Dear Lorena Gonzalez,

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?**

I am running because we need a Mayor who will provide bold, principled, and collaborative leadership that unites people around a shared vision for Seattle that is based in economic and social justice — a thriving, diverse, and progressive city that works hard for the people. I want to build a Seattle that works together and works for everyone. The past several years have exposed and deepened divisions amongst us all. While all of us have felt the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public health and economic impacts of the past year have exacerbated the harms experienced by Black, Indigenous, brown, and other people of color living and working in Seattle in particular. Working together, we can maximize the opportunity to champion real solutions for a more equitable Seattle.

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

Priority 1: Homelessness and housing

Priority 2: Re-imagining policing

Priority 3: Income inequality

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?**

Small business is crucial to our economy, and my administration will be open to policy ideas from the tech sector and anyone else that can help small business thrive. Based on feedback from small businesses, I recently passed legislation to make it easier for people to operate a small business from their home by removing outdated land-use regulations: https://council.seattle.gov/2021/02/22/strauss-gonzalez-introduce-bringing-business-home-bill-to-create-flexibility-for-small-businesses-during-pandemic/

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?**

Seattle is a beautiful city and thousands of people move here every month because of our urban cores in various neighborhoods throughout the city. But it is time to scale up and do their part to make Seattle a world-class, livable, walkable city for everyone. I dream of a Seattle in which every neighborhood is livable, safe and complete with access to child care, affordable housing, multimodal transportation, grocery stores, community spaces, high speed internet, good jobs, and energetic small business districts. Prior to COVID, I chose to use public transit as my primary mode of transportation; leaving my car garaged. I was able to do that because I live in an urban village with frequent transit options, including the C Line. I believe that every neighborhood in Seattle should have access to the same and, in doing so, we will improve our quality of life. I want more people to have equitable access to housing choice, more ways to get around and more to see and do as a method of building community connections.

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

As a woman of color, a first generation American, and the daughter of immigrants, I know firsthand the challenges of creating equitable outcomes for BIPOC. Equitable outcomes require a commitment to actively hiring BIPOC, especially into leadership positions. It's not enough to say that we want to hire diverse talent, we need to actively recruit diverse talent, especially in positions of leadership, and change the culture of our workplaces so that everyone truly feels welcome. As Mayor, I will lead by example. I have prioritized hiring BIPOC community members in my council office, 3 of my 4 staffers are BIPOC, and I will continue to do so. I will ensure that the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are prioritized in every

single city department and model these principles for businesses and nonprofits throughout the city.

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

I'm grateful for web conferencing, which has allowed me to continue doing critical work during a global pandemic, reduced my commute, and helped me stay in touch with friends and family. That said, like most, I am excited that things are gradually returning to normal because I love meeting people in person.