**2015 Seattle City Council Candidate Questionnaire**

Thank you in advance for taking the time to answer this questionnaire, which was developed by members of the Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy (CASE). Please note, answers will be shared with CASE members but will not be publicly distributed.

Your responses to the following questions will be used as part of a screening process to determine which candidates the CASE candidate evaluation committee will interview.

**Responses are due by Friday, April 10.**

To submit your completed questionnaire, or if you have any questions, please contact Markham McIntyre, Executive Director of CASE, at 206-389-7313 or markhamm@seattlechamber.com.

**About the Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy**

The Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy (CASE) is a political action committee sponsored by the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. CASE is the strongest political voice for businesses, large and small, in the Seattle metropolitan region. We represent employers and organizations from every industry sector in the region.

CASE supports local candidates and issues that help create a healthy economy, competitive business climate, high quality of life, and progressive future for the Seattle metropolitan area.

**Basic Information**

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| --- | --- |
| Candidate Name: | Tammy Morales |
| City Council Position: | District 2 |
| Party Affiliation: | D |
| Phone Number: | 206.212.0335 |
| E-mail Address: | info@moralesforseattle.com |
| Web Site: | Moralesforseattle.com |
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| Facebook: | Morales for Seattle |

**Administrative Questions**

*\*This is for background information and internal use only. It is confidential and will not be published.*

1. Please list your political consultant(s), campaign manager, and fundraiser.

John Wyble, Evan Migliore, Oldmixon Hill

1. Please list all endorsements you have received.

Representative Mia Gregerson

Estela Ortega, El Centro de la Raza

Mohamud Yusuf, formerly of One America

Alyssa Royse, President Hillman City Business Association

Other supporters include:

Tim Crosby, Slow Money
Christine Hanna, Seattle Good Business Network

EJ Gong, Rainier Valley Chamber

Mike Skinner, Pinchot’s Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Joe Fugere, Tutta Bella

1. Please list how much money you have raised to date, and your fundraising targets for the primary and general elections.

$30,000

Primary - $120k

General - $30k

1. Please describe how you would use the CASE endorsement.

I would use the CASE endorsement to demonstrate that I understand the need for private investment to build vibrant commercial districts in our neighborhoods and the strong role of business in reaching our goals for addressing income inequality.

**General Questions**

1. What are the top three issues in your district you think the City Council should address? Please describe how you would address these issues.

Crime – In the south precinct we have more gun violence than in other parts of the city. I’ll work to fund gun buyback programs so that we can meltdown or shred firearms rather than auction them to end up back on the streets. I’ll also work with SPD to make our community police teams more robust so that we can start to rebuild trust between our communities and our police department.

Workforce housing –Our need for family-sized housing is different than other parts of the city. South Seattle has the largest percentage of households with four or more residents. What’s more, 26% of households in District 2 make less than $25,000 year. I’m committed to working with community groups, neighborhood advocates and city government to ensure that we create more affordable housing options for students, workers and seniors on fixed incomes.

Jobs - For many in Seattle, the economy is booming. In some industries, workers enjoy high salaries, great benefits, and relative stability in their job situation. Others are not so fortunate. Income inequality is pervasive. We can do more to create opportunity for workers and for local business.

I’ll work with local industry to explore new opportunities for paid apprenticeships, so that people can learn new trades and still pay the bills. I’m committed to taking a hard look at the policies that will improve working conditions – especially for the minimum wage workers in the city. The Mayor’s new Office of Labor Standards is an important acknowledgement that these workers have been ignored for too long.

1. What is the top challenge for the City as a whole? How would you, as a City councilmember, help solve this challenge?

Transit – As the fastest growing city in the country, we have much to do to prepare for how we will move people and goods around the city and the region. Our population is projected to grow by 60,000-100,000 in the next 15 years. If everyone brings their car with them, we’re in trouble. We need to make some serious investments in mass transit and ensure that we get the most out of every dollar spent. The Mayor’s Move Seattle proposal goes a long way to ensuring that we address the maintenance backlog in the city – fixing sidewalks, repaving streets, and improving bus service. Assuming this gets on the ballot and is approved in November, the new city council will need to ensure that funding is allocated to meet these goals.

1. Seattle is the fastest growing City in America. Is this a good thing? What steps can the council take to help effectively plan for continued growth?

As I said above, investing in our transportation infrastructure, especially mass transit, is a top priority. We also need to have a community conversation about how we are going to develop as a city. We have an affordable housing emergency and need to consider new models of building family-size housing and more workforce housing. As a city we are not meeting our goals of being a just and equitable city and the lack of affordable housing is a huge contributor to that.

1. What is the City’s role to support business growth and economic development?

I believe the city should be much more focused on how to grow local businesses – particularly in manufacturing and processing sectors that can often provide better wages and career paths. As a small business owner for the lasts 8 years I have worked with Seattle Good Business Network and have been active in the national organization Business Alliance for Local Living Economies. This work has shown me that real prosperity begins with entrepreneurs who are committed to investing in people and their communities. We need to support the growth of our research, maritime, and other large industries AND we need to support development of vibrant commercial districts in our neighborhoods and the entrepreneurs who invest in them.

1. What would you hope to accomplish in your first year in office? Do you have specific legislation that you plan to introduce? If so, please describe your strategy to get your idea implemented.

We all know that economic stability is a cornerstone of healthy communities. We also know that our economic development is tied to our human capital development. Low-income adults who are trying to improve their economic stability need easy access to affordable education and training. That’s why I’m excited to work with city, county and state leaders to bring a more comprehensive array of community college offerings to the Rainier Valley. Community colleges offer the best opportunity to create new job skills, provide training and bring educational resources to our neighborhood. I want to support programs like I-BEST that give young people and workers who are transitioning the applied training and education they need to be successful.

1. What experiences have you had that you think best prepare you to be a city councilmember?

For the past 15 years I’ve been building healthy communities. I’ve worked on affordable housing, community policing, and most recently on building a more just food system. My firm, Urban Food Link, works at the intersection of public health and community economic development. We have successfully advocated with city council to amend land use codes and city ordinances to increase access to healthy food. We successfully advocated for the city to hire a food policy advisor. I have a proven record on:

* Building partnerships that bring together diverse stakeholders to address big issues
* Convening in a way that ensures community voices are heard
* Helping grow small business through training, one-on-one assistance, and connecting small business to new opportunities
* Making policy recommendations adopted by the City of Seattle
* Building healthy communities through better access to food, affordable housing, increasing local business development

I’m trained as a planner so I know how to strategize with different city agencies on the policy issues, but I also work on the ground with small businesses and community members.  Those two levels of experience inform one another and highlight my strengths as a leader, a strategic thinker and someone who gets a job done. That’s what I can bring to the City Council.

1. Describe how you would assess the impact proposed legislation would have on businesses.

As a community development practitioner I understand that business and private investment are critical to making our communities work. I think they also have a responsibility to make our communities work better. I want to make sure our city is encouraging growth among local businesses that embrace being a good neighbor and that understand a strong local economy requires fair wages for workers. My assessment will consider how businesses and the community are impacted.

1. If you have any other relevant information that you think would be useful in our evaluation, please add it below.

**Issue QUESTIONS**

1. **TRANSPORTATION**

Recently, the Mayor proposed the Move Seattle levy, a $900 million property tax levy for transportation. This proposal is the beginning of an important conversation about how the City of Seattle funds its transportation infrastructure over the next number of years. Ensuring an efficient, integrated, multi-modal transportation system is a core government function that makes a huge difference in the lives of our employers, employees, residents and visitors.

Levies should help the city expand its ability to make investments. When the original transportation levy, Bridging the Gap, was introduced in 2006, there was concern that levy money would replace money that was already going to transportation.

Unfortunately, that’s exactly what happened: 5.25 percent of general fund money used to go to transportation, and now it’s 4.25 percent.

**Q: Do you support the Move Seattle levy? Why or why not?**

I do support the levy. As I mentioned above, we cannot afford to wait to address the pace with which this city is growing. That means that we have to commit to spending this money wisely and spending it the way taxpayers tell us to spend it. This city council has a habit of not fully funding projects that they have committed to – the bicycle master plan, for example. I have a real sense of urgency to put the infrastructure in place to support our current residents and to ensure that they are not pushed out by the anticipated population changes. That means we have to invest now.

1. **HOUSING**

Seattle’s economy continues to rebound after the most recent economic recession. As we welcome new workers and residents to our city, healthy wages and robust employment are driving an increase in demand for housing. It is essential that Seattle continue to produce a supply of housing to meet a growing demand for housing at all income levels.

Multiple studies, including one commissioned by the City of Seattle and one commissioned by the Downtown Seattle Association, have found that current actions and policies are not sufficiently addressing the issue.

**Q: What actions and policies can Seattle implement to increase the supply of affordable housing in the City?**

It is critical that we ensure that the investment in our neighborhoods benefits its longtime residents, as well as newcomers. It may be time to re-examine the way we plan in this city. We need to consider alternative models of housing such as cottage housing and cooperative housing that could create more affordable options – especially for large families with multiple generations. The Planning Commission has been recommending since 2010 that we increase the number of family-size units in the city. As District 2 Council Member, I will work for:

* **Robust expansion of public financing for affordable housing**
Utilize municipal bonds; General Fund dedication; and increase the Seattle housing levy
* **Principal Reduction for homeowners at risk of foreclosure**
Assist those facing foreclosure by purchasing their mortgages from banks and issuing new mortgages to them at more affordable rates.
* **Rent Stabilization**
Preserve below-market unsubsidized housing; Lobby the state capitol to remove arbitrary prohibitions on local control to stabilize rents.
1. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Public safety is of the utmost importance to the business community and neighborhoods throughout Seattle. We believe that residents should be able to live and work in safety and public spaces should be clean, safe, and inviting.

**Q: What is the most important public safety issue in the city and how would you address it?**

Public safety issues vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. As the Seattle Times discussed recently, downtown has public disorder, southeast Seattle has homicide. Everyone should be able to enjoy the amenities the city has to offer without fear of mugging or worse. One way to improve public safety in every neighborhood is to commit more officers to foot and bike patrol. We should get past the patrol car culture in policing, which disregards the need for personal interactions. If we’re going to build trust between police and the community, we need bike and foot patrols that allow police officers to talk to our neighbors and local business owners regularly. I would like to see more advocacy on the part of the local business community for increasing the city budget for community police teams, for human services and for expanding the use of the LEAD program to all parts of town that need it.

1. **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

In 2014, residents and business owners in Seattle had eight special property tax levies to fund: transportation, families and education, parks and green space, libraries, low income housing, voter approved bonds, the Pike Place Market, and universal preschool.

This “a la carte” funding of City services is increasing the tax burden on our households and businesses, while masking opportunities for efficient and effective integrated delivery of City services. Furthermore, piecemeal service funding makes it harder to understand and analyze the City’s policymaking and budgeting processes.

**Q: How would you improve transparency and accountability in Seattle’s budget to help citizens better understand how their money is being spent and whether they are getting the desired outcomes?**

The city’s new “Open Budget” page is intended to provide more transparency. Unfortunately it only provides information on expenses, not revenue. We need a clear picture of the different tax revenues and how they get appropriated across the city agencies. Performance based budgeting can be a way to hold agencies accountable for meeting desired outcomes, as well as to demonstrate to the public which programs are working and which need to be adjusted. This method, which the mayor has proposed to start using, can clearly identify goals and objectives of each department and provide strategies for achieving them.

1. **EMPLOYMENT**

The underrepresentation of women in business and leadership roles, and the persistent gender wage gap, is an issue that has gained forceful momentum in popular media, in tech companies, in policy initiatives, and more.

The gender wage gap—the difference between the overall earnings of a man versus a woman for equal work—has deep implications for women, employers, policy makers, and our entire economy. Women in the Seattle metropolitan region are paid 73 cents for every dollar paid to men in the area, making it one of the worst wage gaps in the country.

**Q: What is the best way to improve gender pay equity in Seattle? How would your solution work?**

The short answer is to pay women the same as men for doing the same work. It is shameful that this progressive city has the dubious distinction of having the worst pay gap in the nation. We start to address this by holding the city itself accountable for improving gender pay equity. There has been no update on the city council’s pay analysis study since last May. It’s time to understand how the city will address its own pay disparities. But we can’t wait for more studies. 58% of minimum wage workers in the country are women and many are single mothers. Gender pay equity will reduce child poverty and help stabilize families. In addition to boosting pay to bring women to parity, the city should pass a 12 week paid parental leave bill. This kind of family-friendly policy can help women balance career without sacrificing their financial security.

1. **EDUCATION**

Education and workforce development are key priorities for the business community because our region’s economy depends on people having the knowledge and skills they need to work in its current and future job markets.

**Q: What would you do as a City Councilmember to improve education outcomes for all students?**

As I indicated above, workforce development is one of my top priorities. As a councilmember I will partner with Seattle Jobs Initiative, community organizations, and local industry to promote our existing apprenticeship and vocational training programs. We have undersubscribed programs now that could be offering people pathways to self-sufficiency. That’s low-hanging fruit and we should be doing more outreach. I also want to work on expanding our preschool program. The demonstration program is underwhelming in scope – especially when there is such high demand. I have a sense of urgency to serve more of our youngest residents as soon as possible.