

Shaun Scott Seattle DSA Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

Background

1. *What are your top three priorities as an elected official? How will you use your office to accomplish these priorities?*

My top three priorities as a city councilmember are as follows: 1) Materialize a Housing Now vision for the city that alleviates the current crisis of affordability with massive municipal investment in public and deeply affordable housing; 2) Create denser, deeply affordable neighborhoods by revamping Seattle's current regressive zoning regime, and--in the process--creates safer streets (for womxn and LTBQIA+ folx in particular) that do not depend on racist and classist carceral solutions to social ills like drug abuse, street crime, and harassment; 3) Implement ecosocialist policies that force Seattle to live up to its unearned reputation as a climate leader; these policies include putting Seattle on the track to achieve complete civic independence from fossil fuels by 2025, exacting ecotaxes on the region's largest polluters (who also happen to be its largest corporations), pedestrianizing major thoroughfares like The Ave, and enacting free public transit.

2. *Why are you a candidate for this office? What would you say to socialists who are skeptical of electoralism's value?*

Electoralism is not the only component for realizing democratic socialism in our lifetimes, but it remains an important component nonetheless. As an advocacy journalist who canvassed with and covered the struggles of University District renters against a predatory real estate firm called American Campus Communities, I heard directly from comrades in the struggle that having a lever of power in City Hall would have helped in their struggle to establish a tenants' rights association and organize against predatory landlords. This shows that socialist base building and socialist electoralism can exist side-by-side, the one reinforcing the other.

3. *Why are you soliciting Seattle DSA's endorsement for this office?*

I'm seeking Seattle DSA's endorsement because we have an opportunity to bring democratic socialist leadership to City Hall. As a member of DSA since January 4th, 2017 and a socialist even before then, there is a powerful identity between the political ideals of my candidacy and democratic socialists principles. My run to represent District 4 on the Seattle City Council is only the latest expression of a generational, leftward turn that has seen the membership of Seattle DSA explode in eighteen short months. Seattle DSA's endorsement will show the city, and the world, that viable socialist candidates are possible wherever there are vigorous socialist organizations.

4. *Do you identify as a socialist? In American politics there's a conflation between FDR/New-Deal and LBJ/Great Society type programs and Socialist ones, do you see yourself as separate from these? If so, how?*

I'm a socialist. FDR/New Deal policies, while a step in the right direction, facilitated the worst aspects of American racism and sexism: separating Japanese Americans from their land in a ruthless incarceration that benefitted White-owned agrarian interests; disallowing Black home care aides from unionizing; and facilitating a massive upward transfer of wealth by funneling homeownership through White male breadwinners. While the language and resonance of New Deal reforms can be appropriated for democratic socialist aims; but we must include and transcend social democratic reforms in a democratic socialist revolution.

5. *What party preference are you running under? Why are you running with that preference?*

As a democratic socialist candidacy that has been inspired by the successful campaigns of DSA candidates like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Julia Salazar, my campaign would weigh running either as independents or Democrats, depending on which presented us with a competitive advantage in our quest to bring democratic socialism to City Hall. This is a question fraught with implications, particularly given the unfortunate history of democratic socialists electeds using DSA for canvass shifts and edgy branding, then dumping the institutional affiliation to move to the center once they get elected. My campaign is committed to not reproducing that dynamic.

On the one hand, independents are often able to maintain autonomy from ossified Democratic leaders, whose vision for the world is merely one of 'softer, kinder' capitalist exploitation. On the other hand, a local Democratic legislative district in District 4 (the 43rd LD) is remarkable for effectively endorsing Kshama Sawant in 2015, adopting a Municipal Broadband resolution in 2018, and for the amount of members present who support Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

My campaign is using the same revolutionary canvassing technology developed by Ocasio-Cortez's relentless field campaign; an app called Reach, which was designed to work best with VoteBuilder, the national voter database available to candidates who declare formally as Democrats. This will be an ongoing internal discussion, held between my candidacy at the Seattle DSA Electoral Committee, which we are meeting with every two weeks to remain deeply accountable to our democratic socialist base, especially after getting elected.

6. *Have you previously served as a public servant? What did you accomplish while serving in that position? What were your main challenges? How did you overcome them?*

When I'm elected, it would be the second time that I will be an employee of the city. From 2016-2017 I worked with the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs to help steward the

transformation of King Street Station into an arts and culture hub. I conducted the outreach process for this multimillion renovation of King Street Station, meeting with hundreds of stakeholders in the local arts economy, talking explicitly in two dozen focus group sessions about how the arts can be a means toward advancing racial equality. My biggest challenge was perfecting the vocabulary of racial equity in such a way that didn't disclude economic justice, to audiences that often view these as two separate goals.

7. How will you make your campaign competitive?

My campaign's field plan is an expression of the vision of our campaign; a vision grounded in democratic socialist ideals. Traditionally, candidates who do not serve the interests of *all* of their constituents seek to limit the avenues of contact they have with those constituents; they rely on behind-closed-doors fundraisers, staged photo ops, and even voter suppression to shrink the electoral terrain on which they have to compete as candidates. This praxis is an expression of their political values: because they believe in government by the few and for the few, they do not knock on doors to talk to community members, phone bank extensively, conduct town halls, attend accessible fundraisers, or engage in any other activities that would subject them to the scrutiny of the people they represent. In this way, most campaigns mirror and reinforce the social domination of capitalism; a system that caters to the privileged few at the expense of the exploited many.

As a democratic socialist candidate for Seattle's District 4 city council seat, I--a former field organizer for democratic socialist Jon Grant and progressive Democrat Pramila Jayapal--rejects these politics. The Scott 2019 Campaign will stage a vigorous field operation. Our canvassing and phone-banking operations will establish us as a force among the disenchanted, who see nothing but disappointment in politics, and a vessel for their concerns. Our campaign will not reproduce the logic of capital, but will reflect our commitment to democratic socialist ideals. We will campaign as we will govern; with the interests of the many, not the few, in mind.

Accountability

- 1. In order to be considered for an electoral endorsement from Seattle DSA, candidates must commit to refuse funding from all for-profit corporations and their corporate officers. How will you fund your campaign?*

In my campaign announcement of November 23rd, 2018 I committed to declining funding from corporations and corporate officers. My campaign will be funded entirely through small dollar donations (donations of less than \$250), and the Democracy Voucher program.

- 2. The Seattle Democracy Voucher program can give a voice to the voiceless in politics. However during its first year of use in 2017 it saw incredibly low usage. Do you see this as a challenge for your campaign and how will you address it?*

I was a field organizer for Seattle DSA candidate Jon Grant, who used the Democracy Voucher program to great impact. Jon's competitive campaign was sustained almost entirely by the use of vouchers, and would not have been possible without it. We will build on the successes of the Voucher program by remaining in contact with comrades who canvassed, organized, and worked for Jon, and implementing improvements in how we go about soliciting vouchers.

- 3. How will you be accountable to our members once you are in office?*

At a recent Seattle DSA Electoral Committee meeting, I made the pledge to offer to meet with every single Seattle DSA committee in the course of my campaign. These meetings will ensure a seamlessness between the ideas I advance on the campaign trail and the ideas of our democratic socialist movement. Additionally, I have committed to meeting with the Seattle DSA Electoral Committee every two weeks.

- 4. How will you advance your priorities in the context of a city council where not every member will share them?*

Movements build power both inside and especially outside the halls of power. Where the legislative process fails to deliver results for working people, I will use my capacity as an organizer to build the political power for working people outside of the traditional political process. Seeking elected office does not mean that I will suddenly become less interested in base building; if anything, electoral work is an extension of workplace organizing, tenants' rights organizing, and the like.

Healthcare

- 1. DSA is campaigning for a single payer healthcare system—not a patchwork—that provides full, comprehensive coverage, free at the point of service to all residents regardless of immigration status, and which provides jobs for workers affected by the transition to a public health system. Do you support this vision of health coverage?*

Yes. Healthcare is a human right, and the push for Medicare For All is a necessary one that will materially benefit the lives of millions. Not only do I support it, I would like it to go further in terms of covering trans healthcare and all transition related procedures/health requirements.

2. *Do you support universal and free access to reproductive healthcare for all, including abortion on demand?*

Yes. Abortion is healthcare, and healthcare is a human right. Womxn and folks who need access to abortion services or reproductive healthcare deserve 100% agency and autonomy over their own bodies and the ability to make the best choice possible for their health. This should be provided free, on demand.

3. *How will you use your position locally to advance the cause of Healthcare Justice?*

Municipal level health justice is tricky, however I believe there are a few avenues where we can greatly improve our city's public health:

- As mentioned earlier, housing, shelter, and drug addiction are public health issues. Public restrooms, safe consumption sites, safer/more accessible shelters, and more navigation centers are all public health approaches to our current crisis.
- Expand existing childcare programs into a universal, municipal child care
- Massively increase funding to elder care
- Portable health benefits for freelance/gig-economy workers
- Massive fund allocation for multi-year project for healthcare access for undocumented folks, and public health in general
- Work to fund and implement CM Mosqueda's "Healthy Seattle" proposal that she ran on, in the same vein as San Francisco.
- Use my platform as an elected official to champion DSA's push for Medicare For All, leveraging that towards state and national pressure.

Labor Solidarity and Support

1. *Please describe your past/present labor and union experience if any.*

I was a member of UAW 4121, the University of Washington academic and student employee's union, from 2006-2007, and organized with them to fight recession-era tuition hikes for years afterwards. From 2014-2016 I wrote for SEIU 775NW's magazine (Insight Magazine) about issues facing immigrant and POC homecare aides. In 2018, as a member of Pramila Jayapal's field staff, I was a union steward for the Campaign Workers' Guild who helped lead the fight to have the first unionized campaign staff of a congressional incumbent.

2. *Democratic Socialists of America has set the labor movement as a national priority. Please describe how you will prioritize the labor movement and unions in*

your campaign, and if elected, during your time in office (referencing what particular issues and approaches you value most).

By having an open door to union activists, union stewards, and union leaders in Seattle, I will work to craft policies that address the concerns of the “whole worker”; not just the worker at work, but the worker at home and in the community; the worker who struggles for robust anti-harassment policies, who wants an end to legacies of white supremacist discrimination in housing, and whose life would be improved by free transit and anti-carceral solutions to street crime. Following the struggles of comrades in Unite Here Local 8, I would work to bolster and protect the I-124 protections against harassment and unsafe working conditions in the hotel industry, in the event that that recently-passed initiative were to be struck down by a conservative state ruling. I would stand in solidarity with the University of Washington’s major unions (UAW 4121 and the PostDocs union) to secure more affordable housing in and around the University District.

3. What should the local minimum wage be?

While we’re still living under a system (capitalism) where we’re forced to sell our labor to survive, the minimum wage should be as high as possible. 1973 marks the year where most economists agree that gross wages become decoupled from productivity; had that early onset neoliberal bifurcation not occurred, the federal minimum wage would be close to \$22/hour today. For employees of large corporations in particular, I would support a wage increase to that extent at least. I should be clear, however, that a commitment to a maximum-minimum wage does not obviate the struggle for worker-owned enterprises, worker associations, co-ops, and other ownership models that remove power from the hands of bosses. It’s simply of question of workers being paid well enough to survive while authoring these struggles into reality.

Housing

1. What is your plan for addressing the ongoing housing crisis and the criminalization of our homeless population? Do you support the city of Seattle’s sweeps of homeless encampments?

I do not support the sweeps, as they are barbaric, ineffective, and also a waste of city resources. As a journalist for City Arts Magazine and an organizer for Seattle DSA, I protested a sweep of the Ravenna Woods encampment in April 2018. Journalist Dae Shik Hawkins, Jr. has reported that these sweeps cost over \$10 million per year; they achieve nothing but displacing residents who have managed to carve out some semblance of shelter in a heartless city. I would vote to have the city dip into its bonding capacity to create a windfall of \$450 million of revenue for the creation of affordable housing. I would also support safe consumption sites so that our

houseless neighbors who may be suffering addiction can attain the treatment they need, without the spectre of criminalization, and outside the reach of the carceral state.

2. *Do you oppose state laws preventing cities from enacting rent control legislation and other forms of rent stabilization? How do you plan to fight or affordable housing in this context?*

I do oppose laws that prevent residential rent control at the state level. However I do not think housing should be a commodity subject to the whims of the market in the first place; it should be a public good that is funded by the public trust. With a massive investment in public housing, rents will not be subject to the ups and downs of capitalism's whims. We could establish funds for a civic land bank that buys land as it comes available, then redistribute those properties for free or at a dramatic discount to nonprofit housing consortiums that build deeply affordable housing.

3. *Soaring rents are forcing people of color out of their historic communities in neighborhoods like the Central District and South Seattle. How do you plan to address the needs of communities being displaced by gentrification?*

Tragically, the work of gentrification--a white supremacist, capitalist process that expropriates people of color from areas they managed to create home and community in--is largely complete. The time to prevent gentrification as such was in 1995. As it is, the question before us is less how do we "prevent" further gentrification (although prevent it we must); rather, we should concern ourselves with *undoing* it. To this end, we need to commit to building enough public and deeply affordable housing to not only retain communities of color in search of deeply affordable housing, but also to re-attract communities that have already been displaced to Federal Way, Burien, and Renton. A "25,000 homes by 2025" plan would put us on track to accomplish. In order to build this many homes for POC residents of the Puget Sound region, two things must happen: 1) a massive public investment in housing, and 2) the abolishment of single-family zoning, a racist holdover from the early 20th century that not only barred many POC from establishing economic roots in Seattle with racially restrictive covenants, but that presently makes the kind of multifamily housing working families need illegal.

Education

1. *Do you pledge to fight for universal pre-K, for full funding of public schools, against the expansion of charter schools, against residential and school segregation, against school vouchers and for free universal higher education?*

Absolutely. My district is full of parents struggling to meet their basic education and child care needs, this is abhorrent. Washington state has a constitutional mandate to fully fund education that it has still not materially fulfilled, and I plan to bring the political will to fund these

vital services to my district and our city. Quality education is a human right that everyone should have access to, from universal pre-k to free college. We need to reallocate funds from the private sector (charter schools) that only privilege a select amount of students into fully funding local, publicly funded education systems. This means legislation at the city-level to discourage or outright prevent charter schools from being established in Seattle. This would build political will for lobbying at the state level to roll back public funds from charter schools and give them back to public schools. Additionally, Seattle has an existing Seattle Preschool Program that I would pursue increased funding and expansion for.

2. Would you support legislation to abolish student debt?

Yes. Student debt and the student loan industry is crippling an entire generation of American youth. Abolishing student debt is an excellent step in the right direction towards an education system that rewards learning, not punishes it.

Progressive Taxation

1. Do you support the efforts to tax the rich through income and capital gains taxes? Will you support further progressive reforms and oppose further regressive measures to our tax system? Would you work to lower regressive sales taxes in Seattle by supporting a statewide income tax?

My answer to all of these questions is “yes.” As an author for The Urbanist in 2018, I advocated for these reforms specifically, writing: “A tax on vacant dwellings. A financial services tax. A tax on real estate speculation. A raised marginal tax rate. Given the illegality of an income tax at the state level in Washington, using these means to raise revenue at the county and city levels needs to be taken seriously if Seattle is to rebalance the most regressive tax structure of any major metropolitan area in the country.” In my campaign announcement of November 23rd, 2018, I also wrote that I would “work to identify ecotaxes that can be implemented at the city level,” for the purpose of penalizing the city’s largest polluters, who also happen to be its largest corporations.

2. Did you support efforts to institute an employee head tax on large businesses to be spent on homelessness services and affordable/public housing?

I was already a democratic socialist when the employee head tax was repealed in June 2018, but I was re-radicalized by that event. At the time, as a journalist for City Arts Magazine, I wrote “the employee head tax [repeal] shows that trees, mountains, and scenic waterways are not enough to keep out the class conflicts that Seattleites associate with other places and other times. In Seattle, it is the rich who wage class warfare. In order to have any chance at winning, the rest of us must first come to terms with the fact that this is happening.” I would support the

reinstatement of an even steeper head tax.

Climate and Environment

1. What steps will you take to ensure a truly just transition to renewable energy?

- Aggressively push the timeline of Seattle being 100% renewable energy by 2025
- Work with KC Metro to speed up the transition to a 100% green fleet of electric busses
- Make all transit free for everyone within Seattle City limits, full stop.
- Prioritize and expand Seattle's "[Deep Green Alterations](#)" program using union labor
- Use Seattle's bonding capacity to speed up ST3
- Municipalize Bike Share services
- Prioritize shifting school busses to electric, [95% of school busses are diesel powered](#)
- Expand SCL's "[Community Solar](#)" program
- Re-allocate funds de-allocated from Rob Johnson to ST3
- Explore municipal ownership of Puget Sound Energy, the region's largest polluter
- Pursue aggressive "ecotaxes" to put checks on capital that seek to pursue profit at the cost of our environment and planet
- Build political will for full municipal ownership of all resources, ultimately removing the profit motive from the fossil fuel industry
- Pursue legality of a Vacancy Tax, as right now real estate capital sunk into Seattle is responsible for astronomical energy output as units sit vacant. Real estate speculation is one of the most dire climate change issues we are facing today

2. How would you lead fossil fuel divestment at a local level and support a transition to clean energy?

In addition to everything listed above, pursuing a Seattle public bank is one of best ways to solidify our commitment to divestment from the fossil fuel industry. Seattle has already led the way on this with divesting from Wells Fargo, and given that right now the city cannot find another massiven institution to bank with we may have to create a public bank from necessity anyway. A public bank in conjunction with public ownership over our energy resources are two concrete steps I would push for as a Councilmember.

Punitive Justice and Mass Incarceration

1. How will you pursue an end to poverty-based incarceration, including cash bail and imprisonment for failure to pay fines and fees?

As the former campaign manager for King County Prosecutor Daron Morris, I share Daron's committment to ending cash bail. Many of these reforms fall largely outside of my jurisdiction as

a councilmember, but because anti-carceral solutions at the city level form the major part of my lens for dealing with crime, I will call attention to the ways in which major metropolitan areas like King County essentially criminalize people for being poor.

2. *The new youth jail planned for the Central District (also referred to as the “Children and Family Justice Center”) is now running over budget at \$225 million prior to its construction. Do you support this facility? What is your plan for disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and using common resources to produce better outcomes for marginalized youth?*

I do not support this facility and have already gone on record as saying so on the campaign trail. My plan for disrupting the facility will include obfuscating and obstructing the granting of any permits, public hearings, or public resources devoted at the city level to this potential facility, as well as personally attending #NoNewYouth Jail protests as a councilmember.

3. *In 2011, the the Department of Justice found that the Seattle Police Department engaged in patterns of excessive force, violating both the Constitution and federal law. How will you address SPD’s ongoing pattern of violence, particularly in communities of color? Do you support the use of independent prosecutors in cases of alleged police misconduct? What steps will you take to strengthen civilian oversight of SPD?*

The Seattle PD’s history of excessive violence towards communities of color and subsequent lack of accountability is atrocious, and strong accountability measures are necessary going forward to reign in the powers of an unregulated, overfunded police force. This means giving the Community Police Commission significantly more leverage over the SPD, including hiring/firing power and veto power on police contracts and legislation that affects the workings of the SPD. Our recent SPD contract negotiations showed that the CPC’s recommendation is only considered when it’s convenient to those in power.

We also need to; significantly reduce SPD’s budget, re-establish the accountability measures lost in the most recent SPD contract negotiation, bring back the [Community Service Officer Program](#) to prioritize non-violent/non-carceral solutions, end the SPD’s sweeps of unhoused encampments, use independent prosecutors in cases of alleged police misconduct, put an end to the use of racist “gang databases”, ensure further funding is not poured into carceral solutions which looks like blocking the proposed North Precinct “bunker” and halting the construction of the new youth jail, end cash bail in King County, and freeze hiring of new SPD officers until the SPD is found in full compliance of their consent decree, the investigation of which has been [re-opened by a local judge](#).

We also agree with Nikkita Oliver in her 2017 platform where she outlined the following accountability measures: “3) *requiring the Mayor and the SPD Chief to accept public comment*

and to provide a written rationale justifying any refusal to institute non-binding CPC recommendations; 4) establishing politically independent civilian oversight of the Office of Police Accountability (OPA); 5) hiring a mix of civilian and sworn OPA investigators, ensuring that impacted communities are represented within the office; 6) developing an independent Office of Inspector General with authority over SPD policies, procedures, and operations, tasked with auditing and community outreach.”

4. How would you work to end the [Deadly Exchange](#) between Seattle PD and the IDF?

As a democratic socialist the issue of liberation for the Palestinian people is dear to my heart. This January my campaign will be rolling out many public policy points, one of which will be publicly calling on SPD Police Chief Carmen Best to end the SPD's participation in the deadly exchange. I have already met with SUPER (Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights) UW and plan to meet with Jewish Voice for Peace, as they were the ones to initially shine the spotlight on this grave malpractice. Failing public pressure, one of the first things I would do in office is introduce legislation to end Seattle's participation in the deadly exchange.

Imperialism

1. What would you do to oppose our imperialist foreign policy and the runaway influence of the military-industrial complex?

I would draw the links between climate change--which Seattle has a reputation, however unearned, for combatting--and the fact that the military is the largest polluter in the world. I would call attention to corporations which maintain large chemical and industrial contracts with the military, and support a public bank which disinvests from these companies, therefore separating Seattle's financial fate from large, life-killing corporations.

2. Do you support the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions ([BDS](#)) movement?

 Wholly and unequivocally. BDS is the least we could do support the Palestinian people currently suffering under the apartheid state of Israel.

Immigration

1. What should be done to protect immigrants from both the US government and their employers once they're here in America? In particular, immigrants who travel on visas sponsored by their employers are vulnerable to those employers. What will you do address this imbalance of power?

We should continue to discourage local law enforcement agencies from working in concert with federal gestapo agencies like ICE. I would hold private constituent meetings with communities under attack from disloyal corporations, and proceed to legislate from a place of deep empathy and righteous indignation.

2. *Without a plan for enforcement, Seattle's status as a sanctuary city is merely a title. What is your proposed protocol for upholding the rights of DACA recipients and other immigrants (including those who are undocumented), and enforcing Seattle's status as a sanctuary city?*

There are several immediate steps we can take as a city to address the injustice delivered upon our undocumented community, including:

- Full and equal voting rights and access to city services for all residents regardless of immigration/visa status
- End Seattle's cooperation with ICE and the Northwest Detention Center
- Investigate if Seattle does any business with GEO group, and terminate said business if it does.
- Assess use of city databases against undocumented residents
- Ban E-Verify
- Refuse cooperation to do ICE "holds" in any Seattle/King County jails.

3. *Would you launch investigations into conditions in detention centers? How would you make the realities of immigration detention more transparent?*

Absolutely. Our Congresswoman (and my former boss) Pramila Jayapal led the nationwide effort on this with the "Families Belong Together" movement. I would follow in her footsteps, pushing aggressively for investigations into the conditions of detention centers while also ending cooperation with said detention centers and enforcement agencies. Our strategy needs to not only be responsive or prescriptive, but preventative, which means making paths to citizenship easier as well.

Discrimination

1. *How would you improve current laws designed to aid people with disabilities?*

- Work with the county to increase funding and availability of current ParaTransit services
- Guarantee city-funded right to counsel around employment discrimination towards people with disabilities
- Increase funding and availability of general disability services including mental health care

- Strengthen relationships with disability/disabled community leaders and strengthen the powers of the Disability Rights Commission and lessen mayoral oversight
- Repeal the city's current plastic straw ban contingent on input from the disabled community. This ban disproportionately harms and discriminates against disabled folks
- Disability is the single biggest variable in the housing crisis. Disabled people are 6.4% of the county but 53% of the county's disabled people. Investigate this link and fully fund desperately needed restorative and preventative services to end this funnel. We cannot adequately address the housing and homelessness crisis without addressing its root causes
- Enact the [housing/homelessness/service upkeep policy recommendations](#) laid out at the June 28th, 2018 Housing Policy Meeting at the Arc of King County (community groups in attendance: The Arc of King County, Brain Injury Alliance of WA, Building Changes, Community Homes, DESC, Disability Rights Washington, Mary's Place, Neighborhood Action Coalition, Northwest Justice Project, Open Doors for Multicultural Families, Seattle Disability Commission, Seattle Human Rights Commission, Seattle LGBTQ Commission, Sound Generations, Transit Riders Union, Washington CAN, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance) which includes:
 - Create mechanisms to increase access to services
 - Ensure shelters are accessible
 - Review shelter policies to ensure intersectional problems are not being dismissed or overlooked
 - Funding is needed for caseworkers
 - Access to safe parking is needed
 - Create a system for prevention services and rehousing that ensures appropriate, accessible support
 - Credit histories and other forms of housing discrimination need to be addressed
 - Require set-aside spaces and accessible units from housing developers
 - More placement options are needed for low-income/homeless people with disabilities seeking housing
 - We need eviction reform to address disparate impact on people with disabilities.
 - Retain a portion of city sales tax to put towards affordable housing
 - Require language around access to include the scope of disability.
 - Promote community spaces similar to LGBTQ spaces
 - Revise RFPs for shelters/housing providers to address ALL protected classes, including disability
 - Increase public education and training of city staff about the role of disability in homelessness, especially the increasing rates of unsheltered, chronically homeless.
 - Ensure disability data can be cross referenced with other protected classes and housing outcomes so intersectionality of discrimination can be better understood and addressed.
 - Do not as a matter of policy assume "behavioral health" can stand in for disabilities in public policy work related to housing stabilization.

2. *Do you support pushing back on attempts to discriminate against LGBTQ people, including opposing religious exemptions to anti-discrimination laws, bathroom bills, etc.? What will you do to support LGBTQ rights in your community? What will you do to address high rates of violence against transgender people, particularly women of color?*

I completely reject any and all discrimination towards the LGBTQIA+ community and believe that bathroom laws adhering to the gender binary only serve to further existing power and gender constructs. As a city Seattle needs to do better about enacting and enforcing every building in the city limits to have gender neutral restrooms. In regards to LGBTQIA+ rights and violence towards the transgender community, our platform is as follows:

- Enforce gender neutral restroom laws, especially at city/public buildings/public libraries
- Mandatory gender-affirming surgery/expenses coverage in all state/employer healthcare, i.e. Trans Inclusive Healthcare, including a removal of the mandatory one year on HRT before surgery approval by major insurance companies.
- Equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender. Close the gender wage gap.
- The carceral system kills trans and LGBTQ people disproportionately. Restorative justice is trans justice. Don't build the next jail or prison, get ICE out of the county, etc. This is linked to my anti-carceral platform mentioned earlier.
- Ensure trans women are allowed in women's shelters
- Require gender competency in medical fields
- Marginalized communities like the LGBTQIA+ community are overrepresented in our unhoused population. Increasing access to safe shelters, navigation centers, and affordable housing will drastically decrease LGBTQIA+ violence.
- The LGBTQIA+ community is overrepresented in our carceral system, the least we could do is offer folks just placement in the correctly gendered facilities so as to reduce disproportionate, gendered prison violence.
- Do away with classist bureaucratic fees that are currently required when changing one's gender identity.

3. *Do you consider yourself a feminist? If not, why not? What would you do in office to address the problem of sexual harassment and assault against women in precarious situations, whether in housing, immigration, or low-wage work, that imperils their livelihood, homes, or presence in this country?*

As a socialist feminist I realize that the liberation of one is tied to the liberation of all. Capitalism is a system that upholds, reinforces, and promotes systems of oppression like racism, sexism, and misogyny. In combating capitalism, we combat these oppressive systems as well and recognize these linked oppressions. In my time as a writer for City Arts Magazine I penned a piece titled "[The Material Foundations of Sexual Harassment](#)," in which I wrote that

“The last 30 years have demonstrated the utter failure of market-centered feminism to advance and uplift all women. What we need instead is a social feminism that protects women everywhere without tying their worth to where they happen to fall on the food chain of wage labor.” I would work with my comrades in Unite Here Local 8 to ensure the I-274--a measure which ensures anti-harassment protections for hospitality workers--is enforced and protected at the local level. I am also in the process of meeting with UW campus working groups and activists who have combatted harassment on campus to discern what can be done at the city level to prevent harassment and promote healthy workplaces.

Additionally, I [recently rolled out](#) a list of policy proposals designed to make Seattle a safer city for womxn and LGBTQIA+ folx. These reforms were as follows:

- In the same way that Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative is a lens we use to analyze the racial impact of civic decisions in housing and the arts, we could live in a city with a gender fairness bureaus that function like Vienna’s City’s Women Office. The Seattle Women’s Commission (SWC) is a great start, and its scope should be expanded to include oversight on city projects and more decision-making power, particularly in matters of housing and infrastructure. If, as I’ve called for on this campaign, we succeed in securing more funds for public and deeply-affordable housing from the city’s bonding capacity, the SWC should have the opportunity to help guide the planning and design of that housing.
- We should legally require employers in Seattle to invite folx to share their gender pronouns, and require the city (and all businesses in it) to provide non-binary, genderfluid, and agender identity options on all job applications.
- Seattle should make public restrooms at transit hubs mandatory, and choose to enforce all-gender restroom laws, particularly in all city buildings and public institutions, like libraries and parks. These public restrooms could be designed in such a way as to increase safety, in the mold of an open-source architectural prototype [debuted at the AIA Conference on Architecture](#) early this year.
- While apps like “Next Door” and [“Find It, Fix It”](#) are too often a wellspring of regressive politics, we could use technology to bolster inclusivity. The city could partner with independent tech developers to create and promote a city-specific app (similar to Hollaback!) that reports and logs incidents of sexual harassment and alerts the city to areas with a lack of street-lighting. The data should be publically available and used, at the very least, to guide Seattle City Light’s current campaign to replace fading LED lights that were installed earlier in the decade.
- We should exempt menstrual products from our regressive sales tax.
- What’s more, we should search for progressive revenue streams at the city, regional, and state-levels—perhaps a “Pink Tax” on all big businesses who contribute to the gender pay gap—to revive a little-known universal basic income pilot: from [1971 to 1982](#), Seattle was one of four cities that paid 4,800 Seattleites an average of \$28,000 per year. A happy side-effect of this policy was that it stimulated rates of divorce among womxn who no longer had to be chained to relationships they didn’t want to be in

because of the financial security they provided. In the future, rather than distribute those funds to the population at large, they could be reserved exclusively for working and expecting mothers instead.

Ensuring A People's Democracy

1. *Do you support basic reforms to increase voter registration and participation by working people, including Election Day registration, automatic voter registration, making Election Day a holiday, and increasing opportunities for early voting?*

Absolutely. I touched on this in my [campaign announcement](#) and [subsequent interviews](#), my interview with the UW Daily wrote: "The candidate also lists as one of his priorities giving voting rights to international students, who number nearly 8,000 this school year studying at the UW on a visa, according to statistics published by the UW International Student Services office. 'I think it's fundamentally wrong that you can have international students that are service workers, who serve as home caretakers, that pay the same taxes as everybody else, but don't have the same representation as everybody else,' Scott said."

I believe that our democracy is at its best when the institutions that work for the people are democratically decided on by the people, and this means all people. While mail-in registration is a great step in the right direction, we need to go much further. In addition to everything mentioned in the question, this includes restoring voting rights to felons and taking a hard look at our cities history of redlining and gerrymandering that has resulted in inequitable voting patterns that privilege the more wealthy and powerful in our society.

2. *How will you push back on the billionaires and business interests who last year so publicly fought and won against a modest taxation on themselves in order to fund affordable housing?*

With the Amazon tax fight we saw the cowardice of the city's establishment laid bare. Councilmember Sawant was essentially the only voice championing the tax, with her and CM Mosqueda being the only "No" votes against the repeal. While there was significant pressure for the head tax to pass, it clearly folded under the weight of big business and capital influence. With a mayor in office that Amazon bought and paid for themselves, my position on the City Council would strongly bolster the left-wing of the council, allowing the council to leverage significantly more political will and power against the billionaire's currently exploiting our city's most vulnerable communities. I hope to pursue aggressive, progressive tax solutions to reduce the tax burden on working people, and hold the 1% accountable by righting our upside down tax structure. Failing the political will of tax solutions (as the city has so aptly recently demonstrated), we can use the bonding capacity of the city to raise \$450 million to immediately meet the needs of the crisis. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Other Issues

1. What is your stance on drug decriminalization?

Drug “law enforcement” in this country has a long and ugly history of targeting, incarcerating, and destroying communities of color. From the [CIA funneling crack-cocaine into poor neighborhoods](#), Bill Clinton & Joe Biden’s 1998 “Crime Bill” that resulted in more incarcerations than Reagan & Bush Sr put together, to our modern-day Uncle Ikes setting up shop on the very corner that black and brown folks were arrested for selling ounces of weed on. While “Ike”, a white man, makes profit hand over fist from marijuana sales, hundreds of black and brown folks still sit in jail for these “drug offenses”. Recognizing the inequitable history of drug enforcement laws is key in pursuing legalization and decriminalization. Our approach should be two-pronged in strategy: pursuing checks on capital so that businesses can not set up to immediately exploit the sale of these drugs for private profit (as we’ve also seen in the pharmaceutical industry), and pursuing pardons for all people currently incarcerated for drug offenses related to the drugs we’re pursuing legalization for.

2. Seattle plans to open a safe-consumption site, implementing a harm-reduction strategy for drug users. Do you support this initiative? If so, how will you handle possible objections from neighborhood associations and other groups opposed to having safe-consumption sites in their “backyards”?

I unequivocally support safe consumption sites. They are a proven harm reduction strategy that gives people suffering from debilitating drug addictions somewhere to use safely and begin (or continue) pursuing treatment for their addiction. Right now the city’s alternative to safe consumption sites is letting residents suffering from addiction die on our cold streets. This is wholly immoral and inhumane. I believe that safe consumption spaces, in conjunction with accessible public restrooms and navigation centers, play a vital role in a holistic, public-good approach we can take to the many problems facing our city that will hopefully move us away from our current punitive, carceral “solutions”

3. Do you support the city and/or state-level push for a public bank? Do you favor public ownership of utilities and how would you support and develop policies to increase worker ownership and control of industries?

100%. I’m incredibly proud of Seattle for leading the way on divesting from Wells Fargo, a capitalist entity that profits off the exploitation of low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color. While a public bank still exists within a capitalist framework, it is a massive step in eliminating predatory lending and investment in unethical industries fueled by profit and capital. Public utilities should be publicly owned, full stop, and I would do anything I can to push for worker owned businesses and control of industries. The first step in this direction is to pursue empowering workers (supporting

unions, increasing minimum wage and worker protections, etc.), putting checks on capital and the bosses, and ensuring that public goods are actually available to *all* of the public that pay into it.

4. Do you support municipal broadband?

Wholeheartedly, as recently exemplified by the [911 outage](#) caused by a CenturyLink mishap, access to essential public service infrastructure is an unequivocal right of all residents and can literally mean the difference between life and death for some.

5. Public Transportation usage in Seattle has continued to increase. Do you support fully subsidized public transit in order to eliminate solo-car ridership? What other solutions might you advocate for in order to further improve public transit?

Absolutely. With the combined crises of soaring rents, climate change, and inadequate infrastructure, Seattle deserves a drastic and equitable solution to transit and mobility. Transit is a public good that is publicly financed by our tax dollars, it is only right that it should be free and accessible to all. In addition to free transit for everyone within the city limits of Seattle, I would work with sound transit to rapidly allocate funds and energy toward the ST3 projects to speed up the construction of light rail, push for development of public restrooms at transit stations, expand transit and light rail hours so they're available 24/7, massively increase bike lane infrastructure, and explore a municipally owned alternative to the many bike share services we've seen crop up in our city.

6. What are your ideal budget allocations for the city of Seattle?

I recently stood with Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant and other local community leaders during the People's Budget Process (seen [here](#) where I come in at 24:30) to call for a radical overhaul of our city's current budget. These changes included raising \$48 million through massive cuts to currently bloated services including: cut \$7.7 million in from brutal homeless encampment sweeps; cut \$7.1 million dedicated to new computers in police cars; cut \$1 million from city street tolls; cut \$666,000 from mayor and council member salaries; cut \$5.1 million on city executive salaries, cut another \$14.5 million by reducing the number of city executives; and cut \$12 million on new officer hiring.

Less than 1% of the budget recently passed by the Seattle City Council was allocated to affordable housing which is woefully regressive. In my tenure as a city councilperson I would push for a massive increase in funding for affordable housing and homelessness services, drastic cuts to our bloated police budget, and pursue progressive tax avenues (i.e. the Amazon tax, a high-earners income tax, etc.) to ensure that the money is there in the first place.