



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)

The three biggest issues facing our city are affordable housing, police accountability and progressive taxation. Rents in Seattle are skyrocketing and Seattle's most vulnerable residents are getting priced out of the city. We must take bold action now to rapidly increase the city's supply of affordable housing and prevent further displacement. Another top priority for my campaign is increasing civilian oversight of the police department. The federal Justice Department found that in over 200 cases of excessive force, not a single officer was fired. We need true civilian oversight of our police department with the power to set disciplinary policy. Finally, Washington state currently has one of the most regressive tax systems in the nation. We must address this in Seattle by raising taxes on corporations while raising the exemption for small businesses, passing impact fees on new development and passing a test case for an income tax.

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)

We have a unique opportunity in Seattle to set the standard for how rapidly growing American cities address the crises of inequality and affordability. Rents in Seattle have skyrocketed: over the last six years, the average rent has increased more than \$600. While we have raised the minimum wage, 81 cents of every dollar increase from the minimum wage has gone toward rent increases. Our city, like other major cities like San Francisco and New York, is at a crossroads.

Current proposals by the mayor's office are insufficient to address our affordability crisis. Instead, our city government must act as a counterbalance to an overheated housing market by requiring 25% of new development to be affordable to working people, passing tenant collective bargaining rights for tenants, and raising taxes on major corporations to fund affordable and low-income housing. Passing a bold and visionary housing agenda now will set up Seattle as a uniquely inclusive and diverse city to live in twenty years from now.

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 opinion, a successful partnership with employers requires a genuine commitment by all parties to equitable outcomes. I am always interested in working with employers who are dedicated to improving quality of life for all Seattle residents by committing to fair labor practices and paying their fair share for transit, education, affordable housing, homelessness solutions and more.

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)

The tech industry is both fueling job growth and adding to Seattle's housing crisis. The tech sector can better partner with the city by paying its fair share toward housing, homelessness, transit and other crucial city services. More than 100,000 people are projected to move to Seattle over the next twenty years, and we are already seeing the strain on our city services. To accommodate our city's growth, we need to see more partnerships like Amazon's partnering with Mary's Place, but more importantly, we need the tech sector to pay its fair share in growing the tax base to invest in major infrastructure like affordable housing and improved transit.

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)

We need municipal broadband and we need it now. In today's economy, the internet is necessary to apply for a job, study for school, operate a small business, or find housing. Yet [15% of Seattle residents](#) lack access to internet in their home. These residents are disproportionately low-income, people of color, immigrants and refugees. Adding insult to injury, signing up for the internet often comes with mandatory bundles, frequent outages, abysmal customer service, and anti-consumer practices like data caps.

Internet access is an equity and social justice issue. Last year's [\\$100 million lawsuit against Comcast](#) only strengthens the case for a municipal alternative to provide internet access for all. It's time to treat broadband as a utility accessible to all, rather than a privilege afforded to the few.

A public internet utility would benefit more than just those currently without internet. Comcast and Centurylink have repeatedly failed to invest in our communities. South end neighborhoods, including my own in Hillman city, [consistently have speeds lower than the FCC's broadband benchmark](#).

The solution is clear. Seattle can provide gigabit internet to every neighborhood for [one third the price of the private sector](#). Yet two years ago, a [majority of City Council members](#) rejected a pilot project to bring municipal broadband to Beacon Hill. It's time to make municipal broadband a reality in Seattle; we can't wait any longer.

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)

Our modern economy relies heavily on independent contractors, instead of W-4 employees, which means that more and more individuals find themselves working 40 hours a week or more without access to benefits like paid sick leave, vacation time or a retirement account. Seattle has taken leadership on several modern labor issues, whether pioneering the \$15 minimum wage or passing the secure scheduling law. I believe the city can do the same in pioneering portable benefits. I believe it's important that any portable benefit framework include benefits that are prorated and apply to all workers, whether hourly, salaried or working as contractors.