

# CASE

## 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.

#### Affordability:

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**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> Andrew J. Lewis	<b>City Council District:</b> District 7
<b>Party Affiliation:</b> Democratic	<b>Phone Number:</b> (206) 434-5871
<b>Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:lewisforseattle@gmail.com">lewisforseattle@gmail.com</a>	<b>Facebook:</b>
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.lewisforseattle.com">www.lewisforseattle.com</a>	<b>Twitter:</b>

## CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

<b>Political Consultants:</b> John Wyble
<b>Campaign Manager:</b> Parker Dawson
<b>Fundraiser:</b> N/A
<b>Money Raised to Date:</b> Approximately \$65,000
<b>Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher Program?</b> Yes
<b>Total Democracy Vouchers Collected:</b> 1,901 as of 5-21-2019
<b>Money Raised Outside of Your District Vs. Within Your District:</b> 56% in-district, 33% other districts, 11% outside City
<b>Fundraising Target for Primary Election:</b> \$75,000, capped via voucher program
<b>Fundraising Target for General Election:</b> \$75,000 capped via voucher program

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Total Doors Knocked On: Over 7,000

Please list all endorsements you have received: Martin Luther King County Labor Council, Professional and Technical Employees Local 17, 36th District Democrats, 37th District Democrats, King County Young Democrats, Rep. Gael Tarleton, Fmr. Councilmembers Martha Choe, Nick Licata, Peter Steinbrueck, Heidi Wills, Jim Street, and Sue Donaldson, Fmr. King County Councilmember Larry Phillips, Fmr. U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, and many more listed at [www.lewisforseattle.com](http://www.lewisforseattle.com).

## 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 massively increase the amount of available permanent supportive housing. As a prosecutor, I can attest from personal experience that a response to street homelessness based solely in a criminal justice response is expensive and will ultimately show poor results, at a cost of over \$30,000-per person a year to taxpayers. By contrast, permanent supportive housing costs about [\\$16,000 to \\$22,000](#) a year depending the needs of the individuals involved.*

*I am committed to building a regional strategy to scale-up permanent supportive housing with resources from the State, County, and City. Seattle cannot continue to go it alone. I support building a large regional housing fund and then bonding against that revenue to build and sustain a large increase in permanent supportive housing.*

*Second, we need to dramatically change the way we transition inmates experiencing homelessness out of the King County Jail and back into the community. While the overwhelming majority of people experiencing homelessness are law-abiding in the City of Seattle, it cannot be denied that many homeless individuals are frequently incarcerated in King County Jail for quality of life offenses like trespassing and shoplifting. More often than not, these individuals are released back onto Seattle's streets without any support or assistance; and in many cases their ability to secure services and housing has been diminished by their stay in jail. For those homeless individuals who end up in the Municipal Court system we need to increase support and resources to end the expensive and unproductive cycle from street to jail.*

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*Cook County Illinois experienced this same problem and boldly created a [Supportive Release Center](#) to give inmates exiting Cook County Jail resources and a temporary place to stay on a voluntary basis instead of merely being released back onto the streets with no support. People staying at the Center can come and go as they engage with service providers on site, receive referrals for services, food, and hygiene facilities for up to 24 hours. The program was created in 2017 and is being empirically studied by the University of Chicago.*

*We can create a similar service by merging the resources of the [Municipal Court Resource Center](#) and working with service provider partners like DESC and REACH to create our own transition center where people exiting King County Jail can voluntarily go to a place with three meals a day, a bed, and service providers that can assist with referrals for housing, health insurance, treatment, and employment. Just releasing people to the street at midnight sets them up for failure and it needs to change.*

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

*Building more permanent supportive housing is almost certainly going to require additional resources, but we need to leverage them as a region instead of just going it alone as a City. My strong preference would be for bracketed progressive personal income and capital gains taxes to support 30-year bonds to generate the housing necessary to meet the emergency of regional homelessness. I support the City advocating for special authority from Olympia to implement these measures on a regional level, even if the state itself does not authorize such taxes statewide. I support adding an additional bracket to the new progressive real estate excise tax (REET) which can be authorized by localities exclusively to build permanent supportive housing.*

*In the meantime, I would support a low countywide increase in the sales at 0.1% directly attached to a countywide housing bond to support an increase in permanent supportive housing.*

*As far as the Supportive Release Center, I believe that could be completed largely within existing resources, since many of the services already exist. We just need to make adjustments to how we are trying to deliver them.*

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

*I would support a more formalized regional process to coordinate the building of permanent supportive housing, something akin to a Sound Transit for public housing. The 'One Table' process has been a good start to get the ball rolling on regional cooperation and we need to build on it. I am also a strong supporter of the "Home and Hope" plan of the Enterprise Foundation, a regional initiative leveraging State, County, City, business, and non-profit resources to maximize the production of affordable housing.*

*Seattle cannot solve this problem alone and needs to be able to bring all the resources of the region together to accomplish it.*

## 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:

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Q1: How would you pursue budget transparency and accountability for these funds, and what are your metrics of success?

*I believe in project-based budgeting for transportation levies and transparency on what projects are and are not included in the final package. It is now widely clear that the City over promised and under delivered on the Move Seattle Levy, in some respects for factors beyond their control. Going forward, we need to make it clear as a City Council what projects will be included in levies and we need to be honest with the public about the cost. If a dire public infrastructure need must be met, and the cost is high, our public officials need to make both the need and the cost clear.*

*Additionally, the City Council needs to use its oversight role to make sure all studies, reports, and documents levy estimates are based on are publicly available for outside scrutiny and review. Access to information allows public citizens to participate and provide feedback to policymakers.*

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

*First, light rail through South Lake Union, Uptown, Interbay, and Ballard. I am committed to working with Sound Transit to get ST3 through the district on an expedited timeline. Additionally, I support a light rail tunnel underneath the ship canal to avoid disrupting our critical maritime economy and ensure fast and reliable service.*

*Additionally, we need a replacement for the Magnolia Bridge, which is set to be decommissioned within the next few years due to seismic vulnerability and age. I support a one-for-one replacement, but Seattle cannot rebuild the bridge alone. As a councilmember I will work with Rep. Gael Tarleton to follow-up on the State study she secured an appropriation for last legislative session to increase the State's involvement as a stakeholder in rebuilding the bridge. I will also work closely with the Port of Seattle to make sure the new Magnolia Bridge maintains critical access to the Smith Cove Uplands and the cruise ship terminal, and hopefully secure at least some funding from the Port of Seattle as well.*

*Finally, it is never too early to plan for a replacement of the Ballard Bridge, which will need to be addressed in the next ten years. As we have seen, inattentive planning has created a rush to build a plan for the Magnolia Bridge. We cannot let that happen with the Ballard Bridge which feeds into a critical freight corridor along 15th Avenue in Interbay, supporting a \$4 billion maritime economy in Salmon Bay. We need a plan now, and I look forward to proactively planning years in advance to replace the Ballard 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?

*First, I support better utilizing public land to build more affordable housing funded by a broad range of public and private stakeholders. For example, I am a strong supporter of the affordable housing development at Fort Lawton which will provide over 280 units for various levels of area median income. These will be homes for elderly people experiencing homelessness, working poor families seeking a home through habitat for humanity, and workforce housing for the nurses, teachers, firefighters, and other professionals who make up Seattle's public servants. I favor building affordable housing on the National Guard Armory property in Interbay, which can be the site of the*

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*next project constituted similarly to Fort Lawton. I also support the modular housing development proposed by King County on Elliott Ave.*

*Beyond that, I do support increased housing density in the neighborhoods surrounding planned light rail stations for Sound Transit 3. By concentrating housing near grade-separated mass-transit we can reduce congestion and make more space for missing-middle housing.*

*Additionally, I support an increased emphasis on in-fill development. neighborhoods with large quantities of surface parking lots, for example, should be incentivized to build housing with buried parking. Prime real estate can no longer be used solely for parking and vacant lots should receive expedited attention from City planners to get projects online quickly.*

## 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?

*In District 7 there are a number of attractive areas for new growth. I support carving out more space for housing in parts of Interbay as ST3 expands through the neighborhood. But, we need to be careful to not displace the maritime community and traditional industrial lands. My vision of Interbay is a north end version of Georgetown with industrial and residential zoning existing in the same space.*

*As a graduate of the University of Washington who spent a lot of time on campus and involved in student government I also believe the University District could accommodate more future growth as a civic innovation district, as well as Northgate Mall which has a considerable amount of underutilized space.*

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?

*As will be discussed further below, I want to dramatically expand performance auditing in the City of Seattle to make sure we are the best run government in the country. I will pledge to all businesses in Seattle that charter services will be delivered effectively and accountability, and that tax money will be spent according to metrics and results.*

## 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.

*My campaign has knocked on over 7,000 doors in District 7, and everywhere we go we encounter people who have been victims of varying levels of property crime with little response from our overworked police department. These offenses range from car prowls to extensive vandalism to the property and merchandise of business owners. This has to stop, and public safety needs to be a higher budget priority for the City of Seattle.*

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

*We need to make public safety a bigger budget priority. I propose hiring more police officers to get them out walking a neighborhood beat to build relationships with citizens and business owners to proactively address public safety problems before they become emergencies. Seattle currently has 1.9 officers per thousand residents, lower than the 2.1 officers for cities of a similar size. I support*

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*increasing patrol duty police to at least parity with our peer cities. Property crimes are crimes of opportunity, and police presence is one of the best ways to deprive people of the opportunity to commit crimes.*

*Additionally, increased police presence will only be helpful if there is ultimately accountability in a court of law. As a prosecutor in the Seattle City Attorney's Office, I can attest that our office is severely understaffed and overworked. With 31.5 prosecutors we process 14,000 referrals a year. As someone who has experienced firsthand the overwhelming nature of work in the Seattle City Attorney's Office I will make staffing the prosecution function of the City a higher budget priority.*

## 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?

*Good government is one of the main reasons why I am running for Seattle City Council. I proudly wrote an editorial last fall calling for [systemic and thorough performance auditing in Seattle government](#) and am excited to implement increased performance auditing as a member of the Seattle City Council. The Council needs to follow King County's lead and adopt an annual performance auditing plan, supported by increased staff for our under resourced Office of the City Auditor. Over the last 3 years King County has saved \$127 million, which is approximately what the head tax would have raised over the same period of time. By focusing on performance we can earn back the trust of the public.*

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

*Performance auditing is not just about tracking the cost of programs, it is about measuring efficacy. I support data-driven and metric-driven approaches to make sure we are establishing feedback loops and deliverables to measure the success of a given program. Performance auditing is one of the best tools government has to foster a culture of constant improvement and self-assessment.*

*As a prosecutor, I believe in accountability. I look forward to bringing that ethos to the City Council.*

## 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.

*Sales tax, property tax, business and occupation tax, commercial parking tax, utility taxes, real estate excise tax, sweetened beverage tax, short-term rental tax, parking fees, Municipal Court fines and fees, and other assorted processing and filing 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.

*It depends on how the question is framed. If we continue on a path where Seattle tries to solve all of these regional problems on its own without asking for a broader regional commitment, then yes. The City would need to raise more revenue. If we leverage the resources that we have, find money through efficiencies with vigorous performance auditing, and build partnerships with regional governments then we can have a big impact on the biggest issues facing the city without raising more taxes.*

*However, I do see the conversation around needing to raise more revenue as a separate discussion from the crushing need for a more equitable tax system. I am a supporter of municipal income and capital gains taxes if they are used to pay down property and sales taxes in a revenue neutral reform.*

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## 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 support fully funding the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and expanding income eligibility guidelines above the current ceiling of 300% of the federal poverty line. Many working families earn more than the current ceiling, but childcare is still a massive financial hardship. They should get support as well.***

***We can offset the costs of increased subsidized child care by revitalizing our community centers and making childcare one of their core functions. By offering public space in community centers at-cost or at highly subsidized rates we can help reduce the costs of childcare overall.***

## 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?

***Business needs to be engaged from the beginning as a civic partner, not as an antagonist. Business leaders have expertise that can inform the process of crafting laws and regulations by understanding how new policies will pragmatically work on the ground and during implementation. I do not support the practice of consulting business after the fact, or reaching out to business merely as a formality and a box to be checked. Businesses are civic partners and should be respected and engaged as such.***

## 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 will work with business as a civic partner. My door will always be open, and the needs and concerns of businesses will get the full attention they deserve in my office just like any constituent. One of my legislative constituents will be assigned as a regular correspondent and representative to business to make sure I am apprised of the concerns of the business community and vice-versa.***

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?

***Charter services are essential to a strong business climate, and I look forward to working with business leaders to target priorities to make Seattle a vibrant and livable place. I will foster an open line to the constituent businesses of my district so they have someone they can call when they have a problem. I will aspire through vigorous performance auditing to make Seattle the best run municipal government in the country, effectively and efficiently delivering public services while saving millions of dollars that can be reinvested back into the general fund. I will work with civic business leaders pragmatically and in good faith to build the Seattle we all aspire to live in.***