1. What are the top one to three things you want to accomplish in the next four years? What policies or programs will you champion? What will happen with you on the King County Council that wouldn’t happen without you?

In the next four years, have three areas that I want to focus on. First, I want to continue my work in creating an equitable public transportation system in King County that is accessible to all people regardless of income or residence while transitioning our metro bus fleet to 100% renewable energy. I will develop policies towards this goal just as I developed the Orca lift program and supported additional hours of bus service and improvement of routes and providing better access service for seniors and the disabled.

Secondly, my deep concern over the housing crisis led me to serve on the King County Affordable Housing Task Force. I was able to get the task force to commit to a goal of building 44,000 affordable housing units over the next five years. I want to work to ensure that we reach that goal. I have already begun addressing that goal in District two by working on concrete affordable housing units that are close to transportation hubs in south Seattle.

Lastly, although I led the effort to decrease the number of youths in our juvenile justice system by 75%, there is still more work to develop programs that address the disproportionate number of African American youth and Native American youth in our system. I have a concrete program that I am hoping to get the Council and Executive to implement over the next two years that addresses this issue and focuses on young adults who have been involved in gun violence and are the hardest to serve and have the highest needs.

I will continue to champion the policies that protect immigrant and refugees in King County and to be able to access all county services without fear of repercussions or harassment.

I believe that as the only incumbent of color on the Council and the member with the most concrete community organizing experience, I give voice and action to the most disenfranchised communities, the poor and communities of color. Because I have the experience and knowledge of working with these communities over my lifetime, I know their issues and can mobilize these communities to advocate for themselves. I have listened to these communities and opened the doors of the council to bring their ideas and transform them into policy. This was particularly true around legislation that I developed around immigrant and refugee rights and protection and the ultimate formation of the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission. I can bring those that are most impacted by an issue to lobby the council as I did when I stopped the Executive and Council’s attempt to charge a booking fee to those being booked in our KC jail.
2. Sales tax, which is regressive and volatile, constitutes approximately half of King County Metro’s total revenue. What will you do to achieve more robust, sustainable, and progressive funding for public transit?

I will investigate more stable and progressive revenue sources like a car tab tax like we used for Sound Transit and/or possibly create a transportation benefit district like Seattle did for Prop 1. Another idea might be to investigate into a carbon tax on cars. We need to start treating transit like other human services and realize it is a crucial life line for our most vulnerable people.

3. With direction from the County Council, Metro recently began developing recommendations for an income-based fares program, guided by the principle that mobility is a human right and cost should not be a barrier to using public transit. It is possible that implementation of a truly comprehensive program would cause Metro’s farebox recovery rate to fall below the current 25% requirement. There are at least four strategies for fixing this problem. Please rate each strategy from 0-5 according to how willing you are to pursue it (0=absolutely not willing, 5=extremely willing). You may explain your answers and add other strategies you would consider, if you like.

- Raise fares for riders who can better afford to pay - 5
- Change county policy so that farebox recovery rates below 25% become acceptable - 5
- Scale down the income-based fares program so farebox recovery doesn’t fall below 25% - 0
- Find ways to increase employer participation in ORCA programs to increase fare revenue - 5

4. The Housing Development Consortium estimates that King County needs 54,000 more homes affordable to households with incomes less than 30% AMI to meet the demand. What will you do to close this affordable housing gap?

As stated in question #1, the development of housing especially in this category of households with incomes less than 30% is a very high priority for me. I am looking at ways we can develop this housing in district two through a variety of ways. I am currently in discussions with Sound Transit about development of properties that were used for staging areas and could be used for modular housing. These would be TOD units. I have also been supportive of modular housing being developed on properties currently owned by King County in other are parts of the county. In the Central Area, Churches are the largest land owners in the area. I want to engage with some of the churches to see how we can match them up with non-profit housing developers to develop housing on their lands while keeping black churches and other churches as part of our community. Lastly, while I supported the Council legislation to survey available lands the County owns that could be used for affordable housing, I want to allocate funds to look at Skyway county owned properties before the other study is completed (target date is mid-2020). I am also currently working on introducing anti-displacement and renter’s just cause legislation that would directly impact housing and homelessness rates.

5. More than three years ago, in November 2015, King County and the City of Seattle declared a civil State of Emergency on homelessness. Since then, government action has fallen far short of an emergency response, and homeless counts and deaths have only risen. What will you do differently over the next four years?
King County and the city of Seattle are now working on looking at a new homelessness governance system that would be centered on the needs of the homeless. I am in support of finding a new coordinated system in which those that are homeless or are endanger of being homeless have a seat at the table but are also part of the decision-making process. I also want to ensure that rapid housing is not the sole form of housing for the homeless, but that we need to ensure that families and individuals have the services and time to stabilize in temporary housing as well as in the transition to permanent housing. I would also ensure that those populations disparately impacted by homelessness are given culturally appropriate services as well as the use of community-based programs to deliver these services and do outreach.

6. Do you support repurposing the youth jail and courthouse complex into something that meets basic human needs? (Y/N) Do you support divesting funds from the criminal legal system and investing in community based/driven solutions that enable safety, dignity and belonging? (Y/N) What is your plan for ending youth incarceration and surveillance in King County?
Yes, as we work towards our aspirational goal of zero-youth detention, I would be supportive of repurposing the Children and Family Justice Center for community and service purposes. And yes, I support divesting funds from the criminal legal system. I have worked over my entire lifetime towards ending youth incarceration and surveillance in KC beginning with my political work at the UW in opening high education opportunities to African American, Latinx, Asian American and poor white students. At King County, led in the dramatic decline of 75% in our juvenile justice system over the past two decades. However, as our numbers declined, the disparity of African American, Latino and Native American youth represented in our youth detention increased. I intend to introduce legislation to begin a program that targets the population now involved in the most at-risk behavior, including gun violence. This is the population that no one is working with because it is deemed “the most dangerous” work and is targeted by the police for continued surveillance. I would also like to see more houses with staff and services for at-risk youth/young adults ages 18-25 that could serve young adults who have “aged out” of the foster care system or those that have no permanent homes.

7. King County is proposing to sell off surplus properties near the youth jail site to private developers, despite the fact that the County has established a priority that surplus lands be used for affordable housing. Will you push for all of these surplus lands near the jail to be used for anti-displacement & transformative justice projects rather than sold to private developers?
Councilmember Rod Dembowski and I passed a motion over a year ago that designated the proceeds from the sale of the surplus property to be used for juvenile programming and services. However, it is estimated that after the cost overruns and the cost of selling the property, the sale of the surplus properties may only generate about $5-6 million net. This sale will only take place after demolition is complete, the parking lost is done and the site has been remediated (probably 2021/22).

8. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has told us we need to reduce emissions by 45% within 12 years or doom hundreds of millions of people. Given that there’s so much inertia in our fossil-fueled system, what initiatives will you move forward at the County level to contribute to a response that is adequate to the crisis?
King County is moving all its carpool and metro fleet to 100% renewable energy. While we are currently deliberating an ordinance on the extension and renewing of a moratorium
prohibiting the establishment of new or expansion of existing major fossil fuel facilities, I would be supportive of an overall ban if legally feasible.