



Dear Jessyn Farrell,

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 believe the central question of this campaign is whether Seattle will be a city we WANT to live in and can AFFORD to live in.

In order for this city to be a place where people want to live, we need our government to deliver high quality basic services, finally live up to its rhetoric and promises to address homelessness, and ensure our world-class parks are accessible for everyone to enjoy and use. For too long, city leaders have talked a big game but simply failed to follow through. It is simply unacceptable to me that we have been in a declared state of emergency on homelessness for 5 years, and yet we have not presented a solution scaled to the size of the problem. I believe Seattle needs a fresh start, combined with the experience and resolve to present a bold vision and relentlessly execute on the vision every day.

I am the only candidate in the race to present a comprehensive vision on how we address affordability in this city. I have proposed a "Sound Transit" for Housing, which would build on the regional investment in infrastructure and transportation to build hundreds of thousands of new housing units at a variety of income types around the region's 54 transit centers. Not only will this help to slash family costs, but it will create the housing needed to help solve homelessness. In addition, I have proposed making birth-to-five childcare free and available

to every single parent in this city. This would create thousands of good paying jobs in Seattle, and address one of the major skyrocketing costs facing families.

These plans may sound ambitious, and they are. But I know we can do big things, because we have done them before. As an advocate and later as a legislator I led efforts to invest over \$80 billion into our transportation system. That's the kind of results I know we can deliver for Seattle, by creating the same kind of broad based coalition of labor, business, and community groups in a variety of sectors.

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

Priority 1: Addressing the homelessness crisis

Priority 2: [Transforming Public Safety](#)

Priority 3: Economic Recovery (enhancing Seattle's competitive edge by building 70,000 units of affordable housing; delivering free, universal birth to five childcare; and supporting small businesses)

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 believe the fundamental job of the Mayor is to solve people's problems, which includes a relentless focus on economic recovery. To retain our competitive edge, this means we need to be a place where people want to live and can afford to live, so we must make significant progress on homelessness, public safety, housing, childcare and transportation. This will require a Mayor who is committed to partnerships across government, the private sector, including the tech community, the nonprofit sector and philanthropy.

My career has been characterized by building bridges across political divides to accomplish large scale improvements. Most recently, I led the Governor's Safe Work and Economic Recovery Task Force where I worked across sectors to help struggling businesses and workers make it through the pandemic. I convened members of the financial sector, landlords, and small businesses to figure out how we could shore up that entire ecosystem in the face of sustained closures due to Stay At Home orders. This resulted in the creation of a \$50 million program targeted at those businesses, particularly BIPOC-owned businesses, who had been left out of federal pandemic relief.

As mayor, I will bring this same cross-sector commitment to problem-solving to harness the energy, innovation and community spirit of our region's tech sector.

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?

As we emerge from the pandemic it is clear we are no longer just competing with our traditional tech-hub peers like Austin and San Francisco but also smaller cities like Boise, with greater affordability and a high quality of life. This means we must act with urgency around preserving our high quality of life, and I intend to enhance that in myriad ways - from protecting our environment and ensuring access to parks; delivering a serious plan for transforming public safety; to supporting the arts and culture of Seattle and ensuring we retain what makes this city unique and wonderful.

It means easing our transportation woes and reducing the gridlock on our roads, which remains a top priority of mine. My long history and leadership delivering on light rail, mass transit, bike lanes, and greater investments in our transportation alternatives, from my work as Executive Director of Transportation Choices Coalition to my time in the State Legislature, will be an invaluable asset as mayor.

Finally, as mentioned in the first question it means massive investments in affordable housing and free, universal birth to five childcare. The tech community will be indispensable partners in achieving these goals.

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

Ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion for BIPOC members of the tech industry requires a multi-faceted approach and a sustained community commitment but I will highlight one thing in which the City can partner with the tech industry. I've seen firsthand the light bulbs turn on in young minds when classrooms team up with high-tech workspaces, offering them new curricula and tools in STEM learning that inspire new engineers, developers, and astronauts. As mayor, I will seek out new partnerships, new collaborative efforts, and new investments for our K-12 and higher education institutions, particularly for those furthest from educational justice, to ensure that pipeline for the high-demand clusters in our region. We must ensure that every student has access and support in acquiring a world-class STEM education, and is connected to internships, mentorship and higher education.

6. What is your favorite technology, and why?

Cities! Cities are an extraordinary invention and way of organizing people. For at their very best, cities are an excellent way of organizing ourselves to maximize cultural, economic and social exchange. At its best, Seattle should lead the way – in how to make equitable density work in an era of climate change; how to reimagine public safety to rely less on punishment – especially of Black and brown people – and instead prioritize those social, economic and

cultural supports that help people thrive; how to build an economy that centers the vast majority of families and individuals and maximizes our Seattle's culture of creativity and innovation.