1. Many employers in the downtown and center city neighborhoods—including the City of Seattle—fully or partially cover the cost of ORCA transit passes for their employees. Incentivizing public transit and reducing drive-alone commuting is especially important during the next five years, with the “Seattle Squeeze” creating challenging traffic conditions. However, many employers don’t provide any transit pass subsidy. Anecdotally, higher-paid workers are more likely to receive employer-subsidized passes than lower-wage workers, who are disproportionately women and people of color. Many lower-wage workers earn too much to be eligible for the ORCA LIFT low-income reduced fare program, but not enough to afford housing in Seattle without being severely cost-burdened. For the following questions, please choose either Yes or No. You may explain your answers if you like.

- Do you think employers of a certain size should subsidize employee transit passes? (Yes/No)
- Would you support city council action to make this a requirement? (Yes/No)
- Do you think the City should cover the costs of transit passes for employees of human service providers that are funded by city contracts? (Yes/No)

Both of these ideas seem reasonable, and I’d like to study them before making a final decision.

2. Report after report—notably the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released in October 2018—tells us we need to cut carbon emissions dramatically NOW. What will you do to put Seattle on the path to decarbonization?

We need to take results-oriented steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect our quality of life for generations to come. I will use my position to lead Seattle in transitioning to renewables and ensure that the cost of this transition is not disproportionately shouldered by the poor as Seattle works its way towards 100-percent clean energy from renewable and zero-emissions sources. Our state legislature recently adopted landmark legislation that commits Washington state to 100-percent clean energy from renewable and zero-emissions sources by 2045. Our state is leading the nation by committing to transitioning from relying on fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation to 100-percent clean energy from renewable and zero-emissions sources.

Seattle has a responsibility as the most densely populated and rapidly growing city in the region to take the lead on getting us to 100-percent clean energy from renewable and zero-emissions sources. Transportation is the largest source of carbon emissions in Washington closely followed by emissions from building developments and electricity. As Seattle continues to grow, we need to come up with a plan to prepare our communities for this transition and ensure that the financial burden of the transition does not fall on low-income communities in Seattle. In this transition we must think about equity and design for it in a systemic way to ensure equitable outcomes.

3. What is one community, specifically in your district, that you feel is being “left out” as our city grows and changes? What will you do to make sure their voices are heard?
While much of the attention in District 7 is focused on downtown, Queen Anne, and Magnolia it is important to note that my district also contains a small portion of the International District. The ID has been at the center of so much change in our city, and there is a real fear that longtime residents are going to be displaced in order to build newer apartments and hotels, as evidenced by the Humbows not Hotels campaign being pushed by the CID Coalition. I will make it a point to hold office hours in the neighborhood to ensure I am in and hearing from the community.

4. **What should the City’s role be in creating a healthy climate for business in Seattle?**

The city has a role in creating a healthy economic climate not just for business, but for the people who live here as well. I am a big believer in rising tides raise all ships, and that if the city does more to make sure people have access to jobs that allow them to make a living wage business will benefit as well. I am in favor of expanding programs designed to support entrepreneurs who are looking to start a business, particularly minority and women owned businesses.

5. Seattle has the most regressive tax system of any city in Washington State, which has the most regressive tax system of any state in the US. Do you believe that the City has a responsibility to raise significant new revenue to address the challenges facing our communities? If so, what tax policies would you advocate for at the city level to generate new revenue?

Small things like the progressive REET tax might help a little, but ultimately it’s going to take a commitment from other cities to step up to take this on with us and I have a plan for making that happen. A state income tax is of course the other big one.

6. **Seattle is deeply divided on how to address the homelessness crisis. How would you characterize these divisions, and how would you address them?**

There’s no silver bullet, but many things that need to be done simultaneously to address homelessness. First and foremost, I would talk to the people who are at the front lines of the crisis (ie. Police Officers, EMT’s, Fire Fighters, Navigation Teams, Homeless Services Providers, the Homeless themselves). These are the people who are in thick of it, and therefore the people with the most knowledge on what solutions could work or not work. Here are a few first steps I would vet with those on the front lines:

Criminal Justice: I support diversion programs like LEAD on the front end of sentencing, but more needs to be done to support rehabilitation of people in the criminal justice system while in jail and upon release. For Seattle specifically, there needs to be a plan in place for each inmate released from the King County Jail downtown. Plans need to include a path to employment, education, rehabilitation services, and housing. A criminal history should not be a sentence to poverty for life, and without government support it too often is.

Regional Mental Health and Drug Rehabilitation Commitment: I am supportive of the State’s effort to fund mental health and drug rehabilitation facilities, but it will still be insufficient. In addition to state funding there needs to be a more robust regional commitment. While Seattle and King County’s commitment to regional coordination is a positive, it will take the same commitment from other cities and counties across our region to solve this issue. Given the current thinking about rolling out smaller facilities as opposed to a few large facilities, I also see opportunity to retrofit small publicly owned spaces into right-sized rehabilitation facilities. Although not in
Seattle, I am a little concerned DSHS’s plans to surplus part of it’s Fir Crest property for other uses. This is the type of move, that usually leads to future regrets when we realize that we need that land for public good at a future date.

Keeping People Out of Homelessness: Programs like the Landlord Liaison project, rental and mortgage assistance and other programs to keep people out of homelessness are effective and cost effective. I would expand these programs and increase the partnerships with non-government entities to provide no-strings funding to people that need immediate assistance.

Better Coordination between Government, business, and philanthropy: Example - We need Front line workers, like public safety workers need to be paid more. The recent 2% wage increase is a failure on the City’s behalf to adequality deal with this issue. I would propose a study to better understand the true economic cost turnover and retraining of these workers. If there is a cost savings, it should all be redirected to wage increases for these workers. The challenge will be how to increase wages immediately in order to prevent turnover, when the payback to pay for these wage increases is realized over time. Covering the gap between increasing wages immediately and realizing the payback will likely require a one-time funding source. If a data-driven economic case could be made for this approach, I would bet that business and philanthropy would step up to cover the one-time cost. These are the types of practical solutions and partnerships I’d like to encourage as a council member.

7. There is widespread agreement that all areas of response to the homelessness crisis need to be stepped up— but in practice, an elected official’s job is often to prioritize. How would you rank the following in terms of relative priority for increased funding and attention? (1=highest, 4=lowest)
You may explain your choice, but if you fail to rank the options, we will not consider your answer.

- Homelessness prevention (1, 2, 3, 4)
- Mental health and drug treatment services (1, 2, 3, 4)
- Low-income housing (1, 2, 3, 4)
- Emergency shelter (1, 2, 3, 4)

Prioritization might be a little misleading as I think a long term plan will prioritize different strategies over time.

8. What lessons do you think should be drawn from the experience of the “head tax” last year?

I think the biggest take away from the head tax debacle last year is that we have a city that is deeply divided on how to best address funding for affordable housing and homeless services. Yes, the business community led the repeal charge, that doesn’t change the fact that they are not one of the tens of thousands of people who signed to put a referendum of the tax on the ballot prior to the council deciding to not pass the tax. We absolutely need more funding for services, and we have to work together to raise them.