



Dear Lance Randall,

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 see myself, first and foremost, as a problem solver and pragmatist. I believe we must rise above party labels and focus on how we solve the biggest challenges facing everyday Seattleites. I plan to use my experience as an economic development practitioner to support our small business community. My platform focuses on removing barriers that block our local entrepreneurs from creating jobs and thriving in our city.

Beyond economic development, my platform prioritizes efficiency and accountability to our citizens. City government must rebuild trust amongst Seattleites across the political spectrum, which requires that we use our budget effectively that produces results for our citizens.

We cannot afford another four years of talking without taking action. I am running to chart a new course, to provide transformational leadership for a transforming city.

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

Priority 1: Rebuilding our Economy

Priority 2: Ending the Undignified Neglect of our Homeless Neighbors

Priority 3: Addressing our City's Public Safety System

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?

The city must move swiftly to revitalize the downtown core and our neighborhood business districts, stop the exodus of businesses and the elimination of jobs. Every business in Seattle is important to our economy and we must recreate a business environment where all of them can thrive in the city. To help Seattle's economy rebound I am going to act quickly and intentionally with plans that are both realistic and aimed to bolster our local business's ability to survive and continue to operate successfully in the city. I see the following as ways to partner with our tech companies to power our economic recovery:

- Create a rapid response program through a partnership with neighborhood chambers and business associations to quickly assess and meet the needs of small businesses in their business districts. The organizations will receive adequate funding to build staff capacity to conduct outreach to struggling businesses and will have access to resources and city staff to solve problems.
- Create a partnership between the city government and our local corporate foundations to raise money to fund a local grant program to provide significant financial assistance to small businesses. The grants can be used to catch up on delinquent lease payments, rehire employees, replenish inventory, upgrade equipment, and for marketing to help them recover from the damage caused by the pandemic and economic downturn.
- Encourage workers to return to downtown by working with local artists, our many sports franchises, tech companies, and community organizations to create city-sponsored events and experiences which will restore the value of togetherness in the heart of downtown. From live music shows to food festivals and sports rallies, the city core will become a destination, not an obligation, of daily life 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?

We must draw and keep tech workers in Seattle by investing in a culture that makes Seattle feel like home. While Seattle has rightly earned a reputation as a creative city, the combination of the recent economic boom followed by Covid-19 comes at the expense of its creative culture and economy. Seattle is losing its creative edge as a result. I will turn this

trend around by working with arts and entertainment leaders to make Seattle the most creative city in the world where people can make a living making music, film, art, and theater. The benefits of this effort extend far beyond artists too, because the more creative Seattle is, the better equipped its culture will be in attracting talent and coming up with innovative ways to address societal challenges like homelessness, addiction, mobility, public safety, sustainability or simply enhancing the visual environment. A few actions include:

- Create a city-wide film partnership incentive program with the Seattle Convention and Visitors Bureau to attract out-of-state film productions that pay living wages, pour money into communities, and advertises our region to the world.
- Develop workforce programs that connect Seattle's youth to career opportunities across creative sectors.
- Encourage philanthropic foundations to create and expand giving programs that support artists and arts institutions.
- Work with the Seattle Film Commission to identify ways the City can prioritize film permitting needs and encourage private investment from local corporations.

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

Every Seattleite deserves the opportunity to be successful in their career regardless of identity. Seattle and our tech companies can only achieve their full potential when each of us can contribute at our best. I will partner between my city government and local tech companies to share best practices in recruiting, retaining, developing, and investing in our BIPOC employees. Moreover, we will invest more into our local workforce development programs and work closer with our regional partners and businesses to provide more internships, apprenticeships, training and job placement to build on the local pool of BIPOC talent for our tech companies to employ.

6. What is your favorite technology, and why?

My favorite technology is educational technology. I am strong advocate of education and believe that educational technology improves the learning experience for students by providing greater access to information and tools to create a learning environment that keep students interested and engaged.