



Dear Casey Sixkiller,

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@washngtontechology.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'm running for Mayor of Seattle because this is my hometown and I want every family to see their future here. I love this city. It's a place where innovation thrives and we lead with our values. But today we're being held back by divisions. As Mayor, I will work to bring us together to move beyond the gridlock, and work in partnership with our communities to rebuild a stronger, thriving Seattle.

As Mayor, I will prioritize kickstarting economic recovery and building back better. This includes utilizing economic resources to not only support our community and businesses, but also support the City workforce, which delivers critical services. During Covid-19, the City of Seattle stood up emergency food, housing, cash assistance, childcare and small business stabilization programs to help meet our community's basic needs. As we reopen and begin recovery, the role of local government will be more important than ever. The City has received hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds and we must leverage these resources to help our communities recover, create jobs, and address the income inequality that is making Seattle out of reach for too many of our working families.

I am proposing that we use some of these federal funds to launch the nation's largest guaranteed income program. My Reliable Income Supporting Equity (or RISE) program will provide 16,000 low-income working families with \$500 a month to help meet their basic

needs. I will focus this program in Black and Indigenous communities where income inequality is most stark. We know that these programs work and help lift families out of poverty.

As Mayor, I will also prioritize creating more permanent homes for our unhoused neighbors. I will propose a \$1B levy to build 3,000 new housing units so those who need the most support can transition from shelter to a more supportive home. This generational investment will more than triple the number of permanent supportive homes coming online every year.

And I will champion infrastructure investments in our communities with local, state and federal dollars. These investments in housing, transportation and other infrastructure will bring good jobs to our City, support economic recovery and help rebuild a more just and equitable Seattle where all communities can thrive.

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

Priority 1: Homelessness and lack of affordable housing, which we know impact Black and Native communities disproportionately. I am proposing a measure to create 3,000 new permanent homes for our most vulnerable neighbors experiencing homelessness. I am also proposing to expand policies which will prevent displacement and create more housing opportunities for people to live in Seattle.

Priority 2: A Guaranteed Basic Income Program which will be focused on creating economic stability, especially for Black families who experience the worst economic outcomes of any community in Seattle. My Reliable Income Supporting Equity (R.I.S.E.) program will build on lessons learned from supporting families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to pilot the largest guaranteed basic income program in the nation.

Priority 3: Advancing Community Safety through police accountability, a shift towards a community-led crisis response system and violence prevention efforts. Black and brown communities have experienced disproportionate harm at the hands of law enforcement and gun violence. We must break this cycle and work towards creating communities where everyone can thrive no matter the color of your skin or your zip code.

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?

Seattle has grown and thrived in part because of how welcoming it has been to the tech industry, and the tech industry has given back in countless ways. As we rebuild our city, our economy, and our communities in the wake of the pandemic, we cannot succeed without the partnership of the tech sector.

I will expand the Community Technology Advisory Board, utilizing leaders from the tech industry to address the challenges facing our city, as well as the obstacles facing our tech companies. I believe that by working together we can identify innovative solutions to some of our most serious challenges, while making sure that the city is being responsive to the needs and goals of the industry. I am excited to see what kinds of new ideas, technologies and advancements will emerge by further enlisting the thought leadership of some of our leading tech pioneers. The Seattle of my childhood has transformed, and our economy is now largely driven by the technology sector. We have to work together so tech sees a home here and continues to grow and expand in Seattle.

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?

The tech industry has played an essential role in fueling the city's incredible growth over the past two decades and I am committed to ensuring that growth continues as the tech industry flourishes. The work of the mayor's office is crucial in ensuring that Seattle remains highly competitive in attracting tech professionals at all levels, from executives to entrepreneurs to junior workers.

Right now Seattle is at risk of losing further tech workers, and those from other industries as well, in part because of public safety and quality of life issues. If homelessness and poverty continue to spread, and our streets, public parks and open spaces are no longer safe, welcoming or usable, then the exodus will continue. Even our most compassionate citizens are growing frustrated that the city government is not doing more to help those who are most vulnerable while keeping Seattle safe and inviting for all of its workers, families and residents.

By tackling homelessness and the lack of affordable housing strategically, I will help folks get off the streets and into safe spaces and homes. We will restore our public spaces so that all residents can use them. I am proposing a measure to create 3,000 new permanent homes for our most vulnerable neighbors experiencing homelessness. I am also proposing to expand policies which will prevent displacement and create more housing opportunities for people to live in Seattle.

I will propose a \$1B levy to build 3,000 new housing units so those who need the most support can transition from shelter to a more supportive home. This generational investment will more than triple the number of permanent supportive homes coming online every year. The more folks we help off the street, and the more housing we build, the better the quality of life will be for all residents of Seattle -- making sure our city remains a place that people want to work and live.

The fractured relationship between law enforcement and many of our neighborhoods is another threat to Seattle's livability. I will be a mayor who supports law enforcement while increasing police accountability. I will guide Seattle's shift towards a community-led crisis response system and violence prevention efforts. By ensuring our police have the support they need to keep our communities safe, while also building transparency and accountability into a system that needs to earn the trust of more citizens, I will make sure Seattle is a place families want to raise their children.

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 will work for equitable outcomes for BIPOC in all industries. Uneven access and opportunities persist in many fields, and I will fight for policies that ensure folks who have been marginalized are able to get ahead.

6. What is your favorite technology, and why?

Facetime. No matter how busy life gets, I love that seeing my kids' faces and hearing their voices is just a click away. In my personal experience, one of the positive outcomes from the pandemic has been rebuilding stronger relationships with long distance friends and family on Facetimes.