

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
Bob		Hasegawa

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

Mayor, City of Seattle

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

60 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

64 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Bob Hasegawa for Seattle Mayor**

Address: **PO Box 84789**

City/State/Zip: **Seattle, WA 98124-6089**

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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)
State Representative	Elective	2005 - 2013	Vice Chair-Finance Committee Vice Chair-House Ways & Means
Senator	Elective	2013--Present	Ranking Member-Governmental Operations Committee Ranking Member-Commerce & Labor Committee

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

Office Title	Year of Run
N.A.	

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 am running for Mayor of the City of Seattle because I believe in my city, my neighbors, my community and want to restore it to the family-friendly, safe, welcoming and nurturing environment that I knew it to be growing up.

I believe there is a leadership role to be filled in addressing the ever- increasing inequality in the distribution of income and wealth. Families are being taxed out of their homes due to increasing tax burdens on their property and utilities. This leads to homelessness, and to displacement (gentrification) to outlying areas in order to afford a place to live, but often without the amenities that are necessary. 36% of our school children are on free and reduced lunches and nearly 4,000 children homeless in the City of Seattle, and have police/community issues. We need to find better solutions than putting young people, often of color, in prisons rather than schools.

As Mayor, I will bring solutions to these disastrous situations, like creating social solutions to social issues. I can also bring financial solutions to an insufficient financing capacity by creating a municipal bank. This public financing reform is the bedrock for increasing financing capacity for addressing numerous solutions to problems, like increasing public housing, paving sidewalks and streets, building schools, etc.

The current situation in our city is not sustainable. We must do things differently and solve these challenges together. A healthy city and healthy economy are more than a booming economy for the wealthy with spiraling inequality for the rest of us. Too many people feel the system is rigged against them due to the huge amount of money poured into politics. This campaign is a real opportunity to prove that people united can overcome money in our political system. The people can regain control over our government, of, by and for the people, not just the top corporate 1%.

I believe our public schools should work for all income and ethnic groups and am appalled that the only high school in our system that has not been renovated in is a community of color. We need to do everything we can to preserve our public school system and provide the resources they need to operate world class schools in every community. As mayor I expect to build strong partnerships with the Seattle School Board and work to get the resources they need and provide the political support necessary to ensure a healthy, sustainable education environment.

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

I am a patient, thoughtful leader accustomed to leading diverse groups and individuals from all walks of life. As an elected Teamster leader for nine years in the Puget Sound region and nationally, I dealt with passionate, involved people who wanted to be heard and respected not only in union activities, but in daily work life. I made it my priority to ensure that my union brothers and sisters knew that I was there for them, that I would listen to their concerns and would take principled action to address them.

A mayor is expected to represent all the residents and businesses of the elected area. The diversity of the City of Seattle is more than a simple list of diverse cultural groups. The leader of the city must also recognize the importance of building partnerships with individuals who have varied backgrounds and cultures. Culture is more than the artistic objects that represent its people, it is also the knowledge and values that build welcoming communities for everyone. Cultural diversity, with all the attributes that make us different from one another, can be raised to the level of the common heritage of humanity, shared through dialogue and discourse. Intercultural dialogue is important for development, as an adaptive process and as a venue for expression, creation and innovation.

My city is on the verge of becoming truly international as more than a welcoming city for refugees. It also represents closer ties between trading partners as we enter expanding markets. The interactions will take patience and understanding of the uniqueness of developing partnerships as we find ways honor the diversity and work toward a peaceful world. It is a task worth doing. I am well equipped with the cultural sensitivity tools to lead economic development efforts in partnerships with our closest trading partners abroad.

My tenure as the elected leader of a multi-million dollar organization, where I successfully implemented transformational organizational change has prepared me to lead the City of Seattle, which also needs to undergo transformational change. In that capacity, while managing change, I was also responsible for the bread and butter work of the organization successfully managing almost 1,000 collective bargaining negotiations. These organizational and administrative skills have prepared me to lead the City into becoming a truly world class example of sustainability and equity.

Finally, my personal skill sets have demonstrated success throughout my tenure in the Legislature. To wit, I passed more significant pieces of legislation last year than any other Senate Democrat:

**SB 5342 Human Labor Trafficking (PASSED)
SB 5752 Racial impact statements (PASSED as budget proviso)
SB 6206 Authorizing the growing of industrial hemp (PASSED)
SB 6295 Coroners' inquest venue (PASSED)
SB 6398 Cultural foods (PASSED)
SJM 8014 Wm. P. Stewart Memorial Hwy (PASSED, as HJM 4010)
SR 8617/8724 Day of Remembrance (ADOPTED)
SR 8679/ Filipino History Month (ADOPTED)
SR 8686 Honoring Herb Tsuchiya and Sam Mitsui (ADOPTED)
SR 8687 Honoring Northwest Center (ADOPTED)
SR 8693 Honoring Wong Tsoo (Boeing's first engineer) (ADOPTED)
SR 8702 Honoring Cyndie Shepard/WWU, (ADOPTED)**

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.

I am proud of my leadership in the Teamsters union as we reformed the union and I negotiated collective bargaining contracts both locally and nationally providing the top wages, benefits and working conditions in the country. Mine was a trusted position (elected Principle Executive Officer) managing the organization with a multimillion dollar budget. I successfully oversaw the transformation of the organization from a top-down leadership model to a bottom-up membership driven model, while also successfully negotiating almost 1,000 collective bargaining negotiations worth literally hundreds of billions of dollars with companies like Boeing, Safeway, Waste Management, Associated General Contractors (construction), City of Seattle and King County, Seattle Times, and the largest of which was the National Master UPS Agreement covering 220,000 workers, where I was on the lead negotiating team. I also served as a leader in the national Teamsters pro-union democracy reform movement, Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) where we brought organizational transformation to the largest private sector union in the US, the 1.4 million member International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Secondly, I am proud of my post-secondary degrees and the manner in which I earned them both. I was proud to walk for my BA degree the same graduation date as my older daughter walked for her high school diploma from Garfield High School in 2003, and I was proud to walk for my MPA degree from the UW Evans School for Public Policy and Governance on the same date as my younger daughter walked for her degrees in Criminal Justice and Spanish from Seattle University (2010). The degrees were more of a validation of my lifetime accumulation of administrative skills, but I tried to set a good example for my daughters about lifelong learning, working hard, accomplishment and achievement. The MPA has helped me in my legislative work in that it has build some credibility for my opinion in the Legislature, where unacknowledged institutional racism and white privilege has presented obstacles I needed to overcome. In fact, one of the driving forces in pursuing my MPA was when a very privileged colleague in the Legislature once told me I “didn’t understand and needed to get more education.” While I did in fact understand that we were viewing issues from different perspectives, he from privilege and I as a person of color, the MPA commands a certain amount of respect for my opinion now that hadn’t previously existed with many of my colleagues (and outside the Legislature as well, for that matter).

Thirdly, I am very proud of a bill in which I worked with the community to get passed several years ago, SB 5173—Leaves of absence for matters for faith or conscience (2014). In looking for ways to support community engagement and political education in the Muslim community, we identified an issue that was both problematic and broadly mobilizing for this community — Muslims were not able to celebrate their two holiest holidays (Eids) because those holidays follow a lunar calendar rather than the more familiar western Gregorian calendar that “official” state holidays are based on. Workers faced issues with getting time off from work to observe their holy days, and students couldn’t get accommodations from their school schedules to practice their faith.

Working with members of the Muslim community and legislative staff, we drafted language for proposed legislation and put a mobilization plan together to educate the community and engage them in the legislative process. In 2013, I was able to get a “courtesy” hearing in the Commerce and Labor Committee, where we heard some concerns about the bill from the Chair. After session ended, we redrafted the language of the bill to address the concerns we’d heard, and was able to get the support of the Chair the following year. The community testified in committee, learned how our legislative system works, and was engaged throughout this process. While the effort started with the Muslim community, we were able to broaden support throughout the process. SB 5173 was passed the following year (2014) with unanimous support from the Senate and 64-32 in the House. As far as I know, SB 5173 was the first of its kind in the nation.

The community learned many great lessons through this process, not the least of which is that patience, persistence, and good faith effort are virtues in the legislative process. It took us a couple years to get the bill passed but in the end we’d built a beautiful coalition of Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus, Native Americans and others with ethnicities and cultures from all around the world because as it turns out, many cultures celebrate various important community cornerstones that don’t fall neatly into

the Gregorian calendar, and the final bill applies to whatever is important to any culture or individual. The final bill allows all public employees and all students in public schools two days leave of absence for matters of faith or conscience.

We celebrated the victory with a multicultural event featuring many different cuisines (potluck) and cultural performances from the aforementioned cultures. It was a beautiful collaboration, celebration, learning and community building process for everyone.

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.

State Senator, 11th Legislative District – 2013 to present
State Representative 11th Legislative District 2005-2012
MPA from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance
BA from Antioch University, Organizational and Social Change, and Labor Studies
AA from Shoreline Community College
Seattle Central Community College, Information Technology
Graduate Cleveland High School

Journey level Operating Engineer (heavy construction equipment operator, IUOE 612)
Journey level Truck Driver (IBT 174)
Certified transit operator (ATU 587)
Member of the Teamsters Local 174 for 34 years
Elected leader (Secretary Treasurer) of the largest Teamster trucking industry and general workers labor union in Pacific Northwest for three terms (9 years)
Leader in the national Teamsters pro-union democracy reform movement, Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU)
National Executive Board member (fmr) of Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO and Seattle Chapter Executive Board member
Vice President/Board member of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Board member of King County Labor Council (Fmr)
Board member of Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at University of Washington
Board member of Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at University of Washington
Board member of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Member of the Washington Hyogo Friendship Council

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

One of the most important duties of the Mayor is to provide vision (create collective vision), leadership, and hope for the people of Seattle that we can recapture our democracy from the corrupting influence of money and build a world class city that is nurturing, just, sustainable, and equitable. We can reform government so the people have more control over the decisions that directly impact them, and we'll give the people the tools to achieve that vision.

Other mayoral duties include effectively managing governance of the City of Seattle; working closely with residents, stakeholders, the elected City Council and appointed city, county, state, federal, and international government leaders toward achieving the collective vision for Seattle; preparation of the budget as a document that reflects our values; representing the city at important events in all venues.

I think the struggle to recapture our local democracy for the people in the face of unprecedented challenges at our national governance level, while building the partnerships we need, including international partnerships, to bring about peace, equity and justice for all is an extremely important duty of any elected official.