



## Seattle Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire on Housing and Homelessness, Summer 2017

Prepared By: [Solid Ground](#) and [Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness](#), in partnership with [Housing Development Consortium](#) and [Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness](#)

Dear Candidate,

Thank you very much for responding to this questionnaire!

We are a non-partisan partnership of housing and homelessness providers and advocacy organizations with a combined substantial presence in Seattle. We will use your responses as part of an online **Voters' Guide on Housing and Homelessness**, which we'll publish to coincide with ballots arriving in mailboxes in mid- to late July.

Because we all are from 501(c)(3) organizations, we are unable to make endorsements; but we will share the questionnaire results with thousands of people interested in housing and homelessness.

Please complete and email this form in Word or PDF format to Catherine Hinrichsen, Seattle University, at [hinrichc@seattleu.edu](mailto:hinrichc@seattleu.edu) by **5 p.m. Thursday, July 13**, if you would like to be included in the Voters' Guide.

- If you send it as a pdf, please ensure your links are live.
- Please either attach a photo or indicate you give us permission to use a photo from your campaign website.

Please direct any questions to Catherine. Thank you!

*In addition, please save the date: We will invite the candidates who advance to the general election to a **Seattle Mayoral Candidate Forum on Housing and Homelessness<sup>1</sup>, Tuesday evening, Sept. 12** (tentative) at Seattle University. More details will come after the primary.*

Questions begin on the next page.

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<sup>1</sup> We decided to cancel the forum previously scheduled for July 12 after counsel advised us we would need to invite all 21 candidates, per IRS regulations for 501(c)(3) organizations. We determined that a discussion with up to 21 candidates would not be productive. We are distributing this questionnaire instead.



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**Candidate's Name:** Bob Hasegawa

**Campaign Address:** 3121 16th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

**Campaign Phone:** 206-659-6364

**Campaign Email Address:** bob@bobhasegawa.com

**Campaign Website:** bobhasegawa.com

**Candidate Photo:** • Attached or • **Permission to use photo from website**

**There are seven questions. You may choose to skip a question; if so, please indicate that you choose not to answer. Please limit your answers to 150 words each (about 1,000 characters, including spaces).**

**Question 1.** King County and the City of Seattle have recognized that the crises of affordability and homelessness are complex, regional issues that require regional solutions, exacerbated by the threat of potential drastic HUD funding cuts. If elected, how would you work with other regional leaders and the state and federal governments to identify, enact and implement innovative, forward-thinking solutions to decrease homelessness and increase affordability?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

Seattle is not alone when it comes to addressing the joint crisis of affordability and homelessness. This year during the annual count of the homeless in King County, more than 11,600 people were tallied in this year's point-in-time count — with 5,485 of them found to be living on the streets, in motor vehicles and tent encampments. Also, according to a survey conducted as part of the count, 40 percent of the 1,131 people surveyed reported becoming homeless at some point in the last three years. This is reflective of the overall state of affairs in the county. We need to do a better job of addressing homelessness and affordability in the region, and as mayor I would meet with other mayors and leaders to find ways in which we can work together to address these issues.



**Question 2.** What is your position on the policies contained in the Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA)? What do you agree with? Disagree?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

I support sufficient public housing to shelter everyone who needs it. In its current form, HALA seems like a giveaway to developers. The “affordable” set aside or the alternative fee is so low, it will never come close to creating an adequate supply of housing. Using this incentive type strategy will never work because developers will never take a deal unless it’s a good deal for them. It could be part of a much broader strategy to increase housing if the set asides/fees were much higher. The City of Seattle needs more housing, and it needs to charge impact fees to mitigate the social costs associated with development. My proposal for a publicly owned bank includes building new public housing, repairing our infrastructure, and other needs identified by the community. My strategy does not include going to the bond market because a publicly owned bank will self-finance.

**Question 3.** How would you balance the disagreement and anger expressed by some neighborhood residents towards increased density and affordable homes in specific areas of the city, with our unprecedented growth and need for increased housing options that must be shared equitably across the city?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

People are not going to stop moving to Seattle, this is a fact. We are going to have to build more housing and with that comes increased density. However, the neighborhoods should have a say in how that density looks. As part of my idea of bringing back the neighborhood councils, I would require that A) the councils be reflective of the demographics of the neighborhood and B) to incentivise the neighborhoods to accept density, I would give them access to money they could use for neighborhood projects in exchange for accepting a portion of the density. I am still working out the specifics around this idea but I think this would be a great step in the right direction in terms of bringing both sides together.



**Question 4.** Did you vote for the Seattle Housing Levy in 2016? Why or why not? What kind of funding mechanism do you believe is best to generate money for housing and homelessness services?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

I did indeed vote for the Seattle Housing Levy in 2016, the reason being that as we can see today we clearly need to be doing everything we can to address housing issues in our city. I think however that we cannot continue to rely on levies to support these efforts, regardless of good intentions. This is why I am such a strong proponent for the establishment of a Public Municipal Bank. It will allow us to leverage the funds we already have to finance these efforts without having to continually go back to the taxpayers.

**Question 5.** Given that half the residents of Seattle are renters, what tenant protections -- above and beyond what the city has already done -- would you push to enact to ensure that potential tenants are being treated equitably?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

I think first and foremost we need to take a look a closer look at the policies we already have in place that are supposed to be protecting renters. We need to ensure that the "Carl Haglund" law the City council passed last year is being adequately enforced, the city's Department of Construction and Inspections is following through with their inspections, and ensure that landlords are not refusing to rent to tenants based on where they are getting their income (or giving preference to one form over another).



**Question 6.** Virtually every city in Washington has responded to the growing homelessness crisis by criminalizing behaviors such as sitting, lying or sleeping in public. If elected, (a) will you work to repeal and/or mitigate the impacts of ordinances that criminalize homelessness in Seattle, and (b) will you oppose attempts to introduce such ordinances?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

If elected I will work to to repeal and/or mitigate the impacts of ordinances that criminalize homelessness in Seattle. These are people who have fallen on hard times, and what kind of society are we if we put policies in place that kick people while they're down? We as a community have a responsibility to our fellow citizens to not sit idly by while people are struggling. I am absolutely against the current administration's policies around the homeless sweeps and I think the money being used to finance them should instead be focused on getting people off the streets and into housing.

**Question 7.** The recent tragic killing of Charleena Lyles highlights the issues of police accountability and the intersecting systems of care in our community whose failures led to her death, including housing, mental health, child welfare, justice and more. How would you address the failure of these systems to work together?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

*We need to empower the Civilian Oversight Commission to have everything it needs to do it job. I also think we need to implement the recommendations of the Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Deadly Force in Community Policing in changing the wording of the law to change the "malice" burden of proof. These are good ideas for dealing with tragedies after the fact, but we need to do a better job of meeting people's needs where they are at so that we can avoid tragedies like the Charleena Lyle's shooting.*



**Candidate Signature** for verification (electronic is ok):

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Sequeira". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

**Date:** 7/13/2017

- **END OF QUESTIONNAIRE** -

Distributed on behalf of partners Solid Ground, Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness, Housing Development Consortium and Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness, by SU's Project on Family Homelessness, Institute of Public Service, Seattle University/CASY 204W, P.O. Box 222000, Seattle, WA, 98122-1090.

Please return to: [hinrichc@seattleu.edu](mailto:hinrichc@seattleu.edu) by Thursday, July 13, 2017, 5 p.m. Thank you for participating.

*Illustration of Seattle skyline by Mandy Rusch, SU '17.*