

2017 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Gary		Brose

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): Mayor of Seattle

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? **Born here in 1952. Lived here '52 to '77 and '80 to present.**

5. How long have you resided in King County? **All my life except the three years from '77 to '80.**

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Partisan Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Back to Basics

Address: 4005 20th Ave West #133

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98199

Campaign Phone: 206-707-2628

Campaign E-mail: GBformayor@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.BroseForMayor.org

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
Mayor's Small Business Task Force	Appointed	1994-96	Chairman for '95 and '96

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run
None	

SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
 - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
 - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
 - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

I have watched the last two elections closely and felt that there were no candidates representing my points of view. Meanwhile, the city of Seattle has changed and I don't feel it is for the better. I'm very concerned about business in this city, controlling the taxes, traffic, and safety issues and once again, I don't see any candidates presenting an alternate plan.

I have reached a point in my business life where I am freed up to seriously consider political involvement and after doing my own research, I decided to run so that I could give voice to those who have had none for the last few elections. I believe it will make for a healthier discussion of issues to have a candidate who will oppose some of the current positions that the city has adopted.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

In my business career, I have founded or purchased more than two dozen companies during the last forty years. Most of these have been small to medium size companies and most have been labor intensive. In the process, I have gained valuable experience and insights and have become a student of human nature. I believe that nothing great can be achieved without learning how to work with and through other people—and building teams, igniting interest, engaging the employees, and meeting our goals, have all helped me to grow into a better leader.

I am generally moderate in my approaches, I'm a good listener, empathetic and in-touch with both blue-collar and white-collar workers. I understand how to build a business plan, set milestones, delegate to others and lead by example.

I have always had strong math skills and I can read a balance sheet and P&L. I believe my skills at cash-flow management and budgeting will help me immensely in getting a handle on the city's finances as I try to reign in free spending and the seemingly-constant need to raise taxes.

Most of all, I believe I understand people and how to find common ground and work together—even when we don't agree. I am comfortable embracing change and I think that is mandatory in light of the pace of the world we live in. I've written several business books about managing people and understanding the work culture.

I try to keep life in perspective and have a good sense of humor. I have written here all about my positive traits as they relate to the Mayor's role. Thankfully, you did not ask for my weak points or faults, but I can assure you I am as flawed and imperfect as anyone else.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

In my personal life, I am proud of the fact that I have overcome my fears of public speaking and heights. Growing up, I was an introvert. I was very comfortable not talking at all and staying in the background in all instances. I would rather read a book than go to a party and I was never good at 'small talk' or mixing with others. I graduated from the UW at 23 and as I entered the workforce, I realized that I would have to become far more confident, gregarious, and open in order to succeed. It took many years but I no longer feel I am trapped inside an introvert's body. I still enjoy silence at times and 'alone-time' but I no longer fear conversing and fully-engaging with others. On the other hand, being an introvert taught me some fine listening skills which I continue to employ today. As for being afraid of heights, well, I still am, but not nearly as severely as I was. I read that if you do the thing you fear the most, you can defeat your fear. So, when I was 24, I went on my first airplane ride and leaped out of the plane with my parachute.

In my business life, I am most proud of being able to take the germ of a thought, create a business and employ hundreds of people. Creating something out of nothing is a thrill and knowing that it can lead to having an impact on people's lives because they worked with me, is very gratifying.

In the last few years, something else has happened to me that I am pleased about. I've learned that there actually *is* time to do whatever you have to do. For years, I wanted to write a book. But I always looked at my schedule and convinced myself there wasn't enough time. Finally, I stopped making excuses and forced myself to do it. I've written three business books now and decided I would also like to write a novel. I was running three delivery companies and my consulting firm as I was writing and Amazon called me and asked me to set up a delivery operation for their Prime Now service downtown. I had to hire 40 people in three weeks, train them, manage them, and dispatch them seven days a week, eleven hours a day. During the start-up, I worked every day for three straight months, putting in 11 hours on the Amazon project and then going to my office and taking care of everything I needed to do for my other four companies. I also wrote seventeen novels over the last three years. I've learned that you *can*, in fact, make time for just about anything.

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

I have owned multiple small businesses since 1980 and, frankly, always felt there wasn't enough time to do anything else, so I was not much of a 'joiner' during most of those years. Lately, especially after experiencing the "I can make time for that" concept as described in question #3, I now am trying not to spread myself too thin.

Over the years, I've been selective about donating my time and generally, only did it for those things that I felt passionately about. Below is a brief summary of some of the more community oriented events:

- I served on the Mayor's Small Business Task Force under Norm Rice in 1994, '95 and '96. I served as Chair for the last two years and twice acted as Emcee at the Annual Awards Banquet.**
- I founded and chaired the Washington State Courier Association which interacted with Olympia on legal issues of concern to us all. Bringing competitors together to find common ground was an interesting experience.**
- My 2nd daughter has a disability and when she was young she attended the EEU (Experimental Education Unit) at the UW. I interacted with their management there, donated funds and purchased playground equipment for the children.**
- Via one of my companies, Seattle Funplex (an indoor amusement park), I was able to provide tens of thousands of free passes for disadvantaged youth in the area.**
- From 2000 to 2010, my wife and I both served as block watch leaders and led the effort for Emergency Preparedness in our Magnolia neighborhood.**
- I currently serve as a member and committee project leader of the University of Washington Department of Economics Visiting Committee. I head up the outreach program for the mentorship of scores of Econ Majors who are preparing for entry into the workforce. This year alone, we have engaged in mentoring over a hundred students and created over forty videos for training purposes.**
- I also serve as the VP on my HOA board for the VIK Condos.**
- Lastly, I would say that I've always felt an obligation to take care of *my* community—*my* family and *my* employees. I do my best to help them through some tough times and to be there for them when they need a helping hand.**

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

I believe that to be a competent and successful mayor, I would need to be able to do the following:

- * Must understand the finances. Have a firm grasp on what is coming in and going out, what can be discontinued and what can't, and how we can utilize existing funds to improve results.**
- * Must have the ability to communicate well and clearly—with the city employees, vendors, and citizens.**
- * Must be able to manage people and to engage and motivate them to be as productive as possible**
- * Must be able to meet with friends and opponents alike and find common ground.**
- * Must attend functions that require the mayor's presence and interact with all factions of the community.**
- * Ultimately, must be able to lead—to provide the impetus for change and improvement.**