

NOTE: The candidate sent his responses within his email rather than as a completed questionnaire. This is a Word document that Seattle University created from his email.



Thu 7/13/2017 2:28 PM

James Norton <james@norton4seattle.org>

Questionnaire

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 , Tuesday evening, Sept. 12 (tentative) at Seattle University. More details will come after the primary.

Questions begin on the next page.

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

Candidate's Name: James Norton

Campaign Address:415 1st Ave N PO Box 9215 Seattle Wa 98109

Campaign Phone:206-261-0544

Campaign Email Address: [james@norton4seattle.org](mailto:james@norton4seattle.org)

Campaign Website: [norton4seattle.org](http://norton4seattle.org)

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?

As far as homelessness we need to identify what each person suffers from in order to properly treat or provide care for them. There is a huge difference between someone who is homeless and wants to be left alone to a homeless person on hard time, mentally ill and substance abuse. Our current city government doesn't understand and lumps them altogether.

Affordability and low income affordability are 2 different things. Low income housing does need to increase and I believe there has to a drastic criteria change for those qualified. I have seen too many people who earn to high of an income to qualify yet still need assistance. These people eventually become part of the problem as they slip into the working poor category. I would like to work with our state housing departments to determine a better evaluation process for those who might be qualified and benefit from more housing.

Please answer here, limit 150 words.

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

I believe HALA has the right idea but unfortunately it isn't implemented well. Not enough units are available to low income people. And again I question the criteria for who is receiving the housing. I think HALA creates animosity in some cases and that is not good for anyone. If you are going to create this "shared" housing environment then you have to make it benefit everyone in some way. Even the tenants that are not on low income.

Please answer here, limit 150 words.

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?

I believe that you have to first include the current residents in the decision making process. Let them voice their concerns and fears. Talk about possible acceptable compromise and alternatives. Pushing housing down the neighborhoods throat will again just create divide and animosity to get future proposals accepted.

I understand our city is growing but we can't let it be the deciding factor in all our decisions. We have to learn to combine the growth with our history.

There are areas more amenable to up housing or living in a more dense neighborhood. It appears now the city government is the only one deciding where and when this happens.

Please answer here, limit 150 words.

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?

I believe I did vote for it. I believe it's of the utmost importance to preserve our history and diversity. I believe that developers are not paying their fair share. Impact fees, upping the fees associated with their decision to forgo "x" number of low income units if they decide to upzone a building. Maybe even some type of environmental fee if the project takes longer than expected.

Please answer here, limit 150 words.

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?

I am always for equality. I believe long time residents should have some benefit though as they are often people on a fixed income and have shown the ability to contribute to the health of our city for years. I think they should be rewarded not pushed out because some can pay more money for rent.

Please answer here, limit 150 words.

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?

I would not repeal the law. That is not my job. If it went to a vote and the people wanted to change it then so be it. Most officers gives warnings often. If it is a repeat person at some point the officer has to enact the law as written otherwise we shouldn't have it.

I will expect citizens to follow the laws as people's unlawful behavior impacts those following the low and city ordinances.

Please answer here, limit 150 words.

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?

As a Seattle Police officer I respond to many calls a day similar to the victim Lyles tragedy. I think we need to stop sending our police officers to situations which are setting them up for failure. V/Lyles had mental health issues, known by SPD and our mental health agencies as well as her family. Police alone should not be the ones sent to resolve future issues with her. She already had a negative experience with officers weeks just prior their response. Our mental health system is failing and we have to address it if we are going to continue to have a large percentage of our 911 calls involving police response.

We need to have more people assigned to our crisis team with mental health professionals accompanying them to these type of calls.

Please answer here, limit 150 words.

Candidate Signature for verification (electronic is ok):

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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.

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