2. What do you know about the unmet basic human needs in the district you would represent?

We are specifically failing to address the rise in the amount of people experiencing homelessness and must be able to meet social service needs in District. I have been engaged with a broad variety of stakeholders and local nonprofits in District 1 and have been working with campaign team members to review available and published data for D1 and Citywide regarding unmet human needs and critical issues.

a. The number of people experiencing homelessness has virtually doubled in the past year in District 1, encampments and unsafe living conditions are on the rise and there are no emergency beds available in District 1;
b. Camp Second Chance has been doing well but could use more resources;
c. Housing costs are spiraling; the human services budget is strapped and financial hardships make it difficult to pay one’s rent/mortgage;
d. Access to healthy and nutritious food sources is also a much higher need;
e. The City declared a state of emergency regarding the Homelessness crisis, yet the overall response has not been urgent.

I believe there isn’t a singular cause for these issues, and therefore no one solution. We must stop politicizing the dialogue and work together.

3. What has afforded you the privilege and power to run for office, and how will it impact your role in this position?

I have been privileged to have a family who fully supports me and provided an extensive amount of wisdom and knowledge on how to manage my expectations and translate visions and ideas into realities, throughout my life. My parents are both educators; my mother is a former Dean of DeVry University and my father taught physics for 40+ years at Vassar College. They both worked very hard for decades helping others before they retired.
Their passion for education and dedication to family and friends remains an inspiration to me today.

I was inspired to become an attorney and shifted my focus early on to become a public defender. I also volunteered my time as a child advocate for the King County District Court and launched my own business. Spending the past 15 years as a public defender has given me the insights of the need for reformation in the criminal justice system. I will bring my strong background of community involvement, conflict resolution, negotiation and collaboration skills, along with my experience of running a business, to the role of City Councilmember.

4. What experience do you have in listening to and amplifying community voices? In what ways do you base your policies and priorities on the needs of those who will be most impacted by them?
I have worked with, or served on the boards of, several local groups and organizations over the years, which has provided me access to the ears of many people throughout District 1. My fundraising efforts, affiliation with local organizations and a decade of hosting trivia nights, has introduced me to a cross section of groups directly engaged with the people of District 1, which will help me further leverage community voices. In my role as a public defender, I have also provided pro bono legal services to organizations and community groups to assist with their mission and goals.

My priorities include shifting City Hall from a one-way communication model to invite and listen to all voices, especially those impacted the most by a particular policy or change proposed by City Council.

5. The cost of health care increases every year. Recent federal policy changes have threatened the long-term sustainability of Medicaid — such as attempts to reduce funding or turn the program into a block grant — and have aimed to undermine the viability of private health insurance markets — such as eliminating the individual insurance mandate from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or not defending the ACA in court. Given so many barriers being placed at the federal level, how would you work to improve health care access at the local level to ensure stronger and more vibrant communities?
Health insurance coverage improved dramatically across King County since the ACA program was implemented. Eliminating the individual insurance mandate will create chaos here and across the nation.

I will work with leaders across the City and County, who are already fighting to preserve and amplify access to healthcare in Seattle and the region, such
as the City’s Department of Human Services, public health, community health organizations and service providers. The people of Seattle experiencing the most barriers to healthcare access must be part of these discussions.

We must reduce the amount of political rhetoric to specifically improve access for those experiencing homelessness, mental health and substance abuse disorders. Other factors, including a lack of transportation options, language barriers, age and overall financial hardship must be prioritized. Raising public awareness about currently available services is also a vital element. I will work to existing strengthen public/private partnerships and establish new partnerships to help address these issues.

6. Federal policies over the last few years have created a climate of fear for immigrant and refugee communities across the country. Even Washington State, long a welcoming environment, is no stranger to these challenges, as the recent Department of Licensing scandal showed. This climate of fear impacts immigrants and refugees of all statuses, and new research shows this fear is driving immigrants away from health and human services programs they are legally eligible to participate in. What would you do to leverage local systems and resources to bring immigrant and refugee communities back out of the shadows?

Under the current US Government administration, ICE raids targeting immigrant populations are designed to promote and escalate a fear-based society with the goal of being a deterrent to entering the US, at virtually any cost to families and children. I will continue to support Seattle’s position as a sanctuary city and the restriction of involvement by the Seattle Police Department with ICE raids. I will build on current immigrant and refugee programs by inviting community leaders to the table on a regular basis to discuss issues and solutions. I will also specifically work with the Seattle Police Department to identify ways to expand Community Policing and other outreach efforts.

Adding more multi-lingual services to Court systems and holding more outreach sessions to address these issues, should be a priority. We must hold more frequent sessions at community centers and other accessible venues where Judges and Court Staff are on hand to engage with communities to provide information on immigration law and what it means to live in a sanctuary city.

Increasing documentation on relevant websites in multiple languages and publicizing through other methods is a critical step.
7. Over half Seattleites and over 40% of people in King County are renters. Currently in most of Washington State tenants can be forced to move with only 20 days’ notice and even within the city of Seattle, there is no guarantee that a landlord will renew a tenant’s lease. [For King County Candidates] As part of the King County Council, will you enact just cause protections to give tenants stability? [For Seattle Candidates] As part of Seattle City Council, will you expand just cause protections for renters with fixed term leases who are up for a lease renewal? [For both] What are your plans and strategies to protect renters?

I am a current renter and have been my entire life. I have worked with the Housing Justice Project at the Regional Justice Center in Kent and still have contacts there today.

I support protections for tenants and will work to ensure residents in D1 and across the City are protected by the laws in place. Access to publicly subsidized attorneys along with new programs linking folks to pro bono services should be reviewed and leveraged. Earlier interventions with renters experiencing financial hardships must be prioritized.

8. In 2018, the consulting firm McKinsey and Company conducted an extensive analysis of the current crisis response and homeless housing programs in Seattle and King County. They found that our region dramatically under-invests in housing and other system-wide responses, while the numbers of people experiencing homelessness grows. They found that between 2014 and 2017, the number of households accessing homelessness services grew by an average 11 percent a year, while funding grew by an average 2.4 percent a year. The McKinsey analysis estimated an additional investment of between $360 and $410 million per year for at least ten years is required to make and maintain progress in solving homelessness. Such added resources would bring our community in line with sister cities and counties addressing homelessness and affordable housing crises.

What are three specific revenue options (local, regional, and state) you would use to generate the necessary funds to fill the gap between current local, state, and federal dollars, and the housing and service system investments required to do the job for Seattle and King County residents experiencing homelessness?
Service providers and shelters are at capacity and current housing providers are finding it harder to keep pace with demand. The number of people experiencing homelessness includes an aging population with serious health issues, where financial hardships due to medical expenses may be an underlying cause for becoming homeless. Memory care needs are rising and support teams may not be fully trained in this area. Scaling up to a level to meet rising demand has been more than simply challenging.

That said, I will work with leaders across the City, County and State to further identify funding resources. I will strengthen and leverage public/private partnerships, streamline and reduce duplicative work being done across City departments and conduct a thorough review or audit of larger City Departments to identify budget inefficiencies which may be reallocated. I will explore using the City’s bonding capacity to help bridge gaps for affordable housing units.

The State’s $175M provision for the Housing Trust Fund, slated for loans and grants for local government and housing authorities will help address housing issues, but more work must be done. I will work with leadership in Washington State’s Department of Commerce, Homelessness Assistance area. The County’s Regional Response to Homelessness, the goals of which are making homelessness a rare, brief and one-time occurrence, is being implemented. Seattle experiences a higher percentage of impact across the County and I will monitor the progress to ensure Seattle’s efforts are funded proportionately.

9. **Seattle and King County are in the midst of a child care crisis because child care is expensive and unaffordable for many working families. At the same time, some child care providers cannot afford to pay workers a living wage and stay in business. What ideas do you have for solutions?**

As a parent of a 7-year-old, I understand how expensive child care services can be. I believe the City should continue efforts to help address financial needs of working families, which may include finding ways to expand the CCAP, (Child Care Assistance Subsidy Program), County programs, DSHS and other State programs, subsidies, voucher programs and financial aid locally, when and where possible.

Our children are precious gifts to our families and child care workers are entrusted with their lives on a daily basis. We must continue to work with local providers to identify mechanisms to improve the livable wage to workers. Other strategies include an ongoing dialogue with workers to
understand the challenges they face to ensure their voices are heard. We must continue to review and strengthen existing Public/private partnerships.

10. Survivors of gender-based violence frequently enter the criminal justice system due to their victimization, but criminal justice responses are woefully inadequate and problematic for most survivors for a variety of reasons, especially Black, indigenous, and other survivors of color, refugee and immigrant survivors; and gender non-conforming survivors.

What specific solutions will you bring forward for addressing issues of gender-based violence in our city?

We must strengthen the focus on prevention of violence and promote gender equity across the City. I will work with the Violence Prevention and & Gender Equity Program leaders to help raise awareness through speaker circuits and other outreach methods. I will work with current leaders to remain fully briefed on issues and finding solutions.

What mechanisms would you employ to shift the structural oppression and racism, specifically in criminal justice institutions?

My background as a public defender has provided me with a very broad awareness of the criminal justice system. After 50 years of working to reduce institutional racism and other discrimination, America is still the land of the unequal. The City has been implementing the use of the RSJ toolkit throughout departments and providing training to Boards and Commissions. We must also work against racism hidden beneath classism within the criminal justice system, which is a secondary way structural oppression and racism continues, affecting those without the ability to pay.

I will work with the Office of Civil Rights, community leaders in Seattle and across the region to work on meaningful mechanisms to highlight and address these critical issues.

11. Describe how you would represent your constituents to ensure there is a pathway to emergency food services for all who need it. What policies and investments would you support so that residents across Seattle and King County have equal access to adequate, culturally appropriate, healthy food?

Addressing the lack of housing and nutritious food sources is more critical than ever. We must work harder to raise public awareness across the City
regarding access to healthy food provided by food banks and other sources and ensure food service is equitably distributed throughout the City.

Access to healthy and culturally appropriate food should be further prioritized in food desert areas. In District 1, there isn’t a grocery store located in South Park. Free or low-cost shuttle or transit services should be further explored as well as working with private parking lot owners to offer more food stands. I will work with food truck hubs to identify other methods to provide healthy food to communities in D1 and across the City. Expanding access to WIC, SNAP and other programs should be prioritized. I will also continue to work with the Delridge Food Cooperative which provides healthy and nutritious food for residents in that area and throughout West Seattle.

12. According to a 2017 FBI report, nationwide reports of hate crimes increased by 17% from 2016 to 2017; by 32% in Washington State, and 198% in Seattle. Within Washington State, 38% of reported hate crimes were in Seattle. The City Auditor analyzed data that reported hate crimes doubled from 2014 to 2016 and doubled again from 2016 to 2018. 54% of the crimes related to race/ethnicity and 32% sexual orientation. What are your ideas for responding to hate crime in our region without criminalizing communities of color?

Hate and bias crimes have been rising sharply in Seattle and across the country which must be swiftly addressed by law enforcement and the justice system. There is no hate crime law on the books in Seattle other than malicious harassment. The City’s analysis of recent pending legislation identified the potential of disproportionately impacting people of color. In advance of action taken by the City, community leaders who have been working on this matter, must be included in the conversation to provide input. Resources for the Seattle Police Department’s Community Policing Team and other outreach methods should be expanded and implemented.

My background as a public defender and knowledge of the criminal justice system will be very beneficial in these discussions. I will work with the City and Prosecuting Attorney’s offices along with law enforcement agencies and community organizations in order to strengthen or draft legislation to address this serious issue. We must not only protect those who are being targeted but legislation must also work as a deterrent for offenders.
13. As a city, we have moved to district representation. However, the needs of our residents are not necessarily most efficiently and effectively addressed by district. Nonprofit services most often cross multiple districts and people who make use of the services interact with providers throughout the city. How will you work to represent both the needs of your district as well as Seattle as a whole?

A large percentage of service providers are located in District 7. Access to services must be expanded across all Districts as the population continues to grow and the number of people experiencing homelessness rises. As the City Councilmember for District 1, I will work to ensure the people in D1 have access to local services as well as residents throughout the city. Human need is not solely limited to a geographic boundary and therefore we must prioritize the totality of these issues while providing assistance on the District level.

14. Will you support an automatic annual inflation adjustment tied to the CPI-W for the City's human services contracts so providers can maintain current levels of service as costs of doing business increase? I support cost of living adjustments to reflect the rising costs of inflation. If public dollars are aimed to increase service provider workers’ pay, we must work to ensure those funds are passed along to employees.