



August 14, 2023

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

Priority 2: Affordable Housing & Homelessness

Priority 3: Climate Justice and the new green economy

For in depth details please visit www.marenforseattle.org



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? Seattle's tech roots are crucial to our city's future. There are two primary forces that will hit the next generation and the next decade: 1) the climate crisis and its necessary energy transition, and 2) AI and its ramifications in our economy and our society. The tech sector will play a critical role in both. I would love to evolve South Seattle College into the top feeder school to develop this workforce and attract the related industries.

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? Seattle needs to continue to be supportive to tech startups and the tech industry as a whole, but more importantly: Denver, Miami, and Austin are succeeding primarily because they offer a lower cost of living. We need to dramatically increase Seattle's affordable housing supply. Additionally, the cities that have been most successful at revitalization are using a "worker first" model, where if we build the city that the best workers want to live in, the industry/businesses will follow.

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? Racism, sexism, and gender discrimination permeate every aspect of society, yet I have been heartened by how Seattle City Government has been addressing this head on. We need to have rigorous data collection and transparency, and repeatable mechanisms to uncover and quash systemic bias wherever it lies. I would support pay transparency, promotion velocity transparency, and discipline transparency in every industry. Workers' rights are our best lever for justice and equality.

More importantly, I would love to hear from you what your top issues are and how Seattle City Council could help make Seattle better for the tech sector and for tech workers.



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I look forward to meeting with you.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve our community.

Kelly Fukai
VP, Government and Community Affairs
WTIA