Dear Bruce Harrell,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the candidate questionnaire for the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA). Your responses will help us to inform and engage the 200,000+ tech sector 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 the candidates, we will invite select finalists to meet with members of the WTIA Board and WTIA Policy Steering Committee for a discussion to gain a more thorough understanding of your answers.

Please send your responses by email to Molly Jones (she/her), Vice President of Government Affairs, by Friday, June 11. Her email is mjones@washngtontechnology.org.

This questionnaire and your written responses will be published on the WTIA website.

Candidate Questionnaire

1. **Why are you running for Mayor of Seattle, and what do you hope to achieve while you are in office?**

I am running because we need a Mayor to meet this moment of unprecedented challenge and opportunity, a Mayor with the lived experience to tackle big issues; a decisive leader fully committed to productive dialogue, planning and execution. We must rebuild the fundamental trust between city government and the people it serves. We need the highest standard of collaboration and vision. The stakes are too high.

I'm running to unite Seattle and bring our communities together to solve the challenges we face and move our city forward by embracing our progressive values. Our city is facing an onslaught of crises, all of which demand leadership committed to ensuring positive change and progress for the people and communities who make this place special. We will urgently address the homelessness crisis and housing affordability; economic and community recovery from COVID-19; needed police reform, gun violence and public safety; the climate crisis, public transit expansion, and transportation solutions; and so much more.

I will be an advocate for the types of bold, innovative policies that will make Seattle a national leader in driving opportunity and ensuring fairness and equity. A few of my new ideas: a Seattle Jobs Center, the Race and Data Initiative, and a universal healthcare program.

Division, finger pointing, and anger drive disruption and prevent progress. But we know with a new approach, renewed accountability, and a commitment to our shared progressive values, we can turn the tide. As Mayor, I will be a leader who takes on the challenges we face

by collaborating with others, recruiting the best and brightest, and bringing communities and stakeholders together.

2. **What are your top three priorities for the City of Seattle?**

Priority 1: Homelessness and Housing Affordability

Priority 2: COVID-19 Recovery

Priority 3: Police Reform and Public Safety

3. **The tech sector has worked to support our communities throughout the pandemic by providing platforms for students to learn online and families to work remotely; tools and resources for small businesses to stay afloat during the pandemic; and critical technologies for the public health response. As we look ahead, how would you look to partner with the tech sector in powering economic recovery and building a resilient economy?**

I have spent a great deal of time in the tech sector as Chief Counsel to US WEST, the predecessor to CenturyLink and as a Senior Attorney for US WEST Cellular, which is now affiliated with Verizon. For 12 years on the Seattle City Council, I was the Committee Chair for the Technology department largely based on my experience and my passion to drive change through technology. I received the Broadband Visionary of the Year award by the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors (NATAO) in 2011 for my technology work.

This is really what my campaign is all about: Rejecting finger pointing, division and false narratives and instead uniting together and aligning on our shared values and goals to make real progress. I believe our tech industry has a critical role to play in our recovery, and that the companies and workers who power that industry are going to be important partners in this work.

Many of my major initiatives will require technological innovation, and I'll be calling on leaders in those spaces to help us design and implement these ideas. This includes some of the most critical issues facing our city. For example, on homelessness, one of the reasons Seattle has lost the trust of its residents in addressing this crisis is because there's no transparent plan, no demonstrable signs of progress. My administration will create a dashboard, accessible to anyone and everyone, laying out what the city is doing with transparency, measurable outcomes and defined deliverables. Similarly, my Race and Data Initiative and Seattle Jobs Center will bring together different stakeholders from the community, the workforce, the city, and will require tech development – and tech input – to be successful.

Ultimately, this is about the attitude our next mayor takes with the tech industry, and how that contrasts with city leadership today. Do they see some of our region's largest employers as allies, or as antagonists? I can tell you based on my own experience working as an attorney

in telecommunications technology and based on my proven record on the City Council that I recognize our shared vision for a prosperous, livable, thriving city. Under my administration, there will be no doubt: We can – and we must – partner together to move our city forward in these challenging times.

4. **Nearly half of all tech workers nationwide moved during the pandemic, where Seattle saw the third-highest flight of tech workers (after San Francisco and New York City). Seattle is increasingly in competition with other rising tech hubs -- such as Denver, Miami, Austin -- to attract startup founders, entrepreneurs, and tech workers. What would you do to increase Seattle's competitiveness vis-a-vis other tech hubs?**

Ensuring Seattle's economy continues to grow with new jobs, new opportunities and new innovations was a major motivator for me to enter this campaign. Some candidates seem to take this for granted, but I know this kind of prosperity is earned – through a strong workforce, through healthy communities, and through trusting relationships between business leaders and city government.

I strongly believe Seattle must win the coming jobs war. That's why I'm proposing a Seattle Jobs Center that will connect job seekers with the opportunities they need: positions and careers, training and workforce education, and more. Using all available commercialized online job boards, state sponsored employment ads, executive search materials and every means to help employ every possible employee, and making sure we provide resources to re-tool and retrain job applicants seeking work, we will explore making sure Seattle is the facilitator of employing every available job applicant. Some employers have phenomenal programs for supporting returning military veterans or previously incarcerated residents. Working with our businesses and with labor, we can create a platform that aligns our interests and provides a user-friendly infrastructure, making Seattle known as the city that values and promotes jobs, jobs and jobs.

Further, we will make real progress on the issues that generate concern with businesses considering Seattle as a location for an office or a long-term headquarters. Progress on homelessness, public safety, world-class parks and amenities will be visible under my leadership. And, as mentioned, I'll be someone leaders can trust to be honest and upfront about my priorities, our city's needs, and how we can work together.

5. **How would you work toward ensuring the successful advancement of policies and programs that create equitable outcomes for BIPOC in the tech industry?**

I grew up in a redlined Central District house, the son of a Black father and a Japanese mother. My dad's family escaped the Jim Crow South, he became a union member and one of the first Black linemen at Seattle City Light. My mom's family immigrated from Japan, only to face incarceration by the US government. Their experiences – and their values – taught me to work hard and to stand up for community and your beliefs, and they set me on a lifelong path fighting for racial and social justice, equity, and opportunity for every neighbor.

In college and as a young attorney, I helped formerly incarcerated people restore their lives, in my legal practice I represented BIPOC workers discrimination cases, on Council I wrote Seattle's first anti-bias policing laws, the "ban the box" ordinance, and was sole sponsor and champion of the legislation mandating Seattle examine every law and policy through racial and social justices lenses.

As two people of color, my wife (African American) as an Executive at Microsoft and I as an attorney in telecommunications, fully understand that the technology industry still appears out-of-reach or impenetrable to many BIPOC kids and workers. While technology companies are putting in good faith efforts to rectify this, added city government support could go a long way.

Representation matters – and I'm committed to fostering a city-sponsored mentorship program between Seattle Public Schools, nonprofit stakeholders, technology companies, and with other local leaders to show kids and students the many pathways to success and help them create personal connections with professionals to prove it.

I believe my already mentioned Seattle Jobs Center will be a critical tool in promoting technology training and job opportunities to BIPOC communities. I am also proposing a Race and Data Initiative, which will – for the first time in Seattle's history – look granularly at how race affects outcomes for Seattle's BIPOC and other diverse communities. We know broadly that communities of color and other underrepresented groups face disparate outcomes in our city – but this effort will collect clear, tangible data and provide real recommendations for how to address and eliminate those disproportionate effects, with the information available to all so everyone can participate in the solution.

For us to see sustained change in how our technology industry operates, we need to have a leader who personally understands and is invested in changing these longstanding systems. I can tell you, commitment to racial justice is rooted in my DNA – it's a catalyst for why I'm running – and will be a top priority in office.

6. **What is your favorite technology, and why?**

My favorite technology is open-source software, hardware, open content, open education, open government and any platform that will allow the public to have transparency and the ability to assist the City of Seattle improve how they operate. Under the Harrell administration, respecting the privacy rights of individuals, you will see an increased ability to allow the public to see the data that the City relies upon to do its strategic planning, capital improvement plans, budgeting, forecasting. I believe in open government and my favorite technology lends itself to that platform.