



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
SEATTLE

Mission: The Junior League of Seattle is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Vision: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change

Diversity & Inclusion Statement: The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

Junior League of Seattle

Voter's Guide 2019

for the Seattle City Council

presented by the 2019-2020 Advocacy Committee

Published: October 17th, 2019
Election Day: November 5th, 2019

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SEATTLE

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Table of Contents

About Us	Page 3
Important 2019 Election Dates	Page 4
Seattle City Council Candidates	
District One	Page 5
District Two	Page 7
District Three	Page 9
District Four	Page 12
District Five	Page 14
District Six	Page 16
District Seven	Page 19

About Us

The Junior League of Seattle was established in 1923 and joined the Association of Junior Leagues International in 1924. As an organization of nearly 1,300 members, JLS is one of the largest leagues on the West Coast. Annually our members donate over 45,000 volunteer hours and participate in over 5,000 hours of personal and professional development. Our programs focus on promoting the well-being of women, children, and families throughout the greater Seattle community by addressing issues of food security, children's literacy, and career skills for women.

Throughout its nearly 100-year history, JLS has successfully met the emerging needs of the community by initiating cutting edge programs and providing trained volunteers to manage and direct service projects, community education, fundraising and advocacy efforts. As a result of League training, JLS has also provided a legacy of leaders who bring knowledge and experience to the community in which they serve.

About the JLS Voter's Guide

To encourage effective action of our members, the Advocacy Committee has created a guide to offer resources in the 2019 general election to highlight candidate stances that affect Junior League of Seattle's focus area of Youth Literacy.

Please note that this guide is advisory only and the Junior League of Seattle does not take a position in support of or against any of the candidates or ballot measures. Further, this guide does not encompass all available information. Voters should seek additional information available to make informed voting decisions.

The JLS Advocacy committee sent questionnaires to the candidates running for Seattle City Council. All statements are the responses of the candidate, unedited by the Junior League of Seattle and do not express the views of the League. The League never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.

Ballot Information

To view everything that will be voting on this November, visit the King County Elections Department [website](#).

Important 2019 Election Dates

October 18, 2019

Start of 18-day voting period (through Election Day.) Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting Units (AVUs) are available at voting centers. If you have not received your ballot, [click here](#) to learn how to obtain a replacement ballot.

October 28, 2019

Deadline to receive new registrations and voter updates [online](#) and by mail for the November General Election.

November 5, 2019
General Election Day

Deadline for in-person registration and voter updates for the November General Election.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day or returned to a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day. [Click here](#) to find the drop box nearest you.

Seattle City Council Candidates

District One	Lisa Herbold	Phillip Tavel
<p>Question 1: How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population.</p>	<p>I voted for and supported the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy which doubles the capacity for the Seattle preschool program to nearly \$52 million a year. I will continue to evaluate and support this program which provides critical support to families and young children.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 2: How do you plan on increasing diversity in the teaching force to better match the student population in Seattle?</p>	<p>I voted for and supported the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy which includes funding and strategies for hiring a more diverse teacher workforce.</p> <p>On a more general level, affordable housing is the foundation for building an inclusive, diverse community whereby people from all backgrounds can have access to opportunities the City has to offer. We all do better when more people can afford to live close to jobs and transit, this is especially true for our teachers. For me, affordable housing made it possible for me as a single parent to afford to meet the needs of my child. Affordable housing can make it possible for our diverse families to thrive in a city that they make work, a young person to have an opportunity to pursue a career or their education, and allow an older person to age in place. Furthermore, it is important that SPS continue to shift the teacher demographics so that we have more teachers of color in our school. I am supportive of a strong program that advances our paraeducators (a much more diverse cohort) into full time teacher positions.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 3: If elected, how would you work with city officials and business owners to eliminate wage disparity between</p>	<p>In 2015 during my campaign I wrote about my commitment to pursue paid family leave for City employees. Seattle has the widest gender wage gap of the top 50 metropolitan areas—women only make 73 cents for every dollar men</p>	<p>No Response</p>

<p>men and women in the workplace?</p>	<p>make; women of color have an even larger wage gap.</p> <p>The Council passed a paid family leave benefit for City employees in 2017 (The Washington State Legislature passed a family leave law in 2018).</p> <p>There's more work to be done though. Seattle should enact a wage transparency law for employees of companies that have public works contracts with the City. In addition, this law should require that other employers in Seattle not prohibit an employee from disclosing the employee's own wages, discussing the wages of others, or inquiring about another employee's wages. A law like this already exists in jurisdictions all over the nation.</p>	
<p>Question 4: There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of funding and space in group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city?</p>	<p>While the foster care system resides with the State, the City can help create an environment where foster care families have the services that are necessary to take care of a child. For example, I supported the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy which includes funding for comprehensive support for both physical and behavioural health services. However, we need to do more at the State level and I support the City lobbying in Olympia to increase funds for the foster-care system; the unsustainable increase in reliance on hotel stays will cost us more in the long-term.</p>	<p>No Response</p>

District Two	Mark Solomon	Tammy Morales
<p>Question 1: How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population.</p>	<p>Mayor Durkan's recent budget proposal supports the implementation of her Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy (FEPP) which is set to increase the number of program slots for Seattle's Preschool Program to serve approximately 2,500 children by the 2025-26 school year. Given the exponential growth of the city's population and evidence linking high quality preschool to better long-term educational outcomes, I support the Mayor's budget but would like to see more funding dedicated to expanding this critical program.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 2: How do you plan on increasing diversity in the teaching force to better match the student population in Seattle?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, there are clear differences in the allocation of resources for education and outcomes for students between north and south Seattle. I support funding programs like the Seattle Teacher Residency Program that works to add educators of color to better reflect Seattle's diverse student population because students perform better when they have role models and teachers that look like them.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 3: If elected, how would you work with city officials and business owners to eliminate wage disparity between men and women in the workplace?</p>	<p>The work by council member Gonzales to help bring about the passage of the statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave program is an excellent example of practical steps towards the elimination of the gender pay gap. I would work to support similar legislation towards wage transparency for employers as well as expand access to child care and early education programs as outlined in Mayor Durkan's recent budget proposal which nearly doubles the city's existing Child Care Assistance Program.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 4: There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of funding and space in group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city?</p>	<p>As a city, Seattle needs to help increase the number of state licensed quality foster care options. First, I believe that addressing general affordability for all our residents is critical to empower prospective foster families. Primarily, however, I would like to see Seattle work in partnership with an organization like the Mockingbird Society which has had success with their Mockingbird Family program in Kent. The community-led state-supported program works alongside the school district to help</p>	<p>No Response</p>

	support youth and create an extended family community support network to train and support foster families. I would like to explore funding the expansion of the program into our Seattle community.	
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District Three	Egan Orion	Kshama Sawant
<p>Question 1: How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population.</p>	<p>Investing in early childhood education is not only the right thing to do but it is also cost-efficient in the long term. Children with access to a Pre-K education, are more successful throughout their entire lives. We need to expand access and enrollment in not only Seattle's early childhood education program, but also other forms of childcare. I will work to make sure classrooms are accessible to every community in the city and that parents have adequate information about the program and are encouraged to enroll. Furthermore, I'm interested in learning more about why children currently aren't being enrolled in the program, and other ideas for improving access.</p> <p>I'm proud to be endorsed by former Mayor and City Councilmember Tim Burgess, who spearheaded Seattle's effort to give every student access to preschool, and, if elected, I'll work to further his efforts.</p>	<p>The Seattle Preschool Program was established with only a small fraction of the funds necessary to enroll every 3 and 4 year old in the city. That funding was increased in the latest education levy, which I supported, but it still falls far short of what is needed to open sufficient preschool classrooms to serve every young student. I am fighting to tax big business and the super rich to fully fund education, including making preschool truly available for all, and expanding the preschool program to include childcare for children younger than 3. The chronic underfunding of education is partially driven by the fact that Seattle in particular, and Washington State in general, has the most regressive tax system in the country, with poor and working class people paying a far higher portion of their income in taxes than the rich. Besides being unjust, regressive taxes are also simply not able to meet the needs of fully funding education because poor and working class people cannot afford to pay more. While most politicians claim to support funding schools generally, they lack the political will to tax big business and billionaires. Unlike most politicians, I am proud to have fought for the Amazon Tax, and to be one of only two elected officials to stand up to the pressure of big business and to vote against its repeal. Additionally, I cosponsored the High Earners Income Tax bill, which was unanimously voted in by the City Council, which has cleared its first legal hurdle and is on its way to clearing its second and final legal hurdle.</p>
<p>Question 2: How do you plan on increasing diversity in the teaching force to better match the student population in Seattle?</p>	<p>Investing in early childhood education is not only the right thing to do but it is also cost-efficient in the long term. Children with access to a Pre-K education, are more successful throughout their entire lives. We need to expand access and enrollment in not only Seattle's early childhood education program, but also other forms of childcare. I will work to make sure classrooms are accessible to every community in the city and that parents have adequate information about the program and are encouraged to enroll. Furthermore, I'm interested in learning more about why children currently aren't being enrolled in the program, and other ideas for improving access.</p> <p>I'm proud to be endorsed by former</p>	<p>As a rank-and-file member of AFT 1789 and a former professor at Seattle Central Community College, a public school that serves a diverse student population, this issue is very important to me. First and foremost, we need to pay teachers a living wage and fully fund public education to ensure high quality programming in our public schools. I'm proud to be endorsed by three unions representing educators (AFT 1789, SEA, and UAW 4121) and by SEIU 925, which represents childcare workers, in recognition of my record of standing with teachers and students. We also need to remove arbitrary barriers to regular people becoming educators. When Seattle established its preschool program, eligible teachers were required to have a university degree in early childhood education. These degrees are rare, and while valuable, are not</p>

	<p>Mayor and City Councilmember Tim Burgess, who spearheaded Seattle’s effort to give every student access to preschool, and, if elected, I’ll work to further his efforts.</p>	<p>the only measure of a teacher's competence. There are many preschool teachers with 30 years experience, who are often immigrant women, who are far more skilled than someone with no teaching experience who has only earned a degree. From being an educator I know that classroom experience is by far the most important factor in a teacher's competence. I advocated for Seattle to create an alternate certification for preschool teachers that values years of experience as an alternative to an expensive university degree. There are similar barriers in k-12 education, that create financial and bureaucratic hurdles to regular people, particularly people of color, entering the teaching profession. Finally, we need to fight for affordable housing policies that actually help teachers and students of color afford to live in Seattle. Seattle’s District 3 — including the historically people-of-color Central District and the historically LGBTQ Capitol Hill — is at the epicenter of a displacement crisis. Corporate developers are raking in profits, while working people are being gentrified out of the CD and Capitol Hill. We need universal rent control, free of corporate loopholes, and we need a massive expansion of social housing (high-quality, publicly-owned, permanently-affordable housing), funded by taxing big business, so educators and students can afford to stay in our school district.</p>
<p>Question 3: If elected, how would you work with city officials and business owners to eliminate wage disparity between men and women in the workplace?</p>	<p>The defining issue of our time is growing income inequality, including the wage gap. Seattle is progressive—but we still have significant racial and gender pay gaps. Our region specifically has one of the worst gender wage gaps in the country. And, while many of the issues fueling the wage gap are bigger than just our city—access to opportunity (especially in the technology sector that drives Seattle’s economy), discrimination and sexism—there are still meaningful steps Seattle can adopt to combat this challenge.</p> <p>We need to adequately fund our Office of Labor Standards and give them the authority to study the wage gap in Seattle’s businesses and then act to address wage discrimination. We also must ensure that every worker has the ability to join a union, which is proven to be one of the most effective ways to guarantee workers are paid a fair wage,</p>	<p>We need to end the gender pay gap. To do that we need to support worker organizing and unions, rather than depending on business owners and public officials. Statistically, joining a union is one of the best defenses against pay discrimination and is one of the best ways to end the gender pay gap. I have also consistently supported workers organizing to form unions and fighting for a fair contract, because we will only end discrimination and low pay by building worker power. The logic of the capitalist market incentivizes business owners to drive down wages for any section of the workforce they can. Women organized in our unions has the power to stop this pay discrimination.</p>

	<p>regardless of gender. Washington residents will soon have access to best-in-the-nation paid family leave services, but we also need to make sure childcare is accessible and affordable for every parent in the city—just one solution to the motherhood penalty.</p>	
<p>Question 4: There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of funding and space in group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city?</p>	<p>Every child deserves a welcoming and loving home. Too often, our government fails to adequately support and listen to those in the foster system. We need to make sure every kid, foster parent, and caregiver has the support they need to thrive. I promise to first listen and to learn more about how group homes have been operating in Seattle and what support our city’s foster children and parents need. Then, I’ll work with relevant stakeholders to make real progress. This is an issue that deserves meaningful attention and effort—not empty promises. On the City Council I will be a committed advocate for kids in the foster system.</p>	<p>We need to tax big business and the super-rich to adequately fund social services including the foster family program, youth needs, family, and mental health services. Every year my office organizes the People’s Budget movement. Through grassroots organizing in coalition with other progressive organizations, we have won millions each year in additional funding for social services. However, without significantly more resources, these progressive budget amendments are totally insufficient to address the fundamental, chronic underfunding of the services that are required for a healthy society. Not only do we need to fund the foster care system, but we also desperately need to invest in the mental health and family services to end the cycle of trauma that puts so much pressure on the foster care system. Foster care is often an eventual consequence of the violence and oppression in our society. People are traumatized by wars for oil, or by losing a home to rent increases, or by sexual violence or abuse at the hands of someone who themselves is impacted by traumas, that statistically increase the chances that a young person will be abused and need foster care. As a socialist, I do not think this problem can be solved in isolation. We also need to support anti-war organizing, fight for economic security, for women’s rights, and against discrimination.</p>

District Four	Shaun Scott	Alex Pedersen
<p>Question 1: How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population.</p>	<p>My campaign is the only in the District 4 race that has come out with a policy platform for universal childcare, in which we discuss the many ways that parents, early childhood care-providers, and youth need to be re-prioritized within the city. This does not come without an analysis of lack of access to early childhood education in the form of public preschools and a restructuring of our funding system where schools' funds are determined based on the property values and taxes of the neighborhoods around them. We believe in not only expanding access to Seattle's preschool programs, but making sure that parents and guardians are accessing high-quality, comprehensive education at the same time. Therefore, expanding access will not only be contingent upon materially committing to ensuring that all youth are prioritized, not just those who come from families that can afford early pre-K programs. I am proud to be endorsed by the American Federation of Teachers Local 1789 in this race and to continue to earn the support of all educators.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 2: How do you plan on increasing diversity in the teaching force to better match the student population in Seattle?</p>	<p>The paradox of cuts to education in the midst of a booming economy comes from a societal undervaluing of education and the labor of our educators. Coming from a working class background, I have only ever attended public schools and I currently serve as a mentor in the My Brother's Keeper program at Washington Middle School. While most people know that teaching is an important job, it can be difficult for those who haven't experienced it to fully grasp how much intellectual & emotional work it demands on a daily basis, which leads to the devaluing of their labor. In order to increase diversity in the teaching force, we must ensure that all teachers make a living wage. This would ensure that people of all backgrounds are able to pursue teaching as a field.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 3: If elected, how would you work with city officials and business owners to eliminate wage disparity between men</p>	<p>In my policy platform of creating a feminist urbanist city, I proposed a "Pink Tax" on all big businesses who contribute to the gender pay gap — to revive a little-known universal basic income pilot: from 1971 to 1982, Seattle</p>	<p>No Response</p>

<p>and women in the workplace?</p>	<p>was one of four cities that paid 4,800Seattleites an average of \$28,000 per year. A happy side-effect of this policy was that it stimulated rates of divorce among womxn who no longer had to be chained to relationships they didn't want to be in because of the financial security they provided. In the future, rather than distribute those funds to the population at large, they could be reserved exclusively for working and expecting mothers instead.</p>	
<p>Question 4: There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of funding and space in group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city?</p>	<p>Our campaign has emphasized the need for a shift towards anti-carceral solutions and police accountability since we entered the race and also this intersects with improving the foster care system throughout the city. Too often, due to and racist over-policing patterns in communities of color, specifically Black communities, families are torn apart when parents and guardians are arrested over misdemeanor crimes--many committed due to circumstances of poverty. One of the first things that must be done to address the extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County is first supporting families. This can be done in a number of ways: providing affordable housing, access to childcare, and education + free public transit (which we have also called for on our campaign).</p>	<p>No Response</p>

District Five	Ann Davison Sattler	Debora Juarez
<p>Question 1: How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population.</p>	<p>Actively working on eliminating barriers for enrollment awareness to the program is the first start and one that can be done through low-cost and targeted means. Informing people at their areas of employment and education and other frequented areas within communities, like grocery stores, coffee shops and community spaces to increase awareness of the program is a great first step to increasing accessibility to those who may need it most yet not be aware it exists.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 2: How do you plan on increasing diversity in the teaching force to better match the student population in Seattle?</p>	<p>Because the school district hires teachers it is probably not a good idea for the city council to directly influence the hiring decisions, but the city could offer help in advising more modern hiring practices. It also could put efforts into changing the social perspective of teaching as a profession to encourage a wider variety of people to go into the profession.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 3: If elected, how would you work with city officials and business owners to eliminate wage disparity between men and women in the workplace?</p>	<p>Starting in my own office is the first step. Adding access to affordable childcare also is a key component as well as allowing more telecommuting for jobs for which it is conducive. Maintaining wages prior to and post childbirth is critical in regards to leveling the wage disparity and is an area with which I have personal experience.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 4: There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of funding and space in group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city?</p>	<p>As someone who was adopted and briefly in foster care beforehand, this is a critical issue we must put attention towards, particularly with the opiate addiction epidemic. The vast reach of that addiction will leave many without parents able to care for them and we must prepare for that. One way the city can open up access is to remove barriers created by the city. For example, I have supporters waiting to become foster parents but they also have an accessory dwelling unit in the back of their property. Because of conflicting requirements, there is a delay in them becoming foster parents. We want to make sure we do not create barriers for people to become foster parents. It is also an area that needs more awareness and discussion overall and by gaining more attention we can</p>	<p>No Response</p>

	highlight the great need for this funding and for people to participate as foster parents.	
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District Six	Dan Strauss	Heidi Wills
<p>Question 1: How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population</p>	<p>I will make Seattle's preschool program more affordable and more accessible by incentivizing childcare space in new developments and expanding the child care subsidy program for low and middle-income families. One idea for this would be to tie the eligibility to area median income rather than to the federal poverty level, which would better reflect local conditions. I will also create more childcare options for people who do not work a traditional workday or who have more than one job. Early childhood development has been proven to be instrumental in a child's life, and we need to give all children access to high-quality, Pre-K education.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 2: How do you plan on increasing diversity in the teaching force to better match the student population in Seattle?</p>	<p>The Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise levy passed last year was a good start: the Seattle Preschool Program is nearly doubled, including investment to grow facilities and K-12 funds now include funding strategies for teacher diversity. I will ensure those funding strategies are fully leveraged so our teachers better reflect the students they are teaching. I will also encourage programs like Seattle Teacher Residency, which has a track record of training cohorts of diverse, high-quality teachers with high retention rates.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 3: If elected, how would you work with city officials and business owners to eliminate wage disparity between men and women in the workplace?</p>	<p>In addition to my own commitment to paying my staff the same regardless of gender, I will support City efforts to address the gender wage gap. A few potential policies are passing a law prohibiting employers from enforcing pay secrecy, which will bring more transparency to pay scales, and pushing for a law which requires employers to report gender wage gap data. Collective bargaining is also an important tool for ensuring wage equity. I will work with labor organizations to bring more jobs into unions. I will also work to bolster the pipeline to apprenticeship programs, which help create jobs with equal payment.</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Question 4: There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of</p>	<p>This is an important issue to me - my parents met at Children's Home Society and my dad worked at Ryther Center for Children and Youth for many years. First and foremost, we need to make sure</p>	<p>No Response</p>

<p>funding and space in group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city?</p>	<p>foster families and care providers are compensated well. We also need to end the use of jail for non-criminal behavior. I will provide city support for the MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY program, which creates a network of foster families so kids experiencing foster care have a network other than their individual family to rely on. Youth in foster care should be supported by city programs until they turn 21, and I will push to make this happen. I will continue efforts to expand family-size homes across Seattle and King County which are affordable to moderate-income households. One barrier I have heard from residents who would participate in foster-care programs - either as full-time foster parents or for respite care - is there simply are not affordable options to ensure kids served would have the privacy they deserve. This must include greater housing diversity and access for these households to parks, community centers, libraries, and public schools. In addition, I will work to ensure rent-restricted units, which are crucial to maintaining stability, don't create barriers which boot families if their income from foster-parent support payments put them slightly over-limit.</p> <p>Of course, much of the change we need to see in the foster system starts in Olympia. Unfortunately, the state continues to drag their feet with respect to fully funding the Braam v. State lawsuit, and caseworkers are overworked and underpaid. This is a symptom of a much larger problem in Washington: our regressive unsustainable tax system which needs dramatic overhaul. This means defeating I-976 this fall, and also continuing efforts to expand and strengthen our tax base in a fairer way - a state income tax, capital gains tax, etc. We also must continue efforts at the local level to ensure potential foster parents who have the rooms necessary for foster children to thrive are met with increases in funding and support for foster kids, families, and case workers from the State. As a councilmember, I will leverage my relationships with state lawmakers to ensure we are on a sustainable path, and work with other</p>	
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	jurisdictions to replicate successful policies across the Puget Sound.	
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District Seven	Andrew J. Lewis	Jim Pugel
<p>Question 1: How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population.</p>	<p>We need to commit to a capital improvement campaign for our crumbling community centers, which can serve as the future hubs for subsidized and publicly available child care and early learning. I also support the Home and Hope Plan, a project of the Enterprise Foundation, that seeks to co-locate early learning and pre-school in the same buildings in transit oriented neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Providing our children with the opportunity for a successful education begins with their ability to receive a headstart on learning. Expanding access to preschool programs ensures that all children have the best chance possible. Free and accessible early childhood education positively impacts families, particularly working class Seattle residents. I will fully support initiatives that work to reduce costs and allow more children to access early education. As well as building more capital infrastructure space for preschools and child care so kids in every community can access these critical educational services.</p>
<p>Question 2: How do you plan on increasing diversity in the teaching force to better match the student population in Seattle?</p>	<p>While the City of Seattle does not operate the Seattle School District, we do partner extensively via the Family and Education Levy. I applaud the recent contract negotiated by the School District with Seattle teachers. We need to treat our teachers like the professionals they are, and that starts with a living wage in an increasingly unaffordable city. I further support efforts to use the bully-pulpit of the city to push for more equitable practices in Seattle Schools. The Highline School District moved toward a zero youth detention policy years ago. Seattle should follow suit. We will attract more diverse candidates as teachers if we can make it clear that Seattle will implement equitable and progressive policies.</p>	<p>Seattle is a city that celebrates it's great ethnic, economic, and cultural diversity. It is imperative that we ensure this diversity translates to both teachers and school administrators through deliberate and positive efforts of local recruitment. Engaging universities and communities directly and increasing campus outreach to recruit motivated and qualified students into the education field is an excellent place to start to encourage diversity. We also have to make sure teachers and educators are paid a living wage and we look into any means necessary to lessen the burden of student debt so that teachers can afford to live and work in our city.</p>
<p>Question 3: If elected, how would you work with city officials and business owners to eliminate wage disparity between men and women in the workplace?</p>	<p>We need to make sure Seattle has universal paid family leave, so that nobody has to choose between having a career and having a family. We also need to eliminate regressive taxes that impact only women, like sales taxes on feminine hygiene products. Gender equity needs to be part of the focus when we evaluate city policies. For too long it has been forgotten.</p>	<p>I fully support wage equity and labor equity and will do EVERYTHING possible to make this a reality once elected. ALL workers, regardless of gender, occupation, or other factors, should not be subjected to pay discrimination. I support and will stand up for the rights of all workers, including engaging with employees and businesses to ensure that the highest standards are met for all workers in every working environment and make it easier for workers suffering from discrimination in pay to access resources and the authorities to rectify this.</p>
<p>Question 4: There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of funding and space in</p>	<p>City government has a very limited role in the foster care system, but we can strengthen our relationships with service providers who frequently interact with youth in the foster system and help divert them to successful services. I am</p>	<p>There is an extreme shortage of foster families in Seattle and King County due to a lack of funding and space in group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city? We need to examine the causes of this issue and</p>

<p>group homes. If elected, how would you improve the foster care system throughout the city?</p>	<p>proud of the work I have done with Choose 180, a criminal diversion non-profit that takes young people out of the criminal justice system and hooks them up with mentorship and community-based interventions. Many youth who go through Choose 180 diversions have been in the foster system at some point or currently are in it. We need to make sure we are providing wrap around services to them to give them the resources to be successful.</p> <p>How do you plan on expanding access to Seattle's preschool program? Based on findings from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Seattle's preschool program only enrolls about 13% of Seattle's 3-and-4-year-old population.</p>	<p>work to ensure we have enough foster families and places for kids in need to go. Additionally, educating the public on important issues including the growing need for foster families would not only help fight the negative stigma around the foster care system that has been perpetuated by negative media coverage but also raise awareness which may result in an increase in families willing to adopt or step up. We need to ensure that we train and hire highly qualified case workers who know how to advocate for holistic, family friendly support and can deal with the responsibilities and challenges of being a social worker. Improving the training for caseworkers will also ensure that children and their families will be able to obtain fundamental support and resources that they require. The first piece of legislation I will work on is to develop a school loan repayment program to attract more case managers, social workers, and mental health experts to work with the numerous human service provider agencies that contract with the city. Certain amounts of student loans would be paid for based on the commitment the case manager makes toward working with our vulnerable populations. This would allow more individual care, and a more wrap-around approach to help kids and foster families get to where they need to be.</p>
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