



2019 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Candidate Name Isabelle Kerner City: Seattle Position No. 7

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Occupation Safety Committee Chair @ Chihuly Garden and Glass (CGG), Lead Host @ CGG, Artist (Isabelle Kerner LLC.), Pro Se Representative, Campaign Manager, Advisor, Treasurer, Website Developer, et al., for Kerner for Council

Union affiliation, if any N/A

I. Please explain why you are running for this office.

I am running for Seattle City Council because I was born and raised in Seattle, WA and I feel that the city I was born and raised in is no longer representative of the individuals who not only reside here, but also those who work here. Many individuals have been forced to move out because they cannot afford to live here due to increased costs of living, yet still work for the organizations and/or administrations that comprise the City of Seattle.

The Seattle that I grew up in was a place that set examples, took risks and experimented. If something didn't work, we learned from our failures and mistakes so that we wouldn't repeat them in the future.

I am not your 'average' candidate as I am not some career politician, and most importantly I am NOT for sale. But—I think the City of Seattle might be.

I would not be doing this, if I did not care. But I do care way beyond the scope of the average person. I am also extremely creative and if there is anyone who can solve Seattle's most pressing issues with solutions that work for everyone, it is me.

II. What other endorsements have you received?

Al Hayes
Cargotecture
Egan Airships (Plimp)
Isabelle Kerner LLC.
James Egan
Ocean Cargo Inc.

1. How will you finance your political campaign? Will you accept campaign contributions from corporations?

I will finance my campaign primarily with time and I will probably not accept contributions from corporations as I do not have a Political Action Committee and have no intention of creating one. Therefore, I highly doubt that any corporation is going to donate to my campaign. The money is not as important to me as the people and time.

The voter turnout rate for District 7 is at most 30%. It is also the same voting electorate that elected officials in office right now. Therefore, I don't intend to focus or exert much time or energy on that 30%. I would rather utilize my time, my resources, and my energy on mobilizing, inspiring and leading the other 70% of District 7 residents (even if they are homeless) who don't vote by teaching them how the system works so that they can participate by voting. Almost every homeless person I have talked to wants to change their lives and be included in the community they reside in. They just need someone to show them the way.

What I will say is that when it comes to corporations, I can't just black and white them as if they are good or evil. Corporations have and always will dominate politics. In my opinion, business and democracy are hardly any different from each other. We all choose who we vote for because the idea of democracy is that we will be represented in return for our taxation. As consumers, we also choose what we buy and from whom we buy. The single biggest common denominator of the two—is simply convenience.

III. Freedom to Choose a Union

Employers routinely use intimidation, threats & coercion to deny workers their right to decide freely whether or not to organize a union & bargain collectively. We are challenging employers to commit to basic democratic principles for fair union elections.

1. Will you publicly support all organizing efforts by academic workers, regardless of citizenship status?

I will support all organizing efforts of all workers in all industries regardless of their citizenship status or any other discerning socioeconomic characteristic.

2. Will you publicly support organizing drives by:

a. Writing letters of support for the workers' organizing efforts?

1. Yes.

b. Attending community forums in support of the organizing efforts?

1. Yes.

c. Helping to pass resolutions of support?

1. Yes.

d. Attending direct actions, including strike actions?

1. Yes.

IV. Right to Bargain Collectively

Academic Student Employees (ASEs) and Postdocs have significantly benefitted from collective bargaining & we strongly support the right of all workers in both the public & private sector to join together for a collective voice at work. Collective bargaining is a way to solve problems & make workplaces function better for workers, employers, customers & the general public.

1. Do you support the right of all academic workers to organize & bargain collectively, regardless of citizenship status?

I will support the right of all academic workers to organize & bargain collectively regardless of their citizenship status or any other discerning socioeconomic characteristic.

2. Will you oppose efforts to restrict the ability of unions to bargain with employers for automatic dues deduction, or to limit the ability of unions to collect & spend union dues for legislative, political & community involvement purposes?

No.

3. What in your opinion is the best way for City Council members to respond to the Janus decision or any other measure that imposes so-called "right to work" laws on unionized employees?

The Seattle City Council members should file a lawsuit against the Federal Government demanding that the Supreme Court overturn the decision.

V. Tax & Budget Fairness

Washington's tax structure is the most regressive in the nation & does not raise sufficient revenue to cover the educational, social, health & public safety needs of our growing population.

1. Will you support a fair tax system that requires corporations & the wealthy to pay their share, & oppose shifts of the tax burden onto the middle class & poor?

I think Seattle needs to set an example by creating a new tax system that allows tax payers to directly apportion a percentage of their tax funds (dependent on income) toward ideas, projects, and issues that most effect them. The concept of taxation is supposed to promise equal representation.

2. Would you support bringing back the Employee Head (i.e. "Amazon") Tax? Please elaborate.

No. I do not believe that taxing the companies most capable of innovation and equipped to upgrade Seattle's technological infrastructure would benefit anyone in the long term. I think it is more feasible to instead give these companies an opportunity and incentive to utilize their resources by trading with them so that they can quickly and efficiently aid in solving Seattle's most pressing problems in return for avoiding any type of "Employee Head Tax".

In other words, I do not think Seattle needs more money. Rather, I think that those currently allocating the money are unable to envision the big picture and are highly influenced by their own personal beliefs as well as the interests of the voting electorate who hired them.

3. How can the City best support small businesses, particularly minority and immigrant-owned ones?

The City of Seattle can stop short-selling its land to developers and come to terms with the fact that they are never going to be able to offset the money they have lost by the guarantee that they will profit from their sale via an increase in property taxes as land value increases.

If the current City Council could come up with new ideas instead of relying on old, antiquated ones, while they waste everyone's time and money fighting about them, they wouldn't need so much money.

4. Would you support a public Seattle bank, and it providing low-interest loans to local small businesses?

Absolutely. However, I would prefer a Seattle bank with 'no-interest' loans for a limited period of time so that small businesses would be provided with a grace period to develop their client database, products and/or services. It takes money to make money. But—if the businesses abuse or take advantage of that grace period, they won't be in business very long and the interest rates will increase, depending on the circumstances.

VI. Immigration, Race, & Equity

While comprehensive immigration reform is a federal issue, local & state governments have recently taken different actions to either support efforts to reform our broken immigration system or challenge federal enforcement-only strategies that separate families & divide communities.

1. What are you prepared to do to oppose future action by the President or Congress to delay, detain, or otherwise restrict refugees and immigrants (including international students & scholars) from traveling to & from the U.S.?

I am prepared to become more efficient, innovative, and effective so that we are no longer as dependent on the Federal Government or its resources. We would then be free to make our own rules as a society—everyone included, regardless of citizenship status.

2. How can the City expand protection of immigrants & refugees in the current national climate?

The City of Seattle can expand protection of immigrants and refugees by utilizing their monetary resources in ways that are so efficient, effective, and innovative, that they no longer need the Federal Government's approval or 'support' and can therefore make their own decisions as a society—at the local and state level.

3. How should the City Council address threats to the City's or County's federal grants &/or funds because of immigrant and refugee protection?

The Seattle City Council should be more efficient, innovative and effective in the way that they manage the money they receive in taxes so that they no longer depend on funding from the Federal Government.

4. Would you support making Seattle ICE-free, including no public contracts for businesses that contract with ICE, including Amazon?

I am not against any business working for or against the City of Seattle. I will support businesses of all sizes that are willing to work WITH the City of Seattle, its residents, AND all individuals who work in Seattle.

5. Will you oppose any efforts to discriminate against &/or penalize international students & scholars on the basis of their country of origin?

No. All are welcome.

6. How can the City Council act to close the school-to-prison pipeline?

The Seattle City Council can modify and upgrade its tax system so that publicly funded schools are equipped with the resources and technological infrastructure that fosters a system devoid of any disparities that lead to a lifestyle intrinsically connected to the school-to-prison-pipeline.

7. Would you support refurbishing the existing King County youth jail up to needed standards instead of constructing a new one?

Absolutely. The last thing we need to spend money on is a new jail. I've actually had the 'pleasure' of 'visiting' that jail during my 'youth' and I think it would be nice if they replaced the outdoor cement space with grass and removed the roof so those inside were able see to the sky. I also don't think it's effective to drop youth out of their public school system the second they get booked into jail if there is a high chance they will be released within 24-72 hours. The education system at that jail does not exactly inspire those inside to learn.

8. What steps can the Council take in the next 4 years to reduce police violence and improve circumstances where police presence negatively impacts communities of color?

The Seattle City Council needs to ensure that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) is not above the law just because they are the ones 'enforcing' it. They operate with an unprecedented amount of discretion under an Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) that has no real power to effectively enforce the SPD policies and procedures. Therefore the OPA is unable to effectively reprimand SPD officers for violating the laws and rules that supposedly 'regulate' them without fear of retaliation, coercion or intimidation from those ranked above them.

VII. Living Standards & Discrimination

UAW believes that no workers – including temporary & student employees - should live in poverty. A fair minimum wage is fundamental to a social economic system that guarantees a decent remuneration for work, & also acts as an economic stimulus in workers' communities. Affordable housing is a basic right, & provisions like paid sick & safe days ensure healthy workplaces & health communities.

1. Please explain your view on how wage standards & other labor protections can be most effectively enforced.

My view is to aggressively implement full wage transparency, information, and enforce extreme penalties on employers who coerce, retaliate, intimidate, or

discriminate against workers who call those above them out via complaints and allegations regarding the aforementioned issues.

2. Many of our members' largest expense is housing. Please explain how you will improve access to affordable housing in the City.

For one, I am not for sale. The City of Seattle very well could be. Every time a high-rise building is developed it raises the land value of the surrounding areas and increases the property taxes of near buildings forcing further tax burdens on the building owners, who then pass them down via increased rent and lease rates. If many older perfectly affordable buildings were not torn down for these new 'affordable housing' developments, Seattle would probably still have affordable housing.

3. How should the City Council balance the City's need for growth against gentrification & displacement?

The Seattle City Council can balance the need for growth against gentrification and displacement by accepting that democracy cannot exist without capitalism in any true or relevant form. The Seattle City Council should stop attempting to intervene in the free market economy when it is not necessary as in doing so they have clearly demonstrated that it does not work.

4. How can the construction of more affordable housing be ensured?

The construction of more affordable housing can be ensured by planning more cost-effective methods of construction, training more workers, and by investing in new machines that reduce the need for human labor.

5. What new policies or strengthened enforcements can address racial discrimination in housing and stop the epidemic of evictions?

Most policies tend to be ineffective if they do not reflect the 'social norms' of a society. In order to change the social norms and create policies that are effect, we have to become more inclusive and less divisive.

6. How else can the City Council address the gender wage gap? What steps can the City Council take to end gender-based harassment in the workplace?

The Seattle City Council can enact a law requiring that all employers make the hourly wage, salary and bonus amounts public and available to all employees so that employees have more evidence and information they can use to hold their employers accountable. This would include anonymous

statistical information relating to all allegations including abuse of power, favoritism, discrimination, and retaliation.

7. How might the City better support the LGBTQ community?

The City of Seattle can inspire and lead people to be more inclusive, open to understanding the perspectives of others, and stop categorizing communities by their micro culture, macro culture, and/or ethnocentrism. Marking any individual or group by any socioeconomic or political status further divides us. In order to become more inclusive, understanding and united, we as a community must stop bridging the gap and instead focus on building the walkway.

8. Homelessness & precarious housing situations profoundly affect participation in economy & society, & people of particular races, sexual orientations, & gender identities suffer homelessness disproportionately. At the city level, how can we address homelessness, particularly for disparately impacted groups?

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.

9. Would you support the City not contracting with companies and outside agencies whose hiring practices, healthcare plans, or services are discriminatory based on sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or ethnicity?

It would depend on the evidence, information and substantiation of any of the above referenced allegations. Any business that has discriminatory hiring practices is operating in violation of the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments of the United States Constitution and therefore should not be in business.

10. Washington State is fighting to replace the for-profit health insurance system with a single-payer system. Would you join this fight, along with the national Medicare for All system that covers free reproductive care and medical services for everyone?

Yes and no.

11. How might the City best support these causes and implement changes on the local level?

There is no free lunch. The City of Seattle can create a single payer system that covers free reproductive care, basic medical services, and generic prescription drugs.

Individuals can then purchase additional insurance coverage individually or through their employer depending on what they are willing to risk. While basic physical and mental healthcare should be accessible and free to all people, the cost of healthcare would also decrease if there were greater incentive for people to lead a healthy lifestyle.

12. How can the City better support public education, both Pre-K – 12 and higher education?

*** Please elaborate on policy changes you would support.**

I think that the education system should focus more on discovering than memorizing. No one is capable of understanding any concept, method, or 'fact' when taught to memorize it, as well as the person who first discovered it.

The education system has fallen into a pattern of categorization that seems to have forgotten how important the variable of time is. When subjects are categorized too stringently, the context is lost in terms of what else was going on at the same time elsewhere.

By fostering a system that sets students up to discover concepts for themselves, they would start to make the connections by default. If students

were better able to understand the connections between all subjects as they correspond with time, they would have a more open view and our society would not be as divided.

13. What steps might a City Council member take to reform higher education – particularly UW – to ensure that workers are treated fairly, and that ordinances that are meant to improve worker standards are fully implemented?

A Seattle City Council member must ensure that workers have enough authority and organization amongst themselves so the voice of workers is heard by those ranked above them without fear of coercion, intimidation, or retaliation.

VIII. Investments in Infrastructure & Clean Energy

UAW 4121 is active in Washington & nationwide in efforts to promote clean energy industries to create jobs & position themselves for future growth opportunities, while addressing important environmental & energy security concerns.

1. How would you fund public investments to rebuild our infrastructure, including roads, bridges, mass transit, & water & sewer systems?

Everyone funds public investments by paying taxes. To rebuild our infrastructure, the Seattle City Council needs to take into consideration not just how the pieces fit together when rebuilding an infrastructure, but also how easily the pieces can be taken apart in the future. By building an infrastructure with the idea that it will last forever, you have already screwed the future. Nothing lasts forever. The infrastructure needs to be as easy to do, as it is to undo.

2. What are key steps the City Council needs to take to defend & extend affordable public mass transit over the next four years?

Seattle City Council needs to be more creative and innovative in the ways in which they plan mass transportation. Seattle City Council also needs to accept that all ideas change over time and are not supposed to turn out exactly as planned.

City Council also needs to open their eyes and just look around. We can't go back to yesterday because we were a different City then. The world is always changing and so is the atmosphere. It is time we adjust and adapt to our surroundings instead of pretending anything we planned decades ago is going to work in the exact same way it would have at the time the solution was formulated.

3. What steps would you take to decrease municipal reliance on fossil fuels?

Phase out or modernize the buses (which have not been updated, are extremely large, are very slow), get rid of the carpool lanes (most sustainable speed to drive is 60mph), recognize that if people are willing to risk crashing their cars by driving in the snow, they are probably not going to stop driving, accept that electric cars are sustainable, realize Uber, Lyft, and other businesses operating under a free-market incentive have already changed the game with carpooling, and invest in air transportation (look into Plimp).

4. What role can the City Council play in promoting fossil fuel divestment?

The Seattle City Council can promote fossil fuel divestment by discontinuing the promotion of transportation policies and plans that are incredibly cost inefficient, completely unfeasible, and rely on selective data that creates a senseless, useless, and outdated result.

5. Will you call on Washington's Congressional delegation to support the Green New Deal, and develop our own aggressive targets to ensure Seattle becomes 100% renewable by 2030?

Policies do not change human behavior. Only people, ideas, and inventions can do that. Policies can effectively incentivize human behavior, but only in certain circumstances. Behind every policy there is a lobbyist who writes the first draft and that lobbyist was hired. No matter how you try and connect the dots, they have and always will lead back to businesses.

The only way it will be possible for Seattle to become 100% renewable by 2030 is if doing so is beneficial and feasible for every person and every interest affected.

6. How can the latter be done to ensure a just transition for workers and communities most impacted by climate change (communities of color and workers)?

Most people are either not interested in policies or pay no attention to them. However, people are interested in ideas and inventions because they are exciting. We need to start thinking outside of the box if we want to get out of it.

Psychologically, no one cares about problems they aren't affected by—whether it is direct, or indirect. We are all in the dark until someone or something turns the light on. If we can't see, we don't care.