



Seattle City Councilmember Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete the candidate endorsement questionnaire for the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA). Your responses will help us 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.

We will also offer virtual candidate interviews with members of the WTIA Policy Steering Committee for a discussion to gain a more thorough understanding of your answers. Following the interview process, we will make our endorsement decisions.

Please send your responses to Kelly Fukai at kfukai@washingtontechnology.org by Monday, August 28th.

Please note that this questionnaire and your responses will be published on the WTIA website and used in a digital voter guide provided to Seattle-based tech employees.

Candidate Questionnaire

1. What are your top three priorities for the City of Seattle, and what will you do to accomplish them?

Priority 1:

Public safety. A multi-prong approach that includes restoring law enforcement numbers to pre-pandemic levels, enacting a robust accountability structure for the Seattle Police Department, revising the civilian Community Service Officer program to broaden its duties and neighborhood availability, expanding the multi-disciplinary crisis response team, upscaling gun violence prevention and intervention programs while investing in the antidotes to violence of educational



and economic opportunity, social supports, and counseling, improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as well as traffic control and calming measures.

Priority 2:

Affordable housing. End exclusionary zoning citywide. Allow for increased housing choice and diversity in every neighborhood. Utilize the City's new social housing Public Development Authority to purchase existing private properties and convert new and existing city properties into social housing. Revisit the Mandatory Housing Affordability and Multifamily Tax Exemption Credit laws to ensure they are optimizing the production of affordable housing. Enact robust displacement strategies modeled after the successful Vulcan redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. Subsidize reparative funding models such as land trusts, land banks, and other communal ownership structures.

Priority 3:

Homelessness. Pass the Housing Levy so more permanent supportive housing can be built. Build more affordable housing (see above). Keep people housed through rental vouchers financed by the Jump Start tax. Utilize block leasing to keep rents lower. Build more Tiny Home villages and open R/V safe lots. Expand shelter capacity and remove barriers to accessing shelter: open 24/7, no provider referral required, pets, partners and possessions allowed. For individuals coping with behavioral health and/or substance use disorders, more mobile, on-site treatment, create "landing sites" where individuals in crisis can detox and get connected with additional services, collaborate with UW Medicine to ensure the opening of a planned behavioral health training center in North Seattle, look to purchase a city operated behavioral health facility.

0. What do you see as the role for the tech sector in Seattle's future? How would you partner with the tech sector to foster a robust and resilient community?

The tech sector represents 22% of the state's economy and for every tech job, three additional jobs are created. Despite inflationary pressures and changes to the work environment, the tech sector remains strong and is predicted to continue to grow in Seattle. In fact, there are currently many unfilled positions in the City's tech sector.

I would partner with the tech sector to find ways the City can support startups' access to investment capital, especially for the BIPOC community, women, and immigrants. I would increase City investment in registered technology



apprenticeships. I would look for public-private partnership opportunities in the healthcare, maritime, clean energy, cloud, 5G and satellite broadband sectors.

0. Given the importance of the tech sector's contributions to the Seattle economy, what would you do to increase Seattle's competitiveness vis-a-vis emerging tech hubs like Denver, Miami, and Austin? What initiatives would you put forward to support tech employers, entrepreneurs, and employees?

To remain competitive over cities like Denver, Miami, and Austin, Seattle must retain and enhance its liveability. Some initiatives would be creating co-investment funds to share the risk of supporting new innovative companies, renegotiating office space leases, and bringing together the tech sector and local educational institutions for collaboration.

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

By bringing together the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Labor Standards, the IT Dept and the WTIA DEI Center of Excellence to craft a technology worker bill of rights. Lobbying our state delegation for money from the federal Digital Equity Act for digital literacy programs. Building a pipeline of BIPOC leaders through registered apprenticeships and expansion of STEM programs. Supporting Priority Hire.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve our community.

Kelly Fukai
VP, Government and Community Affairs
WTIA