



Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate -

Thank you for taking the time to provide your point of view on the following five questions, submitted to you from the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA). Your candid responses will help us to inform and engage the nearly 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 all the candidates, we will invite select finalists to meet with members of the WTIA Advocacy Committee to gain a more thorough understanding of your answers.

The WTIA represents the interests of more than 1,100 tech companies in our state. The Advocacy Committee includes a sample of those companies. Each member of the committee is a subject matter expert who contributes time and effort to help steer the WTIA in advocacy goals for the industry.

Please send your responses by **Monday, May 13** to the following : WTIA Manager of Government Affairs, Ian Griswold: igriswold@washingtontechnology.org

1. Tell us a bit about why you are running for City Council. What do you hope to achieve while you are in office? (500 word limit)

I am running for Seattle City Council because, for one, it is faster walking, two — I can see the direction that the future is headed if we do not expedite the ways in which we are dealing with Seattle's most pressing issues, and three — I feel that the future generation is currently unaware of the risks it will be facing and it is therefore my obligation to fix these problems before they become unfixable.

If there is one thing I have learned throughout this campaign, it is that you cannot focus on too many things at the same time and still achieve the result you desire. Right now, I feel like the City of Seattle has been focusing on too many things at the same time. As a result, we have made little to no progress in resolving the 'crisis' and 'emergencies' we declared years ago.

While in office, I hope to achieve a lot. I move very fast. I get bored easily if I am not challenged and we need to fix this urban camping crisis fast.

2. Seattle faces many challenges associated with rapid growth. Given this, what are your top 3 priorities for the city and why? (500 word limit)

My top 3 priorities are:

1. Resolve the Urban Camping Crisis.
2. Implement new brighter, better waste receptacles (related to 1st priority)
3. Foster a system that works with businesses of all sizes by trading them for the technology and infrastructure they have developed that Seattle does not yet have.

When talking about the challenges of responding to rapid growth, I think it is important to consider both the ways we have adapted to rapid growth in the past (as we did during the Alaskan Gold Rush), how we have attempted to do so recently, and what steps we can take to do better in the future.

As someone who used to work in Intellectual Property (IP) law, I would analogize patents to polices.

Patents : inventions

Policies : projects

There used to be a time when we were a 'first to invent' country. That meant that every inventor had the right to protect his invention. In 2012 we became a 'first to file' country. While these IP reforms were meant to remove barriers to innovation by eliminating patents that were not 'original' or had newly discovered 'prior art', I feel it had some systemic unintended consequences.

Most individuals base their decisions on a form of rational choice theory—meaning they run a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the benefit is positive or negative. If the benefit is positive, they will act the same. If the benefit is negative, they will choose the option they didn't the last time it was proposed.

There is a notion amongst our society that we live for the now. This doesn't work for me. I am always thinking about the future. While some may consider this catastrophizing, I call it critical thinking. It is what our current administration is lacking.

As someone who has worked at the federal level in politics, I can say with certainty that politics is a very slow moving vehicle. People want 'change', but they are afraid of it. I would be too. Change is an oxymoron. It is a word symbolizing an action that also denotes the coins we carry around in our pockets.

Early on in this campaign I realized what a terrible game politics was. That left me with two choices; play the game and risk losing myself, or make my own game I decided on the latter. I am inventing my own strategies, hitting my targets in a very different way while still adhering to the rules set forth.

3. Seattle has a booming economy, in large part driven by the tech sector. This creates opportunity and challenges. In your view, what is the role of the tech industry as a partner in creating a better city as we grow? (500 word limit)

This is a great question. I have a great opportunity for the tech sector and we could fix things a lot faster than the current Administration, but it might be so reasonable it won't work and I cannot do this without the help of the tech sector. The tech sector is very fast moving. I like that. We need to move fast here.

I know that there are deficiencies in STEM education. I know that it is difficult for the tech sector to find skilled workers because the demand is increasing at a faster rate than the supply. But it isn't just the tech industry that is constantly looking for skilled workers. It is all industries.

Through my eyes, the problem lies within the problem itself. Both politics and higher education have become a lucrative industry in recent decades. There is this notion that in order to succeed in life you have to go to college. You have to spend the first two years of college learning things you already learned in high school. You pay at least 1,200 to share a 10 foot square box with one other person and share 3 showers with at least 50 people. I've watched my former peers graduate only to discover there were no jobs that paid well in the fields that they studied. Many of them were disappointed so they took out more student loans. They got their masters degree, hoping to find jobs that pay higher salaries. Few of them succeeded, and many found themselves even deeper down the 'rabbit hole'.

The time for another option is now. I have that option and I have the plan — down to the detail of what it will cost, the companies it must involve, the support and trust of those who need it. We have a Washington State Apprenticeship program. We have the workers that are very skilled in a variety of industries but right now, unfortunately, they are camping. Some do not like the options society is offering them. So they have dropped out. Some of them can hack any computer, phone, power grid, etc. but have no idea how to transition into a legal sector. Others can build anything, some know how to tap the City's water system. A number have learned how profitable recycling is, so you might see them in your trash bin at 2am or setting their grounds right next to the recycling plants. We have lost them and we need to get them back fast.

How do I know this? I have visited hundreds of campsites. I've talked to the campers. I've been listening to them and I have found out how they operate, I am helping them organize. The timing could not have been better. Many of them want out. I can see the needle moving now and I love watching that happen. While it probably would have been more advantageous of me to spend my time earning the previous electorate's support by listening to their concerns and making promises I know are not feasible in order to earn their vote, that is not who I am. The last voting electorate also got us in this mess to begin with. To my disappointment, it don't know that they are going to vote any differently this time around.

So I have taken a bold bet. I'm mobilizing the non-voting electorate — the other 80%. What I need from the tech industry is the technology (in the form of data collection, magnetic card creating, and cooperation). I need the tech industry to invest in my new plan — not with money, just collaboration. I will need 64-87 computers and printers, a few thousand sheets of paper, some ink of course, assistance in creating a camper database. A few i-pads, or surface screens would be useful as well. Oh — I also need a new platform (like a basic login/signup data base).

4. What is Seattle's role in helping to promote emerging tech like 5G, autonomous vehicle infrastructure, and other "smart city" technology? (500 word limit)

This 500 word limit is not very fair. Here are some examples:

1. Magnolia is angry and frustrated about their LED lights. Apparently they are so bright that no one can sleep at night and they feel it is encouraging property crime by helping criminals see better at night. They also say it obstructs their driving ability due to the reflection on the streets caused by heavy rainfall. Apparently, the city installed new LED lights with no mechanism to lower the lumen output when they replaced the drivers. Tech industry might have some ideas.
2. We aren't going to get autonomous vehicle infrastructure until we do something about these busses. It is out of control. There is a proliferation of bus lanes and if you get on at the wrong time, you are stuck. Some of the busses are very aggressive too. Watch out!
3. The traffic lights are not timed correctly due to the fact that the technology that runs the timing is dependent on the other traffic lights in the city and they are not yet functioning as one system, but rather as a system made up of small systems that lack connection points.
4. We need a waste reform. The trash bins are too hard to see. There are not enough. Someone decided to camouflage them with nature. This is counterintuitive, as littering in one place has been scientifically proven to be a positive predictive variable in future littering. The recycling industry is frustrated. China won't accept our cardboard or our plastics anymore.
5. The public is very frustrated about the bike shares (especially the disabled population). People are parking them in the middle of sidewalks and sidewalk ramps. It is very inconsiderate. I've seen them in very strange places (including 20 feet under water while I was free diving). Someone needs to track these bikes better.

6. The bike lanes are in very odd places. Some of them go right through parking lots. I've now been T-boned twice by a bike that wasn't paying attention and once 'hit and run' by a longboard. Insurance doesn't cover the damage because bikes, et al. are not vehicles and are therefore not insured.
7. Parking tickets are still being sent out via snail mail. Some come all the way from Arizona. Maybe we could just set up an email system?
8. We also still VOTE by MAIL. Why can't we vote online? Why do we have attend 4 hour meetings to get our officials to hear our stance? We could just put a poll on a website. I used to answer phone calls when I interned for WA State Senator Maria Cantwell and if you call, your position is just entered into a google survey that I cannot confirm anyone actually looks at. Let's get with the times. We can do it. If I can renew my license and get a social security card online, I should be able to vote and give my positions online. Hackers will hack. Look at the last presidential election. We are supposed to set ground-breaking examples in Seattle.
9. Solar power is great. We need more solar power. I'm not a solar expert but I'm sure someone has the answer. We need to give them a voice. We need help .We can't do this alone. Where are the innovators?
10. We spend thousands of dollars a day on the Navigation Team to come clean up the camping mess. Why don't we just pay the campers to clean it up, sort it appropriately, dump it in a "coin star-like" machine that confirms how it is sorted and deposit the funds into an FSA like account for housing once they exit my shipping container campground proposal with a job that will continuously secure housing payment. (see below).

5. If you are or were on the City Council, how would you have voted on the employee hours tax or "head tax" and why? Note: there is no wrong answer here. (500 word limit)

I would have voted 'absolutely not' and I'm going to have to disagree. I think there is a wrong answer. The wrong answer would be yes. The reason? No one likes taxes — especially if they don't know where they are going. This tax proposal was one of the most ridiculous things I have heard of. You do not need THAT much money to solve a problem. What you do need is cooperation, creativity, critical thinking, and the perseverance to see things through.

6. I added this question in. Sorry. Bold bets remember. Word count should even out overall. How would you solve the Urban Camping Crisis?

I have been visiting every one of these camps I can find alone. As it turns out, I'm not a huge threat to them. They trust me. I don't give them any money, food, or water and they know that. They also know I am running for City Council which is why so many of them trust me. No one else running is talking to them or trying to understand the problem from their perspective. They know it best. The reason I go down to these camps against the advice of others is because I know that they need to be part of the solution in order for it to work in the long term. The urban campers are not all the same. They have different backgrounds, interests, talents, stories, and many of them are heavily addicted to meth and heroine. Addicted or not, the majority of them are incredibly intelligent. What you see on the streets is half what is actually going on. Some can unlock any electronic device. Some know how hack the power grid. Some can hack the water supply. Some of the camps have booby traps. You have to know what to look for. The traps are not meant for the common citizen but for the other campers who steal from them. Not all the camp groups get along.

I have also been to a few of Seattle's emergency overnight shelters. I had to pretend to be 'homeless' and my urban camping friends told me exactly what I needed to say just to get in for 5 minutes and see for myself what it looked like on the inside. I can say that the conditions of some of these shelters are hardly less horrific than the camps we see every day. You also have to line up, bring all your things, and then get out first thing the next morning. It's exhausting and not all of them are motivated, hopeful, or inspired.

Here is the plan.

I am going to describe it the same way I would plan any project. Seattle is the canvas. Here are the materials:

1. 575 Shipping Containers
2. 40 Million dollars (double projected cost)
3. 23 plots of Vacant/Underutilized city-owned land (parcels mostly located where the urban campers and shipping containers already are (i.e. industrial district, side of I-5 and I-90, etc.).
4. 66 Kiosks (coin star trash machines)
5. Urban Campers 4,000-10,000
6. 184 On-Site Managers (qualified and experienced to diagnose, prescribe and treat mental/health addiction disorders too) paid 60k a year salary
7. 66 Desk Top Computers
8. 66 Printers
9. 40,000 thousand sheets of paper
10. Support and collaboration from businesses of all sizes in all industries

All of the Urban Campers will be off the streets in the first 6 months of 2020 and be placed in secure, modified shipping containers. These containers will be arranged like LEGO's and serve as transitional housing for 3-8 months depending on which 'set' they best fit with and the circumstances. This is not permanent housing. This is a Grace Period Project that gives every individual access to temporary housing so they can shower and securely store their belongings. This is also not jail or an institution. It is not self-governed, there will be 8 site managers at each of the 'sets' trained to address the needs of the individuals and families who **temporarily** reside there. These 'sets' would be 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'. Women and children fleeing domestic violence are placed in another 'set'.

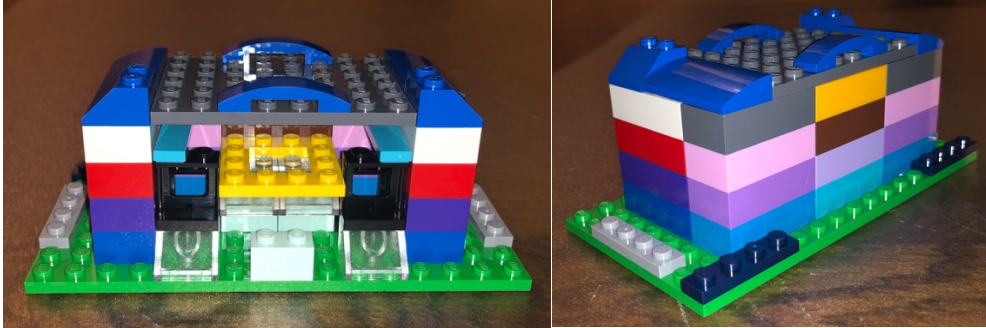
There would be a program that would give these individuals the opportunity to save money by helping to clean up the mess that urban camping has created and remodel the containers (many campers have done this before). In other words, individuals would use their access card to deposit trash, used needles, etc., into a large ATM like Kiosk. These funds would serve as a retirement fund that is not for retirement, but instead serves as an FSA-like fund for housing. Cash cannot be taken out this fund. This would clean up the mess, get individuals off the streets, provide them with an opportunity to save money and work with Washington State programs like the Apprenticeship Program to concurrently pair these individuals with businesses struggling to meet the increased demand for skilled workers.

This way, the campers stop camping, they exit the program with a job that aligns with their own talents, passions and interests. We partner and trade with large tech companies like Microsoft and Amazon and smaller start-up ones to set up the technological infrastructure in return for avoiding any type of future head tax. Perhaps we could even reduce taxes. Tech can do it a lot faster than Seattle can.

In sum, these shipping container sets serve as college or trade school for the campers. They might have to live in a box with a roommate they could choose and sign up to shower, but that's how it was when I went to college. They will also have to follow some rules. Trust me when I say they want and need this opportunity. They are on board.

This is how we save Seattle. If it works, which I am confident it will, it will also be profitable. If we get to the end point, we won't need them anymore and we can load them up and sell them to another city. We have to set the example here first.

Here is the LEGO model prototype for one example 'set'!



7. What is your waste reform plan?

I want these urban parks to have grass. I also think we need to reform our waste system. We need better, brighter, persuasive waste bins. Then we need agree to repeal the sugar tax in return for the compliance with a new policy requiring every package or label printed to have one visible color dot printed on it that directly corresponds with where it should be deposited.

As it turns out, Seattle does not really recycle. Now—I won't lie. I'm not a great recycler or composter. Truth be told, it is very difficult to know what is and is not recyclable, compostable or trash anymore. It is very much like the periodic table of sustainability with more invisible numbers than there are options. It just is not clear. After visiting and talking with some of the trash, compost, and recycling facilities, it turns out almost of all of it really does go into a landfill.

Further, there are not enough trash or recycling bins. I am not sure who decided to make them all grey, black, blue, or green. I'm sure that at one point someone thought it was a good idea to camouflage waste bins so they 'blend in with nature'. I think it's time for a reform. Even the Urban Campers have figured out that recycling is profitable when executed the correct way (that's why so many harvest scrap metal and camp right next to the recycling facilities).

Our recycling industry is frustrated because China won't accept any of our cardboards or plastics anymore. They are too contaminated. We replace the small bins, provide everyone with new ones in return for free waste collection and pass a very simple policy requiring packaging and label companies to just print one single colored dot on every material. That colored dot corresponds with the section of the receptacle the object must be disposed in. No need to replace the large bins we already have or the trucks that collect them. There's a plan for that too. All it involves is changing the lids on the large bins into a funnel that goes the opposite direction. I did also test to make sure this works for the color-blind as well.

Here are the Campbell's Soup Prototypes!

