Dear Clinton Bliss,

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?**

Many of the actions the city has been taking to resolve our problems are making them worse instead of better. Tent encampments grow, police accountability decreases, with no plan for resolution and no end in sight. This is not acceptable.. When we react to a problem, rather than studying it carefully, we typically get more of what we don't want. Instead we need wise action, based on a deep understanding of the core problems facing our city. Building affordable housing will not move people from tents indoors. People who want affordable housing move to an affordable neighborhood. People live in tents on public lands because it's free. These are two separate issues. If elected, my first actions will be to (1) Provide basic emergency food, shelter, security, and treatment to our residents who have no other options; (2) Permanently remove tent dwellers from city parks and (3) nullify any section of the police union contract that limits accountability and oversight. In the provision of basic food, shelter, security and treatment. To achieve the first two actions, I will work with the community, as this is a community problem, and seek federal and state funding and resources to help us in upholding the mandate passed down to our city that has been so unhappily and wrongly interpreted to allow for tent and RV dwelling in our public spaces. To achieve the third action, I will work with the City Attorney and other stakeholders to bring about police accountability and oversight. In both I will borrow from my experience as a healthcare leader, which will be invaluable in understanding how to treat people who are suffering from mental illness or

addiction; and in implementing systems of oversight, not only in police, but throughout city government.

Note that it is my firm belief that the greatest weakness in our democracy is our process of legalized bribery in the form of campaign contributions. This flaw undermines nearly every effort we make towards real reform and equality. To this end, I have taken a personal pledge in this campaign not to accept money from anyone. Likewise I am not seeking endorsements nor using social media as these undermine equality as well. My belief is that compromising my message to win the election is the same as losing, and conversely, every day that I spend cultivating a vision is victory.

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

Priority 1: Civil rights for all people: people living in tents and RVs who have a right to emergency food, shelter, security and treatment, people's right to equal access to public spaces, and people's right to a secure city with police that are accountable and continuously improving.

Priority 2: Build back trust in government through results based accountability from public satisfaction feedback for each and every time a member of the public interacts with any Seattle City service, and the use of that data to improve services and public satisfaction with the city government.

Priority 3: Real equality for all means removing the systematic economic disadvantage in our systems of education, justice, and governance. These are the engines of institutionalized poverty and racism. In particular, wealth ensures private education at public school prices, elite attorneys that provide special favorable outcomes in our public courts, and legalized bribery of public officials in the form of campaign contributions. These private privileges are granted by our public institutions to our wealthy elite and are denied to those without wealth. Until we reform these corrupt government practices, we will continue to have poor and minority communities showing lower rates of high school graduation, lower college attendance rates, lower incomes, higher unemployment, higher rates of arrest, higher rates of incarceration, and lower rates of participation and representation in our democracy.

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?**

Education is a powerful mechanism for equal opportunity to economic health and crux for a resilient and sustainable economy, but has failed to deliver due to the institutional privilege built into the system. We do well in secondary education, but fail too many, in primary education. In Seattle, high school dropout rates are at 21%* Our nation is losing ground due to our lack of delivery in primary education.** and in the USA The Social Progress Indicator ranks

us at 91 in the world, on par with Mongolia and Uzbekistan. Canada is ranked 21***. Technology can and already is changing the delivery of education in powerfully positive ways. Countries around the world are improving their education systems through technology. Estonia and Finland are a couple of examples.****

*https://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=25571096#Graph_19

**https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/15/u-s-students-internationally-math-science/ & https://www.oecd.org/unitedstates/CN%20-%20United%20States.pdf

*** https://www.socialprogress.org/?tab=2

****https://ncee.org/center-on-international-education-benchmarking/top-performing-countries/

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?**

Our first priority is to make Seattle a good place to live for everybody, and to do this, we need to solve the problem of not upholding civil rights for all people - which will be my primary focus if I am elected. Once we do this, we need to tackle the problem of affordable housing. While it is true that not everyone who wants to live in Seattle can afford to live here, just like not everybody who wants to live in New York City can afford to live there, we need affordable housing for all workers - tech and non-tech workers. I would start with 1) doing what I could to reduce the restrictions on rentals that, in my view, create a perverse outcome resulting in more scarcity in affordable rental units, and reviewing our City permitting and ordinances that, in my view, allow buildings to go up that are supposedly affordable but in reality, unreachable for too many people.

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

Invest in primary and secondary education. Real equality means equal outcomes. If the outcomes are not equal, the education is not equal. We all need more than a box to stand on while we look over the fence at the action. If elected, I intend to invest in equal outcomes for all, to grow the long legs of true equality, giving each person the power to stand tall in their own authority, running freely on their own two legs and going toe to toe with their peers. Real equality creates a level playing field that lasts a lifetime.

There are other changes that need to happen at the national level, such as in the banking industry, justice system and in our voting systems. The Mayor of Seattle can't control those directly, but can contribute to the conversation and bring focus to the issues.

Specifically, to the issue of policies and programs in Seattle, I think this also is a community issue and it takes a community rather than just a top down approach to identify what is working and how to foster that, discover and fix what is broken, and deliver solutions that realize real equality for all people, in tech industry employment and in every part of life.

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

Online educational platforms such as the Khan Academy because they are delivering excellent primary and secondary education, freely available to all, empowering real equality in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.