

CASE

2019 Seattle City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Homelessness

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

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

1. Reduce the cost of sheltering people by focusing on bare-bones housing that fills the gap between temporary shelter space and traditional subsidized housing units. Single Occupancy Residences (SRO) with shared bathrooms and kitchens instead of traditional studio apartments often funded by the Office of Housing would be a good start.
2. Dedicate more funding toward programs homeless prevention programs. It's far more cost effective to keep people out of homelessness than to pull them out of it.

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

I believe these will require additional financial resources, though I am not convinced the city will be able to raise the funds needed on their own. We're also not being as efficient as possible with the funds we have.

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

Strengthen partnerships between government, philanthropy, and business, not only from a funding perspective but also at the approach building stage.

Force cities that have not done their fair share of funding social services or allowing them to be located in their communities to step up.

Ensure our local funding sources don't include requirements that drive up the cost of delivering affordable housing.

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?

As a public governing body, the city council has a legal and moral imperative to be transparent and accountable with their funds. The city should strive to be as transparent as possible within reason, and make it easier for the public to view spending. From what I've seen of the Move Seattle Levy, the dashboard, oversight committee and other transparency and accountability are fairly user friendly. I'd like metrics to include not just schedule and budget benchmarks, but actual performance metrics like reduced vehicle miles traveled. I'd also like projects to be better categorized, for example part of the high bike lane costs were due to poor management, but the issue was due to non-bike infrastructure being included as part of the project. This is something I'd like to spend more time digging into.

CASE

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

Getting light rail done according to schedule, improving bus service, and replacing the magnolia bridge.

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?

Fixing the permitting system in order to deliver more housing before the current housing growth cycle ends. This will both relieve pressure on housing demand by increasing supply, and generate more MHA fees to subsidized housing.

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 further upzone light rail station areas and rezone areas like Interbay to allow for a mix of uses including housing. I would also look beyond the current 6% of single family rezoned under MHA for further upzones where appropriate.

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

Seattle has gained a reputation for being unfriendly to business, and we need to change that reputation. During the head tax debacle we saw neighboring cities like Bellevue and Tacoma introduce new incentives in an effort to entice companies to move. I truly believe companies want to remain and do business here in Seattle, and we must do a better job of working with them, not against them in making Seattle work for everyone. We also need to spend more effort improving early education, K-12 education, higher education, and apprenticeship programs.

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.

The number one issue is the lack of police. Within the district property crime is the most Magnolia and Queen Anne. Drug Use, property crime, and assault in Downtown/SLU.

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

- Prioritize bike and foot patrols in hot spots, and as resources allow, replicate parts of the 9 ½ Block strategy.
- Continue supporting and expand Seattle's commitment to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to reducing crime through urban and environmental design and management.
- Work with my colleagues to create enough temporary shelter with wrap-around services to allow Seattle to enforce our no-camping laws. I don't think shelter needs to be concentrated in one area, or have a one-size-fits-all approach.

CASE

- Enforce our laws. If someone commits assaults and robberies they should face jail time. There should be more support for inmates in jail and pathways to housing and career support upon release to break the cycle of recidivism.

Government Accountability

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

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

One thing I have been hearing out on the doors, particularly in Magnolia and Queen Anne, is that they feel as if no one is listening to them. I would make it a point to hold meeting hours in every neighborhood of my district in order to make sure I am hearing from all constituents .

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

I would create accountability metrics and benchmarks for all new programs where practical.

Revenue

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

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

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

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

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

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

Child Care

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

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

- Reduce regulatory barriers and offer low interest loans to daycares looking to expand from half-day to full day service.
- Meeting outdoor space requirements is both difficult and costly in urban areas. I would create a plan to build urban playgrounds (or possibly use existing playgrounds) that are open to the public on evenings and weekends but are available exclusively to daycares during business hours. It's the perfect share, and as we aim to create denser livable cities we need to look for ways to get more use out of our public infrastructure through shared arrangements like this.

CASE

- Work with state to reduce daycare licensing fees. The licensing process itself also needs to be rethought and/or provide a low interest revolving bridge funds for daycares that need to build out space prior to licenses being granted. As I understand it, the current process requires daycares to have their spaces physically inspected before getting a license, which makes it difficult or expensive to qualify for loans to build out the space - it's a catch 22.

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?

I would engage the business community as early in the process as practically possible. Good policy is shaped bringing the stakeholders that will be most impacted into the process early on to help ask the right questions and understand think through potential unintended consequences. New labor laws are bound to have consequences, both good and bad, on both employees and employers

Business Climate

Seattle's business community is a willing partner 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 proactively reach out to the business community for help shaping approaches to the city's most pressing problems. Instead of just coming to business for financial handouts, I would look to tap the incredible brain-power and technological capability that Seattle's businesses and employees to help shape solutions.

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 would focus on what motivates each group to understand where interests align. When there is conflict I would try to incorporate balance into policy.