

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
Jenny	A	Durkan

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?

26 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

49 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Jenny Durkan for Mayor

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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)
US Attorney of Western District of Washington	Appointed and confirmed by US Senate	October 2009 to October 2014	Attorney General's Advisory committee to advise US Attorney General Eric Holder and DOJ leadership on policy, management, operational issues, including budget requests. Testified for DOJ before Congress Chaired the AG's subcommittee on Cybercrime and Intellectual Property Enforcement
Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors	Elected	1999-2002	
Washington State Attorney General's Task Force on Consumer Privacy	Appointed	1999	Chairperson
Merit Selection Committee for the US District Court (vacancies on the federal judiciary)	Appointed	1997 - 2016	Bi-partisan committee created to avoid stalemate on judicial confirmations, and

			ensure non-political selections
Citizen observer of Seattle Police Firearms Committee	Appointed	1997-2000	
Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission	Appointed	1993-1997	
Governor's office – Executive Legal Counsel	Appointed	1994- 1995	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Not Applicable	

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?

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 am running for Mayor because this city is at a crossroads. We are a city caught in shifting times. In too many ways, for too many people, our incredible economic success is creating two Seattles. Many are succeeding but too many people are being locked out and cannot keep up with rising costs. The price of that first home keeps climbing and rents aren't any better. The costs of living and raising a family here dwarf the rise in most wages. And too many people are living in tents, doorways and cars.

I believe we can reweave our frayed social fabric and keep a strong economy. I believe we can solve the problems we face, if we tackle them together. I believe we can build a Seattle for future generations that keeps our unique combination of grit, humor and determination. We can build a future that is more just and equitable.

Here are four key challenges that I believe we must address:

Homelessness. Seattle is a generous and compassionate city. But its approach to this problem has not moved enough people out of tents, off the streets and into housing. We must treat those who are experiencing homelessness with compassion, dignity and respect. The causes of homelessness are complex and varied and cannot be solved with a one size fits all approach. As Mayor, I will continue to build public/private partnerships to solve this problem; I will focus on making sure no kid ever has to sleep in a car or on the street, and will direct more resources for mental health and drug dependency treatment and support.

Housing. Seattle has become too expensive for renting or buying a house. The HALA committee's recommendations will help leverage our building boom to result in more affordable units and millions of dollars targeted for affordable housing options. As Mayor, I will make sure we use that money wisely. I will also explore ways to go to Olympia and reduce the property tax burden for older homeowners, lower income homeowners and landlords providing affordable housing.

Police reform and accountability. The last few years, we saw too many cities erupt around these issues. Seattle is now a national model for police reform, particularly in the areas of crisis intervention. Our police all have been trained in national leading crisis intervention practices. Seattle officers can police effectively with respect for civil rights. This has saved lives, is making a difference on the streets, and has improved the relations between the community and the officers that serve them. As a driving force for police reform in Seattle, I am committed to continuing the progress we have made.

Basics. Seattle taxpayers have repeatedly gone to the ballot to provide funding for parks, schools, libraries, transit and transportation improvements. We need to see better results – from filling pot holes, clearing snow and ice, maintaining library hours, caring for our parks and to improving schools and daycare. I will be relentlessly focused on the basics and spending your monies efficiently and prudently. A key part of being Mayor is to stand up for our values, particularly against the Trump administration – but you also have to ensure the basics services of City government are met.

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

I am tenaciously passionate about my community, civil rights and creating opportunities for all in our City to succeed. I was fortunate enough to work at the one governmental agency, the Department of Justice, whose name is not just a moral value, but a dictate and an obligation. Justice begins not in the court room but in the community. We must work to address the root causes of injustice, and we must unflinchingly face and find solutions to problems. Democracy can be a loud and noisy business. But it also depends on the quiet changing of hearts. I don't have all the answers – but I can lead to get past the noise, pull people together, find compromise and solutions - while keeping my focus on what matters. I am not afraid to do the difficult, even if unpopular.

When tackling tough policy issues – I want to hear from all sides and understand the consequences of all options. I want to analyze problems, see who is affected, understand what has worked either here or elsewhere and bring people together to craft a solution. I will talk and gather data to inform my thinking and then make decisions. I will monitor the impact of those decisions – and I am willing to tweak or change my viewpoint - if I see evidence that is contrary to the solution we are working towards.

I am straightforward, do my homework, am an active listener and let my values guide my decisions. I find it more gratifying to solve a problem or advance an idea or opportunity than to get credit for it. While I like to “get in the weeds” to some extent, I have learned that one of the most important things a leader can do is to surround herself with good people and let them do their jobs. The City is very complex – as an operation and as a diverse community. To succeed you have to build a good team and delegate. You also have to stay connected and have robust interactions with the leadership team, to ensure everyone stays moving for the same vision and purposes.

Finally, I will admit when I am wrong and prefer to have a leadership team of individuals who will tell me when they disagree, or bring a different perspective. I believe in fairness, making progress and fighting for what is right and equitable. I am also known for having fun when building common objectives and reaching results.

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.

As U.S. Attorney, I was a driving force behind the historic consent decree that required major reforms in the Seattle Police Department to protect civil rights. I worked closely with community groups who first demanded the civil rights investigation and also sought input from police officers and policing experts. After our investigation, I worked to forge a consent decree that was comprehensive, durable and court-enforced. Over the last several years, the implementation of critical reforms - including new policies, training, and internal oversight - have fundamentally reshaped the approach to policing in Seattle, particularly in the areas of de-escalation and approaching people in crisis. This reform effort - one that required the best efforts of community groups, civil rights attorneys, police practices experts, the Court system, the federal government, our elected leaders (from the Mayor to City Council to City Attorney), and police leadership and rank-and-file officers, has been a complex, multi-faceted, delicate, and ultimately meaningful exercise for our city and one that I was proud to help lead.

As a civil lawyer, I was fortunate enough to work on cases that were not just about money damages, but could help reshape how government or society operates. In these cases I fought to get justice for victims in the worst of circumstances — like the families of four firefighters who died in a warehouse fire, for the family of a retired firefighter who was killed as he left a Mariners game by a mentally ill man just released from jail, and for a woman denied the right to see her partner in the hospital after a flash flood took her life. The courage of these victims let us fight for systemic level and policy changes to try to ensure that others would not have to go through the same suffering. The warehouse fire led to changes in firefighter safety, the death of the man leaving the Mariners game led to the first Mental Health court in the state and changes to training for jail staff to recognize dangerous individuals. The tragic flood case changed both how a city handles wastewater and helped drive a national awareness of the human face for LGBTQ equality. As a lead in the litigation surrounding the 2004 Governor’s election and recount, I learned in real terms the importance of every vote and am passionate about voter rights.

More recently, I was at SeaTac airport the day that Donald Trump’s immigration order was issued. I joined with lawyers from the ACLU and North West Immigration Rights Project (NWIRP) to stop the wrongful deportation of people here lawfully. We were able to secure one of the first federal Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) in the nation. Most importantly, real people were free to join their families or travel on their way. We showed, in real time, the regal beauty of our system of justice and its ability to protect individuals even against the most powerful person in our country.

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 was raised in a socially responsible family – we were involved in our community, our church and in local political organizations. Public service was ingrained in me at a young age. As kids, we went door to door for every type of political, educational or community fundraising campaign. It taught me early the power – and diversity – of community. Sometimes I was greeted warmly, other times a door was slammed or choice words uttered. But you carry on.

My parents were my first mentors. My father was an attorney and served for 16 years in the Washington State Senate. While he was most known as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, at home he spoke of the good that government could do and the importance of being the champion for those that lacked power. It was a politically charged era (not unlike today). My dad “traveled” with the political establishment, but he also forged ties with folks as diverse as the Black Panthers, Indian Tribal activists and migrant workers. He was a strong supporter of migrant workers, even though it wasn’t politically popular. My mom, Lolly, drove a jitney at the Port of Seattle during World War II despite initially being told, “women don’t drive jitneys.” She taught CCD (equivalent of Catholic Sunday school) and raised eight kids in a very dynamic household. They instilled the values of justice and importantly, we were measured by how much good we did for others. At an early age, I decided I wanted to be an attorney as I believe it was the best way to make sure individuals are protected – from government overreach, bad business or social and racial bias.

I have always tried to carve out civic involvement wherever I live and work. I attended the University of Washington (UW) and then transferred to Notre Dame. I participated in a high school tutoring program for Cambodian refugees. After graduation, I served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corp for two years in a remote Yup’ik Eskimo fishing village in Alaska where I taught English and coached girls’ basketball.

From there I attended and graduated from the UW Law School. During that time, I participated in the Prisoner Counselling project, going into Monroe prison on a regular basis to advise prisoners on legal issues. I also worked in a pilot Criminal Defense clinic, working with the public defender’s office to represent individuals charged in Seattle municipal court. I continued to do this pro-bono work after graduation, when I went to work for a Seattle law firm. I moved to Washington D.C. to practice law with the firm of Williams & Connolly, where I worked a range of civil and criminal cases, including representing reporters subpoenaed by the government. In DC, I volunteered in a Women’s shelter, helping advise homeless women on a range of legal issues. I also worked on a range of pro bono matters and did volunteer work for various organizations (like the Reporters’ Committee for Freedom of the Press.)

Returning to Seattle in 1991, I established a successful law practice at Schroeter, Goldmark and Bender, focusing on criminal defense and work on behalf of plaintiffs. This included the cases mentioned above that drove some systemic changes, like the Pang warehouse fire, the case of Stan Stevenson (a retired firefighter who was stabbed leaving a Mariners game) and the case of Charlene Strong, whose partner Kate Fleming died from a flash flood in her own Madison Valley basement. In 1993 to 1994, I worked for Governor Mike Lowry as his legal counsel and senior policy advisor. I returned to private practice at Schroeter in 1994.

I defended the rights of voters in the 2004 recount litigation and then defended the election in the 2005 lawsuit that attempted to undo Governor Chris Gregoire’s election. During these years, I served in the variety of positions noted above, including on the Washington State Sentencing Guideline Commission, as the civilian observer for the Seattle firearms review board and as chair of the first consumer privacy task force. I also served three years as a Governor on the Washington State Bar Association (SBA) Board of governors and began my service on the federal judicial selection committees. I also was an advisor to Norm Maleng on the creation of King County drug court.

In 2009, I was honored to be appointed President Barack Obama to serve as United State Attorney for Western Washington. I became the first openly gay U.S. Attorney in our country's history. I took that role seriously, mentoring others and talking about how coming out was — and remains — important to demonstrating to everyone the reality of our humanity.

As US. Attorney, I had direct management authority over our two offices (Tacoma and Seattle), and was the chief federal law enforcement officer providing enforcement direction (but not management) over agencies as diverse as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Environmental Protection Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency. We also worked and collaborated with prosecutors and law enforcement from all of the counties in Western Washington to address community issues. I focused these efforts on addressing community hotspot issues, to solve real problems rather than to diffuse efforts.

My offices had approximately 150 employees, and a direct budget of \$16 million. However, we augmented these resources through collaborations discussed above. I managed the office through multiple federal budget "shut downs". In addition, US Attorney General Eric Holder appointed me to his Attorney General's Advisory Committee (AGAC). This group of about 12 – 15 US Attorneys advised him and DOJ leadership on a range of operational and policy issues, and reviewed and recommended revisions to the entire US Attorney budget of approximately \$2 billion. We helped craft his "Smart on Crime" initiative, which was the blueprint for criminal justice reform. In addition, I chaired the AGAC subcommittee on Cybercrime and Intellectual Property enforcement. In this role, I lead a working group to reframe how the DOJ and federal law enforcement (e.g., FBI, US Secret Service) attacked cybercrime. This led to the proposal and approval of additional budget resources nationwide. I testified before both bodies in Congress on cybercrime and the need for additional resources for cyber budget issues.

While serving as US Attorney, we created a Civil Rights Department in the office to coordinate a variety of civil rights cases and outreach, including several cases on behalf of returning veterans. We also investigated claims of unconstitutional policing by SPD, discussed above, that lead to a federal consent decree which has resulted in police reform efforts in the Seattle Police Department.

I also worked to change a DOJ policy that precluded the creation of drug courts at the federal level. Once it was changed, I worked with the Federal Court to create one of the first federal diversionary drug courts in the country. This program allowed individuals who committed certain non-violent crimes tied to addictions to avoid a conviction, if they successfully completed the drug court program. While the complex nature of federal cases makes this group much smaller than in state court, it was an important step in reducing the unjust impacts of the criminal justice system and using dollars to return people to being productive members of society.

Regarding guns and violence, I used the federal law against felons possessing firearms to crack down on career criminals in Western Washington. Cases referred for felons-with-guns charges increased 45 percent in the last three years I was in the office compared with the previous three years. I also believe we need to make it harder for drug and guns sales in high crime areas, so I pushed for "hot spot" initiatives which resulted in dozens of arrests and weapons confiscations.

I returned to private law practice and for the last two years, I have continued my work on cyber issues. I am Global Chair of our Data Security and Privacy practice group. I advise a range of entities and lecture frequently on the cyber threat and privacy issues. I also have represented individuals and organizations on a range of white collar matters. On a pro bono basis, I was at SeaTac airport the day that Donald Trump's immigration order was issued. I was able to recruit and collaborate with lawyers from the ACLU and the NWIRP to secure a federal judge's order preventing the deportation of people here lawfully. I recently co-chaired a federal judge merit selection committee, which advanced 5 names to the Senate and President Obama for current judicial vacancies on the Western District of Washington Federal Court. Sen.

Patty Murray just forwarded those same names to President Trump.

Below are some Board and Commissions on which I served:

- **Seattle Police Accountability Review Board, Appointed by Mayor Greg Nickels in 2008**
- **Member, Delegation to Morocco for Political Candidate Training: Delegation worked with full range of Moroccan political parties in advance of historic elections, 2002**
- **Founding Board Member for the Seattle Police Foundation from 2002 to 2004**
- **Founding Board Member, Center for Women and Democracy 2000**
- **Chair of the Washington State Attorney General's Task Force on Consumer Privacy 1999 to 2000**
- **Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors 1999 – 2002**
- **Citizen Review Committee for the Seattle Police Department, Appointed by Mayor Paul Schell in 1999**
- **Merit Selection Committee for the United States District Court, helping select the candidates for appointment to seven vacancies in the federal judiciary in the Western District of Washington 1997 to 2016**
- **First Citizen Observer on the Seattle Police Firearms Review Board from 1997 to 2000**
- **Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission from 1993 to 1996**
- **Advisor to the establishment of the King County Drug Court (1994) and the Mental Health Court (1999)**
- **Adjunct Instructor, Trial Advocacy, University of Washington Law School (1992-2001, excluding 1994)**

Awards (partial list):

- **Outstanding Voices in Seattle, Puget Sound Business Journal, 2016**
- **Distinguished Alumni, University of Washington School of Law, 2015**
- **Woman of Influence, Puget Sound Business Journal, 2015**
- **Passing the Torch Award, Washington Women Lawyers, 2015**
- **Warren G. Magnuson Award, Seattle Municipal League, 2014**
- **Woman of Inspiration, Seattle Storm, 2014**
- **Special Contribution to the Judiciary, Washington Women Lawyers, 2013**
- **Leadership and Justice Award, Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association, 2012**
- **Jaswant Singh Khalra Award for Social Justice, Sikh Community, 2012**
- **Seattle's Most Influential People, Seattle Magazine, 2011 and 2012**
- **Woman of Power in Law, Women of Color, 2010**
- **Spirit Award, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, 2005**
- **Super Lawyer, Washington Law & Politics, 1999-2009**

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

As Mayor of Seattle, I would serve as the chief executive officer of the City, and the political and key city leader on all issues affecting the lives and businesses in the community.

I understand the most important work of city government is to provide the basic services of police and fire protection, utility services, parks maintenance and programming, civil rights protections, transportation services and improvements, clear, fair and safe regulations, safety net services for low-income and homeless people, land use rules, and provide those in a fiscally responsible manner. It is the Mayor's duty to direct and oversee these services. The Mayor is also responsible for setting and working with City Council on policy and budget decisions.

The Mayor is also the most visible City leader to work with labor, business, stakeholders and regional, state and federal leaders on issues of economic inequity, immigration, housing, business and employee rights, gun safety, homeless and environmental preservation and protection.

I also believe it is the moral duty of a Mayor to lead our community in addressing tough, sometimes intractable problems. No one, including me, has all the answers. I will provide the leadership we need to get past the noise, pull people together and get things done. Police reform, affordable housing and homelessness are only three of the significant challenges we face. But I believe they are ones that are critical to our future and as Mayor they will be my top priorities.

I will also to work to re-establish trust in City government. My administration will be inclusive in finding solutions, will raise the bar on conduct and accountability, and will focus on getting meaningful results.

My approach to leadership is to listen, request diverse input, gather good data, make decisions and then get it done. I will sweat the details but also aim to make sure our actions lead to a stronger city.