but we must work to expedite this process because our residents and our environment don't have time to wait;
 - Target transit service investments to Seattle neighborhoods that are currently hard to get to and transit-dependent;
 - Improve road maintenance to improve safety for buses, cars, and bikes and improve sidewalks and crosswalks to protect pedestrian safety;
 - Complete key bike network and neighborhood connections so bike lanes connect communities to the city, not displace or disrupt neighborhoods;
 - Prioritize investments that make it easier to walk and bike to transit - targeting the first-mile/last-mile problem;
 - Listen to our residents with disabilities so our public transportation is accessible and new plans don't mistakenly penalize individuals who need to use cars to travel;
- Ensure our transportation system is integrated, accessible, and equitable.

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 have been canvassing nearly every day and the vast majority of people either know someone who has had to recently move out of the City, are worried they will have to leave, or are concerned about the uncertain future of affordable housing here for themselves, their children, or grandchildren. We're seeing displacement at multiple socioeconomic levels and this will only further perpetuate poverty as it increasingly becomes unaffordable to live and work in Seattle.

MHA was an important step in addressing our City's zoning, but this impacted only 6% of Seattle and must be expanded in a sensible way. We likely need to re-examine developers' impact fees, and ensure we have a policy where the end result is affordable housing in areas being redeveloped for those who are actually displaced in the community, and not simply a fee being paid by a developer, which is passed on to the buyer, and a city fund being created with unclear spending plans. We must address concerning practices such as apartments being built in some upzoned areas using expensive materials and passing those expenses on to future renters, making them unaffordable for many low and middle-class renters. I'd like to zone more areas to encourage duplexes and attached and detached accessory dwelling units. These units will be more accessible for low and middle-class earners, and if done properly, have the additional

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benefit of putting rental revenues back into the hands of local families. I'd also like to explore the City's Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) Program, which gives tax exemptions to apartment buildings that are reserving 20-25% of their homes for income and rent-restricted folk. Unfortunately, I've heard firsthand from workers in Seattle trying to access these apartments that the rental prices are still so significantly high that these middle-class employees don't make enough money to qualify to rent the apartment at the discounted rate. We must continue to work on refining this program, and ensuring that it is indeed producing results which are solving the problems it was initially designed to address.

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?

Around 15,000-17,000 people move to Seattle per year--that's nearly 50 people per day-- and we need to be very intentional and strategic about how we manage our growth and prepare for the future. For years Seattle seemed to be a 'hidden gem', but those days are past, and the influx of new jobs with our strong, innovative economy (which has gone from being local, to truly global) is also causing a housing crisis of unaffordability and displacement at multiple socioeconomic levels.

First and foremost, we need to listen to our communities. It is clear residents want to preserve the cultural diversity, history, and unique nature of our many wonderful neighborhoods. Many residents oppose large apartment complexes in residential neighborhoods that are currently zoned for single-family homes only, yet other residents want to see more density--and everyone seems to want to create more affordable housing. These may seem like competing priorities, but I believe we can find a way forward that meets all of our needs.

As mentioned earlier, I'd be interested in re-zoning certain neighborhoods that have appropriate yard space to encourage duplexes and attached and detached accessory dwelling units rather than large complexes. I'd also want to see us encouraging density in areas where there will be robust public transportation options and high walkability scores.

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?

Our small businesses are getting hit hard by the rising costs of rent and property. Similarly, some workers at businesses of all sizes are feeling very real financial pressures impacting their ability to live in Seattle. I'd like to support small and micro businesses through expansion of the Office of Economic Development and create unique and innovative spaces for business development, business incubations, and access to markets and economic resources. I believe we have to continue to invest in the basics -- transit options and infrastructure to address congestion, safe and healthy neighborhoods, including the downtown zone, as well as the parks and open spaces that bring many people to Seattle. I also believe that we need to embrace the innovation that makes our region so special and implement new ideas and new ways of doing business, getting around, and building community. Finally, we need to address the challenges we have discussed above that are contributing to the concerns of employers at every level.

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.

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

My district, District 6, has seen an increase in crime that I believe is a symptom of addiction, with or without an overlay of mental health diagnoses, and increasing homelessness.

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

As a doctor, I come at this from a multi-pronged approach. For neighbors experiencing homelessness or struggling with addiction, a traditional crime and punishment approach is usually ineffective -- we are all aware of cycles through the traditional criminal justice system that often lead nowhere, and that don't address the root problem. We need to connect those individuals with addiction treatment, health care, and secure housing. Therefore, I will explore recommending more investment in the LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program, which has shown great promise, and initial success, in our region. The Seattle Police Department knows this is a successful program, and has steadily increased referrals to it. They know that the resources LEAD offers are much more likely to result in reducing criminal behavior and improving public safety. However, current estimates show that although LEAD is having a beneficial impact, it is likely significantly underfunded, and with more resources, could potentially intervene with thousands more people, which would improve safety and public order.

We also need to ensure the SPD is fully staffed. The department has made good strides with reform, yet still needs accountability oversight per the recent court ruling. This can occur, along with ensuring we are at safe staffing levels for a city our size, that our officers have appropriate training, and that officer morale is a higher priority to encourage retention.

Additionally, we also know there are some repeat offenders who are endangering our city, and themselves, and we need a clear strategy to address this problem. As a councilmember I will work with the City Attorney, the County Prosecutor, and appropriate agencies, and community stakeholders, to move away from what is seemingly a state of paralysis around this issue, and one towards a more clear strategy. Violent behavior, exhibited by anyone in our city, must be directly addressed. The current apparent 'hands off' approach does not seem to benefit anyone presently -- we need a sensible plan, which involves law enforcement and the judicial system for some, and to implement it. The disconnect between City Hall and crime in our neighborhoods must end.

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?

First of all, I will listen. It is astounding to me to hear the number of people I am meeting in my district who say they are not listened to. This is a failure of elected, representative government. I know that simply earnestly listening to, engaging with, and being responsive to my constituents will go a long way in restoring trust back in the council in District 6. These are core attributes of a good physician, and I do believe this will be welcomed by my constituents.

I think there are elected officials who are worried that by being fully transparent about their views or the policymaking process, including when opposing sides come together to find middle ground solutions, voters won't respect them, or understand. I don't buy that. Seattle is the most-educated city in the country. We deserve elected officials who respect

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that, and who communicate frankly and honestly with residents. When residents are brought into the policymaking process, trust is built, people understand they were heard, and they have a better understanding of why decisions were made.

Every forum I've been to has been packed with people, and while it's exciting that so many folks are interested in democracy, the majority are there because they are angry and feel unheard by City Hall. When you go to your doctor's office there's normally two things you want from them. You want to be listened to, and you want them to fix your problem. We want and deserve the same things from our government and that's the type of councilmember I'd like to be so we can restore trust between the voters and City Hall.

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

The job of any leader is to prioritize. The bigger an entity is, the more crucial prioritization is to its success. I look forward to comprehensively examining our current spending priorities, likely based on total spend, to take initial inventory. I will also bring a core, almost 'automatic' trait of a good physician providing high quality healthcare to his or her patients --measuring effectiveness-- to city government. To not measure the effectiveness of an intervention is absurd. Our city is facing a myriad of complex problems, requiring complex action plans and solutions. These must be tracked, monitored, and measured, to ensure effectiveness. If they are not producing the desired results, the plans must be changed.

This is where the City Auditor's office is critical. I'd work closely with them so that we can re-evaluate our policies and programs to ensure they're achieving the goals they were set out to address. As with health care, people want evidence-based solutions, and if the solution doesn't work after a period of time, we need a new approach. I'm committed to this, and meetings with the City Auditor's staff should be a first step before any policy changes.

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.

Property taxes, B&O taxes, retail sales tax, and utilities taxes account for 75% of Seattle's revenue.

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

Possibly, but unlikely. As a Councilmember, I look forward on Day One to begin a deep dive into our city's finances. Until I have a more robust understanding of revenues, trends, and forecasts, it's a challenge to answer the question with certainty. It's clear that the city's budget has grown significantly, its workforce has grown, and that based on our revenue sources, decreasing revenues seem likely in the next few years. I look forward to examining the entire budget through a lens of accountability, as fiscal responsibility is a core duty of the council.

Unfortunately the State has the City's hands tied on most progressive ways to raise revenue. To protect and expand funding for public services, we need to consider our options for taxing large corporations and capital gains, and implementing local impact fees for developers. Our current model of repeatedly asking the taxpayers to raise their property taxes every year is one of the driving forces of displacement, and we are fortunate that residents understand the need for public dollars for social services and education and continue to approve these levies. But this is not a permanent solution, and we need to immediately work on different ways to raise revenue and also regain the trust of the taxpayers by working with the City Auditor to address the identified gaps where we are spending public dollars

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either ineffectively or without data to show our investments are working. Again, accountability is of paramount importance.

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 believe improving wages and benefits for child care workers is an essential step to increasing the number of workers available to provide high-quality care. I also believe the city should partner with providers to open high quality child care centers across the city. That would not only improve access for children and families, but address wage equity and opportunity for workers and parents who are having to stay at home currently. This involves a qualified workforce, and space for capacity. Partnering with both employers and labor in childcare would be of utmost importance.

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?

When considering labor legislation it's critical that we prioritize meetings with the groups that would be most impacted -- that means the workers and employers. I would reach out to all stakeholders and seek input as soon as possible -- essentially, at the beginning of the process. Working together in partnership is the only way we are going to effectively address our toughest challenges and build vibrant, healthy, prosperous communities.

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 think the manner in which the current council has interacted with our business community has not been productive. Seattle's businesses, big and small, provide jobs, and goods, and services, for hundreds of thousands of Seattleites. In addition to strong worker protections with good wages, we need the employer community to feel welcomed, and like a true partner, asset, and foundation to our city. Excessive divisiveness is also counterproductive and ultimately hurts our city, workers, and employers.

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?

Having ongoing, open communication is absolutely key. Bidirectional, open, frequent, and honest conversations always results in optimal outcomes for all parties. There is absolutely no reason why Seattle can't be viewed by the rest of the world as an exemplary city for a strong economy, outstanding worker protections, a good place to do business, and a healthy, robust partnership involving the workers, employers, and the city. I think attitude, approach, and culture are the cornerstones to that, and I look forward to bringing a more healthy dynamic in this realm to the council and the city.