

Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27 2019 Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

I. Campaign Information

Candidate Name: [Isabelle Kerner](#)

Position Sought: [Seattle City Council – Seat #7 – District #7](#)

Campaign Committee Name: [Kerner for Council](#)

Address: [900 Queen Anne Ave N #107, Seattle, WA](#)

Campaign Phone Number: [\(206\) 271-1560](#)

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Campaign Manager Name: [Isabelle Kerner](#)

Campaign Manager Phone Number: [\(206\) 271-1560](#)



Campaign Information

a. Have you ever run for or held an elected office? (please circle one)

Yes No

b. If so, did you receive the endorsement of Local 27 or another IAFF affiliate?

Yes No N/A

c. If so, did you receive the endorsement of any labor organizations? If yes, please list.

Yes No N/A

d. Have you received the endorsement of any labor organization(s) for your current campaign? If yes, please list.

Not yet. Recently submitted several endorsement questionnaires.

e. Please describe your campaign manager's experience.

Currently, I am my own campaign manager. My campaign strategy is one I created myself. In the next coming months, I will likely need to hire individuals and recruit more volunteers so that I can delegate some of the duties. While I may need to hire a campaign manager at a later date, right now it is not feasible given my budget limitations. Further, the strategy I am using has never been used before as it involves targeting those who have not been as politically active in local elections.

f. Please identify your campaign consultant(s).

Zero!

g. Do you have a written campaign plan?

Yes. I plan to fund my campaign more with people, time and energy. Being young, I also know how to use social media. I am a political science major and one of first things I learned when studying campaign strategy was that media changed the game. Many currently used campaign strategies exclude or downplay the role that social media and other forms of media have on campaigns.

Most importantly, my campaign will create and focus on ideas that generate solutions. Ideas and solutions are less polarizing than policies. Policies tend to create a 'for or against' response with no middle ground, where as ideas and solutions—if strong enough, are more likely to attract support regardless of any individuals political identity. While policies are necessary, their effectiveness depends greatly on whether or not they align with the social and economic norms of society.

My campaign will focus on mobilizing voters who have previously been excluded and will target audiences that have not previously been as politically active.

h. What is your campaign fundraising goal?

My campaign fundraising goal is \$0-155,000 depending on how far I get, how many democracy vouchers I receive and how many voters I can mobilize.

i. Please briefly describe your campaign budget.

My campaign budget will involve focusing primarily on fixing the problems and mobilizing voters. In other words, I prefer to spend money in a way that is proactive and not passive. Instead of advertising myself, I will shine more light on Seattle's most pressing issues by promoting my new ideas that are proving to be just as powerful as money. I will continue to use my campaign budget to educate and mobilize the all individuals (homeless included) to ensure that my proposed solutions are feasible and work in favor of all interests affected.

j. What other endorsements have you received to date?

Al Hayes

Cargotecture

Egan Airships (Plimp)

Isabelle Kerner LLC.

James Egan

Ocean Cargo Inc.

k. What other endorsements do you expect/want to receive?

The public's endorsement is by far the most important to me.

l. What role will public safety issues play in your campaign? Please provide details.

Public safety issues will play a tremendous role in my campaign because my platform focuses primarily on expediently resolving the homelessness crisis and rebuilding and/or remodeling our transportation and housing infrastructure so that it ensures safety in the event of an earthquake, any other natural disaster, or act of terror.

If elected, I will use shipping containers to deploy homeless individuals into transitional housing created on the remaining vacant and/or underutilized city-owned land. Providing homeless individuals with semi-permanent housing will get people off of the street, grant them access to addiction services, mental health resources, and give them an opportunity to find meaningful jobs that align with their own passions and interests. Getting people off of the streets will not only improve public safety by reducing property crime, assault, and drug addiction, but will also improve sanitization via better controlling diseases that pose a threat to the public.

Further, by fostering a system that does not enable these issues and instead addresses the underlying causes of drug addiction, mental illness, and homelessness, this plan will solve the problem instead of just treating the symptoms.

I will also focus on Seattle's infrastructure. The threat of an earthquake is inevitable and the City of Seattle's Administration has repeatedly prioritized its own agenda and reputation above public safety. If Seattle's public officials continue to ignore issues that pose extreme threats to the safety of the public, the lack regard will at some point result in a tremendous loss of life, extreme structural damage, and numerous injuries. There is no price you can put on the existence or quality of human life.

The City of Seattle has continuously suggested that they can't fix anything because they don't have enough money. However, no one fully understands where the money is going. If public officials devise new ideas instead of relying on old, antiquated ones—they could quickly generate solutions that would not require so much money and the solutions would be so reasonable that money and time wouldn't be wasted fighting about them.

If elected, this is what I plan to do. A multi-fold approach is much more effective in resolving the issues that pose the largest threat to public safety. By treating the root causes of every problem instead of just addressing the symptoms, I will eliminate the problem instead of further exacerbating it.

There also must be more accountability. We all make mistakes and we all fail. Mistakes are only harmful when we ignore them in order to evade responsibility. Not only do I have the courage of my convictions to stand up what isn't working, I also have the capacity to admit and accept my past failures and mistakes.

m. Describe any union experience and or past support for the labor movement.

While I have never worked for a unionized employer, I do support the right to unionize and collectively bargain. I am the Chair of the Safety Committee for Chihuly Garden and Glass and have successfully ensured that the safety of my colleagues is highly prioritized. I have no issue asserting my position on safety issues to those ranked above me in order to ensure that the safety of my colleagues is prioritized above anything else.

II. Priorities

a. What will your priorities be if elected?

1. Address homelessness by getting as many people off of the streets as quickly as possible.
2. Ensure that everyone has access to mental health & addiction services.
3. Ensure that departments within the City of Seattle are communicating effectively and working together to address issues.
4. Ensure that the law is enforced, especially when concerning repeat-offenders and violent criminals.
5. Invest in long-term infrastructure that ensures Seattle is prepared if and when it is posed with an earthquake or other natural disaster.

b. What are the most significant issues facing Seattle?

1. Homelessness
2. Opioid Addiction & access to physical/mental health services
3. Affordability (ability to work and live in Seattle)
4. Effective enforcement of laws, transparency & accountability
5. Traffic

c. What committees are you interested in serving on?

1. Finance and Neighborhoods
2. Housing, Health, Energy, and Workers' Rights
3. Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans, and Education
4. Planning, Land Use and Zoning:
5. Select Committee on Homelessness and Housing Affordability

d. What public safety issues will you focus on if elected?

1. Assault and violence amongst repeat offenders
2. Access to mental health and addiction services
3. Homelessness
4. Earthquake and other natural disaster response and preparation
5. Safety in the workplace

e. What labor issues will you focus on if elected?

I will focus on protecting the right to collectively bargain and unionize, promoting safe working conditions, allocating more resources and funding for the Fire Department to address staffing shortages, access to mental health resources and safety issues, and ensuring that the Fire Department and City of Seattle are able to clearly communicate and work with each other to address these issues at the Municipal, State and Federal level.

f. What issues are you aware of that are challenging the Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Fire Fighters and how you would address these issues as an elected official?

I am aware that Seattle Fire Fighters are facing issues with safe working conditions, staffing shortages, substantial budgets, affordable wages, access to mental and emotional health resources as well as their right to collectively bargain. If elected, I will address these issues by supporting legislation that addresses these issues, opposing legislation that further hinders the resolution of these issues, and by introducing new legislation as needed to address these issues immediately.

g. If elected, will you meet or respond to Seattle Fire Fighters in a timely manner when we request it due to a concern or question?

Absolutely. I move fast and I take safety very seriously.

III. Seattle Fire Fighter Issues

PTSD and Fire Fighter Suicide

On the job stresses have a direct link to a high rate of PTSD and suicide for firefighters and EMTs. The Seattle Fire Department has actually experienced two suicides within 12 months in 2016. Research has shown that fire fighters have a higher rate of PTSD than the general population. According to the American Psychiatric Association, the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the general population ranges from seven percent to nine percent. Various research studies pertaining specifically to firefighters have cited PTSD rates for firefighters ranging from 16 percent to as high as 24 percent. Most people associate PTSD with the military (combat veterans). It has been referred to as “shell shock” and “battle fatigue.” The use of these terms has been slowly fading as public awareness of PTSD has increased. What has also changed is that there is an increased willingness to seek professional help for PTSD. It is difficult to determine the number of fire fighters who have PTSD. Many firefighters will not admit they have PTSD due to the social and professional stigma attached to psychological issues. In addition, fire fighters are typically concerned that seeking help for mental health issues could negatively impact their careers.

If elected, will you support efforts, resources, and funding for programs to ensure the mental and emotional health of fire fighters?

As someone who has dealt with PTSD, I fully empathize with the effect that it can have on an individuals' life, career, personal relationships, and worldview. It can be a very disabling disability that is virtually invisible to the outside observer. It is also very lonely because only those who experience truly understand what a profound effect it can have. It is very much akin to living in a nightmare. In my very worst moments, I felt like suicide was my only option. It is well known in the scientific community that PTSD is no longer limited at all to combat veterans and can effect anyone that has dealt with a traumatic event.

If elected, I will absolutely supports effort, resources and funding for programs to ensure firefighters have access to mental and emotional health resources. I will also share my own stories in hopes it will encourage others to do the same. Psychological issues are very prevalent in today's society and they should not be stigmatized. The problem is that often no one wants to talk about it. Someone needs to break the ice on this issue so that the pattern of stigmatization is broken.

Additionally, there should also be a no-tolerance policy for fire fighters or any others who come forward about the psychological issues they are facing. Fire fighters and all other individuals providing emergency services that undoubtedly risk their own personal safety for the publics should be provided with whatever time and resources they need to address any psychological issues they are facing. They all need to know that what are experiencing is not uncommon and does not reflect any flaw in their ability to perform their duties.

I would also encourage that the issue of PTSD be addressed not only after it has occurred, but before it has occurred. PTSD should be part of the discussion when fire fighters and other emergency responders are trained so that they do not ever feel like they are the only ones experiencing the problem if it becomes an issue later on in their career.

Assaults on Fire Fighters

Seattle Fire Fighters Union, Local 27 has multiple fire fighters who have sustained injuries due to being assaulted by citizens while providing emergency care. Assaults on fire fighters and paramedics have been escalating over the last couple of years. One of the fire fighters who was assaulted during an EMS response may not even be able to return to work due to the injuries he sustained. In addition, citizens who assault a fire fighter or paramedic are not held accountable and charged appropriately for this crime.

If elected, will you support efforts to reduce assaults on fire fighters?

If elected, I will absolutely support efforts to reduce assaults on fire fighters. I will also ensure that anyone who assaults a fire fighter providing emergency services is held accountable to the highest degree as the probability that assailant will assault another individual in the future is extremely high. Most assaults come from repeat offenders.

Additionally, I will do everything I can to lower the chances that any individual ever assaults a fire fighter. I think part of that must involve addressing the homelessness crisis, opioid epidemic, and lack of sufficient mental health services in Seattle.

If elected, can we count on you to support legislation that sends a strong message that assaulting fire fighters will be not be tolerated in Seattle?

If there is one person you can count on to support legislation that sends a strong message to Seattle's residents that assault will not be tolerated on emergency responders or other individuals, I **AM** that person.

I do not think there is any other individual in my district or perhaps any other that fully understands the physical and mental implications that assault can have on an individual's life as well as I can. There is a huge flaw in our enforcement of assault in Seattle. It is not often taken seriously and the majority of assaults come from repeat offenders who cycle through the court system, are never charged and then repeat the offense because it has no consequences. It is unacceptable and there is absolutely no excuse for why it is continuously getting worse.

Post-Retirement Medical Coverage

Fire fighting is a dangerous, labor-intensive, and physically demanding job that requires a high degree of skill and efficiency.

Fire fighters are typically unable to work effectively beyond their mid-fifties. Furthermore, fire fighters are more susceptible to certain types of cancers.

Medicare coverage does not begin until 65. Thus, after many years of dedicated service most Seattle Fire Fighters must provide their own medical coverage for up to 14 years after retirement creating a significant financial impact at a time when fire fighter's health is at risk.

Post-retirement healthcare from retirement until Medicare is a significant financial burden that is unusual for most workers.

If elected, will you support efforts to support the healthcare coverage needs of fire fighters between retirement and Medicare?

Absolutely.

Fire Department Service Increases

Demands on the Seattle Fire Department continue to increase at an alarming rate.

Seattle has experienced unprecedented growth in the last several years and has been the fastest growing city in the United States since 2010, adding 116,000 more citizens, which is an 18.7% increase in population. This is Seattle's greatest rate of growth since the Klondike Goldrush in 1896.

The homeless/street population has also increased. Seattle Fire Fighters serve every member of our community without regard to financial status, immigration status, or any other criteria. We respond 24 hours a day to alleys and parks as well as to homes and hotels. We serve those living on the streets of Broadway and Belltown as well as those living in the homes of Broadmoor and Blue Ridge. We respond daily into unauthorized homeless encampments to answer the calls of the people living there. These responses have increased dramatically and have become more challenging in many ways.

Meanwhile, over the years the department has eliminated several Fire Engines and Aid Cars due to budget cuts. The growing number of vulnerable Seattle residents including the elderly, people with mental health issues, people with drug and alcohol addictions, and the homeless, are inundating Seattle's fire fighters with 911 calls that are not acute emergencies although they are in need of help. 911 is oftentimes the primary source of medical care for some of these populations. When fire fighters respond to these calls they are no longer available for more time-sensitive critical emergencies.

Fire department resources have been reduced overall. Normally when a single unit approaches 3500 responses annually then additional resources are considered. SFD has single units responding to 4,000, 5,000, 6,000, 7,000 and over 8,000 responses annually. This is not sustainable.

In 2002 it was projected that 10,963 housing units would be added to South Lake Union by 2020. Between 2004 and 2010, 1.78 million square feet of biotech space was constructed, 2.2 million square feet of office space was constructed, and a total of 257,679 square feet of retail space was constructed. So far, actual development has exceeded the highest projected growth by 10 percent. An economic study has projected up to \$154 million in new direct tax revenue may be generated by redevelopment between 2005 and 2025, with as many as 23,000 jobs created in South Lake Union by 2020. Currently,

in South Lake Union Seattle Fire Fighters provide fire and life safety services to over 50,000 additional citizens with the same level of resources we had ten years ago. We must provide the necessary resources to keep pace with the growing demands of our thriving city. services must be properly prioritized and maintained at the required minimum levels.

If elected, will you oppose any reductions and support increases to fire department services?

Absolutely.

If elected, will you always ensure that emergency services are maintained at safe and appropriate levels?

Yes.

If elected, are you willing to oppose efforts to cut or reduce fire department response times or resources, especially in lieu of other non-essential services?

Absolutely.

SFD Uniformed Dispatchers

Seattle has one the best and most responsive 911 operations in the nation. One significant reason for this is that Seattle has experienced uniformed fire fighters answering 911 calls and dispatching aid. Having experienced fire fighters as 911 Dispatchers allows the fire fighters on scene and those they are helping get the proper resources. Having experienced fire fighters as 911 Dispatchers is also important because their experience is critical in the allocation of the City's finite fire protection and life safety resources. In other words, making sure that the proper apparatus and personnel are dispatched to the most serious aid calls.

If elected, will you oppose elimination of uniformed fire fighters as Dispatchers at the Seattle 911 call center?

Yes.

5-Person Ladder Companies

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) sets national standards for the fire service to protect the public and make fire fighters as safe as possible when they do their job. NFPA 1710 sets staffing standards which includes at least four (4) fire fighters on every engine company and ladder company and five (5) fire fighters on ladder companies in high density areas.

*These staffing standards are based on studies and determined by a consortium of participants including members of the fire service, municipalities business, and industry professionals. These staffing standards are **minimum** standards that ensure timely, safe, effective, and appropriate service levels for communities.*

With the increases population and density occurring in Seattle 5-person ladder companies become even more important than ever.

If elected, will you support five-person ladder companies where indicated and preserve four-person staffing on every fire engine and fire truck in Seattle?

Yes. But, ideally it makes more sense to have five people (one each) for every ladder. Safety should always be the first priority. There is no price you can put on someone else's quality of life.

Collective Bargaining

Collective Bargaining is a critical element of positive and effective labor relations. Public Employee Unions are a great asset in dealing with critical issues such as the severe government budget shortfalls we recently experienced. For example, in their 2008 contract negotiations Seattle Fire Fighters proposed and agreed to forego the minimum 2% cost of living increase for their entire 3 year contract to help the City of Seattle during the economic downturn. Then again, in their current contract, Seattle Fire Fighters agreed to take significantly less than the cost of living for 2012 and 2013. These acts of leadership saved the City millions of dollars and demonstrated the value of a good relationship with workers. In other parts of the country we have seen more aggressive and antagonistic approaches to dealing with public employee unions that may save some money in the short term, but ultimately will destroy morale, decrease productivity, and set a poor example for all employers.

Our right to collectively bargaining is under attack. Legislators in several states, including Washington, and multiple jurisdictions across this country are working with organizations such as the Freedom Foundation to pass ALEC-sponsored legislation that is detrimental to collective bargaining. The current legislation being pushed by this corporate-funded non-profit calls for public employee collective bargaining sessions to be open to the public in the interest of transparency. This is not about transparency, it is about destroying unions.

The goal of the ALEC legislation is to use the misinformed court of public opinion to cripple public unions and continue the march towards a country where greed has no antidote. ALEC currently has some traction with this model legislation in Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington

Several organizations/offices in Seattle are in support of open collective bargaining for police officers. These include, the Director of the Office of Professional Accountability, the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board, the Community Police Commission, and seemingly the Seattle City Attorney's Office. Their support is just the crack in the door that the Freedom Foundation, the Washington Policy Center, ALEC and all the other union busting groups have been waiting for. We have boards and commissions in Seattle that are playing right into the hands of organized labors' enemy. Just look at what is being posted on the website of the Freedom Foundation: "Other periodicals agree with the Freedom Foundation's Position", and they go on to say, "Notes obtained through a public records request—show the Department of Justice, director of the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA), the OPA Auditor, the Community Police Commission (CPC), and the OPA Review Board agreed that the collective bargaining process should be made public." The Freedom Foundation is applauding what they see as a first step towards open collective bargaining for all.

If elected, will you support the collective bargaining rights of Seattle Fire Fighters, City of Seattle employees, and all union employees and oppose any and all legislation, at the City or State level that reduces the rights and abilities of workers to collectively bargain with their employer?

Yes. Collective bargaining is a right that has proven effective. It is the only way for workers employed by a large agency to voice their concerns. The City of Seattle is highly dependent on its employees. Many of them can no longer afford to live in Seattle, therefore they don't have a say when it comes to voting for the officials that run the administration. Collective bargaining is a right and we must introduce legislation that further supports and protects it.

If elected will you oppose efforts or legislation to ‘daylight’ or open collective bargaining to the public?

Yes. Collective bargaining should not be a matter the public is concerned with. The public already has a choice in determining where their tax money goes and how it is spent through voting given they live in the City of Seattle. Many of those who work for the City of Seattle can no longer afford to live here and therefore do not get to vote. Collective bargaining is the only way they have a say in negotiating their wages, benefits, working conditions, and other rights.

So- called “Right to Work”

We have been seeing attacks on Labor Unions nationwide, with States attempting to enact Right-to-Work laws. These laws weaken Unions and significantly reduce an employee's voice concerning wages, hours, and working conditions.

If elected, will you oppose and work to block any attempt to bring Right-to-Work laws to Washington State?

Absolutely. The Seattle City Council members should file a lawsuit against the Federal Government demanding that the Supreme Court overturn the decision the Janus decision or any other measure that imposes so-called “right to work” laws on unionized employees.

Safe Injection Sites

Safe Injection Sites have been proposed by some in response to the opioid crisis.

Safe-injection sites allow drug addicts to inject illegal drugs intravenously in a public facility.

According to Dr. Caleb Banta-Green at the University of Washington, “It (safe injection sites) may not help with mortality rates. I suspect it does but it's small. About 1 to 2 percent of opiate injectors die every year. So, you have to be studying thousands of people to see an effect of that.”

Opponents of Safe Injection Sites emphasize the need for treatment facilities and counseling rather than condoning and normalizing this type of drug use.

Fire fighters respond every day to people who use illegal drugs, including intravenous heroin users, and we know that condoning and supporting heroin addiction is the wrong path. Addiction to heroin is only part of the horror we see. Heroin use means crime, incarceration, and criminal predators, job loss, broken families, homelessness, child abuse, child prostitution, and more devastating effects. In terms of harm, allowing heroin addiction to continue creates extraordinary harm in a wide variety of ways.

If elected, what is your position on this proposal?

I am absolutely against safe-injection sites. I feel that the heroine and opioid crisis is highly correlated with the homelessness crisis and that the best way to address the problem is multi-fold. The first rule of anything is 'do no harm'. This type of enabling could be catastrophic if implemented. By supporting those who demand the supply of a drug, you also support and enable the individuals and underground organizations that supply the drug.

Navigation Team

The City of Seattle has a Navigation Team which is a specially trained team comprised of outreach workers paired with Seattle Police Department (SPD) personnel, to connect unsheltered people existing in unsanitary, unhealthy, and inhuman conditions to housing and critical resources, while helping to address pervasive intolerable situations related to homelessness in Seattle.

If elected, how will you address the issue of unauthorized encampments?

If elected, they will not be tolerated under my plan because I have a better one. I have also gone down to Pioneer Square and other encampments alone and have spoken with many of the homeless and they are all on board with the plan. A large majority of them want help and want to turn their lives around. They are also beginning to 'faction' and turn amongst each other. We can use the last bit of public land that is either vacant or underutilized to set up multiple transitional housing sites created with shipping containers that are moveable, stackable, and modifiable in literally any way you could imagine that are free for a period of 3-6 months.

We would pay them through a public Seattle bank to clean up the mess that homelessness has created. We could also employ them to remodel or develop the shipping containers further to be sold on the free market or even give them the opportunity to purchase ones they built for themselves.

We would also then partner with businesses of all sizes struggling to meet the demand for skilled workers and train the individuals in areas that correlate with their own passions and interests. We would also ensure that each site offers every individual with access to physical and mental health resources and services.

This would give them the opportunity to save several thousand dollars without having to worry about living expenses. Then, they would leave the program with a job that is of interest to them and could afford to rent an apartment.

If this idea works and drastically eliminates or reduces the rate of homelessness, we could also then sell the project to any other area struggling with the issue of homelessness.

We also should pass legislation that makes individuals able to vote online. If you don't have an address, you can't vote easily. This barrier directly excludes homeless individuals by not protecting their right to vote.

If elected, will you support unauthorized homeless encampment sweeps?

Yes, but we will call them unauthorized homeless encampment "sweep"-steaks. Meaning all homeless individuals that are displaced will be relocated or at least offered to live in one of the shipping

container homes. They will then be equipped with proper assistance, job training, and a “grace” period to save money so that they can afford to rent an apartment.

If elected, will you support the Navigation Team?

Absolutely.

If elected, how will you address the numerous conditions in public places in Seattle that create an unsafe working environment for fire fighters?

If we remove and address the conditions in these public places, we will increase the safety of working environments. As the Safety Committee Chair of the company I am employed at and as someone who has experienced a repetitive stress or work-related injury, I understand the need for safe working conditions as well as the need for strategies and changes that make working environments more safe.

Prioritizing Basic Services including Public Safety

Public Safety is a core function of any municipal government. However, while the City of Seattle has grown astronomically, and the number of emergency responses has increased with that growth in both number and type of response, the Seattle Fire Department has remained static. In fact, the fire department has fewer fire fighters than in previous years. In addition to front line fire fighters, the Training Division is under-staffed, especially in light of the increased training demands caused by an intentional reduction in the number of fire fighters hired over the last decade. Staffing all of our fire engines and fire trucks is critical to protecting the citizens of Seattle and ensuring that there are enough fire engines and trucks is just as important.

List some specific examples of how you will prioritize public safety if elected.

1. I will get all homeless individuals off the streets as quickly as possible by using the City’s vacant/underutilized land to develop transitional housing by convert shipping containers into transitional housing for a period of 3-6 months. This would give every individual access to housing and would likely cost the city no more than 25 million dollars. There would be sets of them spread out across Seattle. Each ‘set’ would directly correlate with the issues these individuals are facing. In other words, you would have the drug-addicted and mentally ill in some sets, families and/or individuals who have just fallen through the cracks and do not have serious substance abuse and/or mental health issues in a different ‘set’. And women and children fleeing domestic violence in another ‘set’. We would work with state programs like the apprenticeship program, and concurrently pair these individuals with businesses struggling to meet the increased demand for skilled workers so that they are able to exit the program with a job that aligns with their own talents, passions and interests. Additionally, we would also partner with large tech companies like Microsoft and Amazon to set up the technological infrastructure in return for avoiding any type of future head tax.

There would also be a program that would give these individuals the opportunity to save money by helping to clean up the mess that homelessness has created. In other words, they would be paid through a ‘Seattle Bank’ (basically a fund with say 1 million dollars in it). Individuals would use their access card to deposit trash, used needles, ect., into basically a large ATM. Their money would be kept in a bank account that they are not allowed to take cash out of. This would clean up the mess homelessness has created, get individuals off the streets, and potentially train qualified individuals to become emergency responders.

2. I will ensure every business operating in Seattle has a Safety Committee with greater oversight and enforcement so that the burden does not fall onto the Fire Department or other emergency responders in the event a major incident occurs due to lack of employee awareness. I will do the same for those who rent out units by making sure landlords provide detailed instructions on how to prevent emergencies and on how to act in the event they do occur.

3. I will ensure that Seattle focuses more effort and attention on addressing their response in the event of an earthquake, snowstorm, windstorm or other natural disaster so that the burden does not get imposed on the Fire Department or any other emergency responders by improving preparation, planning and response to these events.