

2023 Seattle Candidate Questionnaire

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Policies

Here are some of the issues important to Seattle voters. What policy proposals do you have to address them? If a topic is not a part of your campaign focus, feel free to ignore and you are welcome to discuss topics that aren't listed below. <https://www.purplely.org>.



Public Safety and Gun Violence

Please provide detailed policy proposals and action plans in bullet points and avoid broad statements.



Seattle has now become an 'Emergency Room' itself as a City. I believe that priorities must be triaged with the same level of urgency and emergency that we already declared in 2015.

My primary priority is to implement the solution I had proposed in detail in 2019. The main problem is public safety. drug addiction, mental health, lack of enforcement of pre-existing laws, increases in crime, and homelessness.

I really only have one priority and that is a solution which I believe should and could have started 4 years ago.

Hardcore drugs were really not part of the Seattle scene until Marijuana was legalized and policies changed. That is when I recall harder drugs hitting the Seattle 'scene'. I am not confident that by suing Purdue Pharmaceuticals, the City really accomplished much--unless people really believe we eliminated the 'opiate crisis' by bringing in Fentanyl.

I would support policies that criminalize illegal open drug use and consumption. However, I cannot control the Courts and the County Executive who runs the Jail. For that reason, I am going to defer back to the solutions already presented in 2019.

I think it is long overdue we address the root problems of mental health and drug addiction and if successful, that will lead to reduction in crime, homelessness, people on the streets, public camping, and cleaner streets.

- No more heroine needles all over the sidewalks, parks, on buses.
- No more organized retail crime.
- Stores downtown that can prosper without compromising the safety of their employees or customers and guests.
- More trees and grass where children can play.
- Public transportation that is usable without having to fear assault, drug exposure, other violence.
- Simple civility amongst people. People opening the door for others, being kind, offering to help.
- No people looking or possibly dead the streets.
- No more cross street gun violence.
- No open drug markets.

I don't think that any particular policy is going to help the Seattle Police Department (SPD). But I would like to see some type of liasion between the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) and SPD.

At the same time, the City of Seattle has a lot of policies in the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) and those policies only work if there is a way to enforce them. So right now I think it needs to be a group effort that also involves public-private partnerships, inspiring the next generation to join SPD or SFD instead of gangs.

In other words, I don't think Seattle can just 'write it's way out of the history book' -- our Elected Officials have now created in the last four years. I mean sirens, gunshots, people



that appear dead after being revived by SPD, it just gets to you. It starts to effect everyone in some way or another. It is really sad.

One policy I would support is an independent investigation to ensure there is no public corruption at any level. No kickback contracts. None of that. Being a Leader is not the same as being a 'Fundraiser' and that seems to be all our current City Council incumbents running for re-election care about.

Economy and Jobs

Please provide detailed policy proposals and action plans in bullet points and avoid broad statements.

I think this needs to be tabled until we have the other priorities addressed. I don't think it's necessary to go into all of the 'housing developer' issues right now. We have a lot of housing in Seattle. And most of it is vacant. So until I stop seeing 'vacant' signs all over, stores and businesses closed-- I am just not going along with the 'we don't have enough housing' narrative.

We should use 'Enterprise Partnerships' - basically a rent-to-own option for people my age range or about so that they can accumulate and build the same wealth that home owners do while also benefiting the 'owners' or 'partners' of such establishments.

I also would love to see more local fairs supported and pre-funded by the City to get businesses back to where they were at and to attract a sense of community in Downtown. But that starts with safety.



Homelessness

Please provide detailed policy proposals and action plans in bullet points and avoid broad statements.



SOLVE THE CRISIS USING RECYCLED CARGO CONTAINERS ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LAND

I propose we temporarily use 23 vacant empty plots of City-Owned land or possibly private land. Each site will have 22-25 Cargo Containers 40 x 8 ft. These containers will be renovated to include windows, dividers, insulation and electricity. Cargo containers are moveable, earthquake proof, already have an emergency ladder so are up to fire code. They are very abundant in our area and often end up in the waste stream.

The containers will be modeled into dorm-like units that unlock with a magnetic card. There will be 8-16 campers per container depending on each individual's situation and size. Each unit inside the container will be 75-80 square feet. Two to five of the containers at each site will be used for showering, portable toilets, and cooking. We could use Seattle Fire's Mobile Integrated Health Program and also partner with Community Groups like 'We Heart Seattle'. We could restore the Navigation Team.

People would choose to be prosecuted or fined unless they voluntarily accept treatment. If they will not, we could use some sites as an involuntary treatment facility. We can ban camping if we have enough space and places for people to go. This way it is not a one-size fits all approach. Individuals will take a drug test and complete a digital questionnaire that will be streamlined into a database and paired with an algorithm to determine which site best matches the issues they are dealing with. For example, we will not put the severely drug-addicted near the non-drug addicted and severely mentally ill.

There will be 12 employees at each site during the day to administer medical and job-training services earning an average annual salary of \$75,000. Individuals will have 5-8 months (circumstantial) to live in the renovated container for free while also having a multitude of options to earn money. They can help build the containers for other sites, help clean the City's mess that camping has caused and work other odd jobs.

Funds earned will be deposited into their own account. However, individuals cannot access these funds until they exit the program with a job and enough money saved to afford the upfront cost needed to attain long-term housing.

We will use the Washington State Apprenticeship program to train and pair campers with jobs they are capable of or are interested in. This will help meet the increased need for skilled workers that many industries are struggling with. In lieu of a future head tax or another business tax, we will ask for their help and cooperation to set up the technological infrastructure, databases and analytics to support training and job placement for these individuals. We could also invite businesses to sponsor the program in return for free advertising by either naming a site after the business or advertising their name on the outside of a container like a billboard. We could also give them a tax credit to show our gratitude for their cooperation. The projected cost is less than \$40 million and would immediately house up to 10,000 campers.

The sites will not be in parks. The sites will be contained within a fence. Sites will be freely accessible to those in that specific site during open hours. Roommates would be either randomly selected or chosen upon individual preference. The units will have windows and doors that are magnetically accessible with a key card. This way we do not need to worry



about keys getting lost or stolen and we will not have to change locks. Former campers will swipe in and swipe out, leaving a record of the exact time that they entered and exited to deter crime or abuse of the program.

This is not the four seasons. It is more of a college, trade school, or rehab for campers that will fill the gap of current supplies and demands. This is an URGENT solution to a very long-standing EMERGENCY. I have spoken to hundreds of campers and they are ready when we are. It is very easy to be 'for or against' a policy. However, it is not easy to be against an idea unless there is a better one. I do not believe there is a better solution to this City's homelessness / camping crisis.

Housing

Please provide detailed policy proposals and action plans in bullet points and avoid broad statements.

Using the model described above, we could work with low income affordable housing and also use 'Enterprise Partnerships' - basically a rent-to-own option for people my age range or about so that they can accumulate and build the same wealth that home owners do while also benefiting the 'owners' or 'partners' of such establishments.



Public Services/Transportation

Please provide detailed policy proposals and action plans in bullet points and avoid broad statements.

Mandatory earthquake preparedness.

IMMEDIATELY emphasizing things like the Magnolia Bridge.

CPR training for citizens.

HAM Radio being an extra credit in public schools. More emergency volunteers. Basic understanding of code compliance.

No more bike lanes until there is a plan. Maybe literally making a visual model of the entire city as a prototype on a table before just throwing in these random special interest projects.

Stop investing in buses when the buses are not safe and even drivers are becoming ill from secondhand exposure to drugs.

Mandating the users and companies that supply these new scooters are fined each and every time they don't return it into a 'bike rack' liked station-- with HELMETS.

The bike groups might kill me for this but we had bike trails. I rode bikes all the time with my dad and sister. I have no idea when we decided to squeeze all this into arterial roads. I do not believe these 'bike lanes' are for some poor person from a marginalized community as has been promoted.

They are for rich people that own 10-15k bikes that often refuse to follow the rules of the road, or wear helmets. The scooters are just for Tourism.

And what I will say is that if there is one thing that drives these elections-- it is not the people. It is special interests that only care about profit for their private companies while billing the public for such 'ventures'. It's basically just a bunch of racketeering.

My position is that I look at both sides of the streets. I don't walk around with 'blinders' on just because one side of the street looks better. I care about Seattle as a City and I care that people as another person.



Environment/Climate

Please provide detailed policy proposals and action plans in bullet points and avoid broad statements.

- Implement common sense solutions that will address the root cause of the crises that have left thousands on Seattle's sidewalks, streets, and parks where criminal activity continues to run rampant.
 - Improve public safety while also re-building trust between the public and our safety providers, like the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) and the Seattle Police Department (SPD).
 - Urgently and immediately deal with the amount of waste and trash that continues to accumulate around the City and its perimeter, so we can once again actually look like the green City we used to.
 - Balance a budget so the needs of the general public is prioritized over 'special interest(s)' and conduct regular audits.
 - Establish training sites for individuals displaced or unemployed in order to increase the supply of skilled workers so we can add high-paying jobs that meet current workforce demands.
 - Incentivize education in areas where we are falling behind (STEM).
 - Hold elected individuals and local leaders at every level personally and professionally accountable.
 - I would support imposing a fine for littering and propose a brighter and more persuasive solution that would add more recycling and trash receptacles. I would support tax incentives for businesses to follow this idea.
-



Other Relevant Topics

Please provide detailed policy proposals and action plans in bullet points and avoid broad statements.

My vision for Seattle starts with urgently and immediately addressing the camping crisis we know is not only about housing, but also very intertwined to drug use, mental illness, and revolving door liberal policies that while may have started with good intentions, have had tragic results. My vision for Seattle includes:

- No more heroine needles all over the sidewalks, parks, on buses.
- No more organized retail crime.
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- More trees and grass where children can play.
- Public transportation that is usable without having to fear assault, drug exposure, other violence.
- Simple civility amongst people. People opening the door for others, being kind, offering to help.
- No people looking or possibly dead.
- No more cross street gun violence.
- No open drug markets.

I remember what Seattle used to be. And I know that when I was a child, Seattle wasn't a big City. And we are now. So I know we can't just dial back the clock. But I do think that we have lost touch with the sense of community we once had. I think this is partially due to repeated violence. Further, I think one thing that kept Seattle safe especially in the downtown area was that businesses were open and there were actually people who are not homeless or involved in active criminal activity that felt safe going out and would. I feel in many ways having more people and open businesses this was a safety net.

To sum this up, my vision for Seattle is 360 degrees. It is easy to just avoid one area and say, 'oh it looks great' when two blocks down it is the exact opposite. My vision for Seattle is seeing common sense ideas and solutions actually become a reality.

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Isabelle Kerner - ...



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