



Dear Colleen Echohawk,

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 am running for Mayor because my city is calling out for change, and I will be the change that gets 6,000 people sleeping outside, inside. I will be the change that reforms the Seattle Police Department, and the change that brings a new generation of Indigenous leadership.

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

Priority 1: Executing my 22-point Emergency Housing Action Plan

Priority 2: Negotiating the long overdue Police Contract

Priority 3: Investing in community led city revitalization that prioritizes green space, decreases air and water pollution, and examines the lacking tree canopy.

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?

Technology has been a means for communities to learn, grow, and connect. I would hope to bring the diverse resources and technologies available to the Seattle area to the public. Incorporating STEAM programs into our public libraries so access and discovery are close to community. I recently met with a group of folks doing the work to make broadband more accessible to unserved areas, and I would hope to continue to foster these connections as Mayor so to bring together not only the technology but also the services that our students and families so desperately need. These services are easy to get to people we just need bold leadership to quickly get people connecting and collaborating.

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?

Investing in community is the best way to build a foundation of creative and innovative leaders. Students need their classrooms to reflect the changing technologies, so they can participate in their city. As Mayor I would work with stakeholders to get not just broadband services and programs, but also tech to students that invest in their futures. I have been intentional with how I engage with my audiences through social media, my campaign has relied on tech to communicate to voters, and I know that is only able to reach certain people in our communities, and I hope to check myself and always adapt to best included services that folks use to engage with social media, telecommunications, and remote engagement. Technology is about collaboration and ingenuity, and what better way to make our City attractive to new business and entrepreneurs than investing in our youth and their potential. We saw during the pandemic that location does not always determine success, so as a city let's invest in our people living in our exciting and expanding community. I believe in a next generation of leadership, and I know that our future growth depends on the next generations growing up and being able to succeed here.

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

Often times technology and software can be considered an equalizer, yet we know tech made by white developers and engineers can exclude and stereotype access. The more opportunities that BIPOC communities have to see Black, brown, and Indigenous programmers, developers, and engineers in their spaces and creating tech, the better chance we have for tech that works for us rather than against us. Tech is known for engaging and grappling with challenging problems and it's about time the challenges we address focused on racism in coding, algorithms, and surveillance technology. Black and brown users. Systemic racism permeates all fields from politics, to real estate, and the tech industry. This is a people problem that needs people solutions, and those solutions look like early childhood education and public.

6. What is your favorite technology, and why?

My favorite technology is the video calling that I use to call my loved ones around the world, and connect with my communities.