



## Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate -

Thank you for taking the time to provide your point of view on the following six questions. Your candid responses will help us to inform and engage the nearly 150,000 tech employees who live and work in the city of Seattle. This in turn will help you engage them more effectively as an electorate. Once we have processed responses from all the candidates, we will invite selected finalist candidates to meet with members of the WTIA Advocacy Committee to gain a more thorough understanding of your answers.

While the WTIA represents the interests of more than 10,000 tech companies in our state, the Advocacy Committee includes a sample of those companies. Each member of the committee is a subject matter expert who contributes time and effort to help steer the WTIA in achieving advocacy goals for the industry. The WTIA Advocacy Committee includes experts from the following organizations --

Accenture	Amazon	Big Fish Games	BitTitan	BoldIQ
Comcast	Expedia	F5	Facebook	Flying Fish
Flying Fish VC	Galvanize	Google	Impinj	Madrona Ventures
Microsoft	Moz	Nintendo	Sprint	T-Mobile
Tune	Uber	UW CSE	WSU	Zillow

Please send your responses to the following questions to WTIA Legislative Aide Ian Griswold  
IGriswold@washingtontechnology.org

1. Seattle faces many challenges associated with rapid growth. What are your top 3 priorities for the city and why? (500 word limit)

With the massive influx of new residents to our city comes both challenges and opportunities. First, we need to ensure our residents have access to affordable housing that isn't out of reach or forces them to waste time and money commuting to and from work. Our economy, our neighborhoods, and our environment will all benefit if we reduce carbon emissions by investing in transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, orienting jobs and housing development around public transit, investing in green technologies, and funding clean technology education and training.

Easing our transportation woes and reducing the gridlock on our roads remain a top priority of mine. My long history and leadership delivering on light rail, mass transit, bike lanes, and greater investments in our transportation alternatives, from my work as Executive Director of Transportation Choices Coalition to my time in the State Legislature, will be an invaluable asset as mayor.

Finally, I believe a major reason why so many high-tech employers and their workers find Seattle so attractive is because of the excellent quality of life here, and I intend to enhance that in myriad ways. From protecting our air, land, and water and ensuring a cleaner environment; delivering a serious plan for community oversight of police; to supporting the arts and culture of Seattle and ensuring we retain what makes this city unique and wonderful; to protecting our designation as a Sanctuary City where all people are welcome, civil rights remain intact, and where diversity is celebrated rather than used as a wedge to divide us.

2. Most of the world only knows Seattle as the Space Needle, Sleepless in Seattle, or the Seahawks. What will Seattle be known for on the world stage in 20 years? (500 word limit)

Seattle will be known as the home of some of the greatest high-tech companies and the minds behind them, building on our reputation as a technological powerhouse. We will be known as a clean-tech exporter rather than a contributor to the world's climate-changing emissions. We will build our reputation as an internationally focused city that embraces our global partners and our international economic impact. Our city's - and our region's - economy relies heavily upon international trade, whether that's delivering software, airplanes, or apples. With over half of all jobs in our region reliant upon international trade, an international perspective, fueled by innovative thinkers in the creative economy, will be necessary to our success.

Let's also not overlook the importance of the arts and culture, as they contribute tremendously to our quality of life and are a significant factor for many as they decide to relocate to a new job in a new city. The arts and culture are truly one of only a handful of ways we can keep Seattle a vibrant and attractive place to live and work for those seeking to build their business in our city and we should undertake new public-private partnerships to foster the arts wherever possible.

In twenty years, my hope is that Seattle will also be known as the home of the 2037 NBA champs after the Sonics return soon.

3. Seattle is seen as a progressive city. How have other progressive cities created successful partnerships with employers? How do you see that playing out in Seattle? (500 word limit)

In my previous roles as both Executive Director of Transportation Choices and as a state representative, I engaged civic and business leaders, inviting them to the table to work collaboratively on solving our city's challenges, from the gridlock on our roads, to the accommodations afforded to pregnant employees in the workplace. As mayor I would certainly continue to seek input from our employers large and small as we shape the future of our city together.

I believe that our employers can play an important role in helping solve the challenges that may arise when change comes rapidly to certain areas. A good example is the standard that Jeff Bezos is setting by allocating and subsidizing housing for citizens who may have been displaced by high-income development in our downtown core. His commitment to our city's most vulnerable citizens is to be commended and held up as an example to others who have benefitted greatly from our city's prosperity.

4. Seattle has a booming economy, in large part driven by the tech sector. This creates opportunity and challenges. In your view, what is the role of the tech industry as a partner in creating a better city as we grow? (500 word limit)

I see the role of the tech industry in creating a better Seattle as a strategic partner to the city in developing an agenda for smarter, transit-oriented, greener development. We all share a desire for Seattle to be an affordable, welcoming, vibrant, and prosperous city, diverse in the cultural, environmental, and architectural qualities of its neighborhoods and dynamic in its economy. The role I see for the tech industry is in working toward those long-term goals by co-investing in the development agenda. The city needs the industry to contribute expertise as well as resources to public-private partnerships and special projects that address the city's social needs in ways that make it a better place for all of us to work, play, live, learn, and grow.

The city's success is intertwined with that of the region's industrial clusters and vice versa. I believe it is essential to work with employers to make sure that our city can meet the demands of our high-tech industry clusters, partnering with them on education initiatives that train our students to fill the positions available in high-demand fields. Investments made by cities to seed workforce development programs tailored to the needs of high-demand fields are vital to our success. The success of some of the programs led by the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County is a shining example. Their work in partnering with local businesses to tailor training programs to specific fields has helped many of our homegrown students

land well-paying jobs at the most sought-after companies in the region.

I also believe that the example our progressive employers can set in the workplace by valuing diversity and inclusion sets the tone for the entire city. Our high-tech employers have long recognized the value in a diverse workforce, whether that's race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Our city's diversity should be reflected in our workforce, and many of our greatest companies are leading the way and showing the world that our success is due to this core American value.

5. What is the number one challenge facing the tech industry - and what do you see as the City's primary role in helping solve that dilemma? (500 word limit)

One of our great challenges is how the tech industry can continue to grow and innovate while integrating into the fabric of the Seattle we know and love. Neighborhood-based plans to increase housing density, and appropriate transit-oriented development to accommodate it must be part of the solution. That means figuring out how to educate, train, and employ local talent as well as attract newcomers. It also means attracting a workforce that reflects the diversity of the city. The city's role is to work with everyone--from neighborhoods and communities, to schools and universities, to small businesses and large companies in order to find solutions together.

Global competition in the tech industry will only continue to grow. Therefore, in order to stay competitive, we will need to continue to be a leader in innovation. We cannot remain a hub of innovation without attracting and without fostering the next generation of great thinkers, and that means educational innovation. I am convinced that there is no greater hope for our city and our country than the partnership we can develop between our greatest entrepreneurial spirits in the tech industry and our education system. I've seen firsthand the light bulbs turn on in young minds when classrooms team up with high-tech workspaces, offering them new curricula and tools in STEM learning that inspire new engineers, developers, and astronauts. As mayor, I will seek out new partnerships, new collaborative efforts, and new investments for our K-12 and higher education institutions to ensure that pipeline for the high-demand clusters in our region.

6. What is the appropriate role of a city in helping to solve the challenge of portable benefits in a gig economy? (500 word limit)

Seattle has a chance to be a nationwide leader in defining the new economy, and a component of that is certainly the mobility of our workforce and the consequential need for more benefit portability. Without some security, our workforce surely loses their competitive edge.

Thankfully, Washington State's own Congresswoman DelBene, a friend to, and former employee of the high-tech industry, is leading the charge in Congress by introducing legislation I'm sure you are familiar with, called the "Portable Benefits for Independent Workers Pilot Program Act," which invests \$20 million in grants to study and implement innovative ways to provide portable benefits to the workforce in the gig economy. I believe it's a good starting point and support DelBene's efforts, and I look forward to working with the WTIA and its membership to figure out the best possible way to provide greater economic security to our city's high-tech workers.