

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
Harley		Lever

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

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

10 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

10 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Harley Lever for Mayor

Address: 2562 Thorndyke Ave W 403

City/State/Zip: Seattle WA 98199

Campaign Phone: 480-215-2011

Campaign E-mail: harley@WeSprout.com

Campaign Website: www.HarleyLeverForMayor.com

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)
None	None	None	None

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

Office Title	Year of Run
NA	NA

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 office to help bring a new perspective to our shared vision for Seattle. As a former research scientist contracted to work on FAA and NASA projects, I will help infuse science, data capture, strategy measurement, and technology into every aspect of Seattle's day-to-day operations. This approach will help Seattle better understand the challenges we face, identify strategies to yield better outcomes, help us know what best to invest in, and to leverage technology to become a smarter and more efficient city.

Today I am a small business development consultant who has worked with scores of clients across dozens of industries in Seattle. Working with entrepreneurs and their employees gives me one of the most robust understandings of how all of Seattle's industries work within the city.

I am the founder of Safe Seattle, a group of citizens, businesses, and homeless advocates fighting for housing first, public safety, and immediate access to rehab and detox. I was the original proponent of establishing the "Safe RV Lots" for our homeless neighbors. I was proud to help get our neighbors protected, access to water and bathrooms, but most importantly, access to the services they need.

As I speak to Seattle residents, it is clear they feel they no longer have a voice in the direction the city is taking. They feel special interest and paid advocates are the only voice being heard. As mayor, I will give them their voice back and always make sure they have a seat at the table. We are asking them to pay most of the taxes, we can surely make them part of the process.

My single biggest goal is to unite the city. We need to come together to solve these problems. Our current leader's strategies are serving to divide our city. They pit landlords against renters, employees against employers, our neighbors of color against the police, and the list goes on. We must unite and seek opportunity to heal and trust one another. Together we can meet the challenges we face and prosper together.

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

There are three characteristics I rely on daily. They are compassion, unrelenting appetite for learning, and integrity.

Compassion is the foundation of who I am as a person and I have relied heavily on it to guide me throughout life. Feeling, connecting, and being open to truly understanding a person or situation is an essential tool in finding the best answers. Compassion is an essential ingredient in building trust, making friends, and becoming a leader. If you win a person's heart it offers greater opportunity to speak to their mind.

By default, I always question "what I know" and have an insatiable desire for knowledge. Situations always change and "what you know" in a point in time does not make it true later. The only way to mitigate this reality is to constantly seek better information and develop systems which allow you to obtain the best information more often. We must also recognize we are in a time of unrelenting innovation which offers opportunity to leverage technologies or strategies to create better systems. As a leader, we must be on the forefront of innovation and identify solutions to the challenges we face.

I have an unwavering commitment to integrity and hard work. My grandfather taught me through example as he always said and demonstrated through his actions, "You are nothing without integrity". He explained, "You can build a life doing the right thing, but if you ever compromise your integrity, even just once, you have lost everything". This is a lesson I have learned and relearned throughout my life. Sadly, many people have become accustomed to being lied to. When you tell them the truth or take ownership of your mistakes, often they are both awed by the audacity of truth and somewhat confused by what just transpired. Honestly, I find it humorous.

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.

The first thing I am proud of is when I became a research scientist contracted to work for the FAA and NASA. I am the first person in my family ever to graduate from college. We come from a working-class Irish family in Boston whose sole capital was pride. I will use these analytical skills, methodologies, and deep understanding of how systems work and interoperate to bring Seattle into the 21st century technologically. Today, we have few systems in place which give us the information we need, make our task easier, or help us make meaningful change in the challenges we face. An example of this is our homeless services. Today, if a police officer wants to help a homeless person, there is no mobile app or online resource listing the available beds, detox beds, or other services. Instead, the officer must call around and see if there are beds available. This is wasteful and inefficient. I will use my skills as research scientist and technologist to infuse technology and data mining through all 40 departments in Seattle.

The second accomplishment was the establishment of 2 Safe RV lots in Seattle for our homeless neighbors. For a few years I had watched the RVs steadily increase in our neighborhoods. Trash was being dumped everywhere. Used needles were starting to appear. Crime began to skyrocket in our neighborhood and I would watch people load up some of the RVs with 7 – 15 bikes at a time or stacks of packages. I knew however, most of the RV owners were just good people struggling to get by. I also knew they were the most likely to be victimized by these same bad actors. I united our community and with one voice we demanded change and a safe place for our homeless neighbors. It worked. The city set up Safe RV lots. I will use my leadership skills to unite Seattleites behind a common vision and use their voice to affect change.

My third accomplishment was to open WeSprout and helping to save several companies during the Great Recession. My company helps small businesses compete against large businesses and thrive in their markets.

This became most apparent during the Great Recession from 2008 – 2011. We were all struggling to survive. I became a search engine optimization expert to help my clients transform their websites into revenue-generating systems. In addition, we leveraged several other low-cost technologies to help maximize our efforts. Time after time, I helped companies which were teetering on the edge of insolvency turn around and become stable, and many are thriving. This experience taught me many lessons. The first is how important it is to be fiscally responsible every day. Secondly, it reaffirms that leveraging technology can have great results and we must always keep an eye on innovation.

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 am the founder of Safe Seattle. We are a group of citizens, businesses, and homeless advocates seeking to identify evidence-based solutions to homelessness, opiate addiction, and public safety.

These issues are very personal to me. I grew up just outside of Boston, in a town which has been overrun by Oxycontin and now heroin. Many of my friends are dead. My brother is a homeless heroin addict. My cousin is in prison for crimes associated with his drug addiction. Both of his children were born addicted to opiates. Our families have endured this crisis on a magnitude far greater than what Seattle is currently experiencing.

One of my greatest accomplishment was to push the city to open 2 "Safe RV Lots". For six weeks I had worked with my community to rally support for the creation of these lots. My goal was to get our homeless neighbors a safe place to get water, empty their sewage, but most importantly, to give them access to the services they needed. We held a large meeting and were able to get Sally Bagshaw and Mike O'Brien to agree to get the Safe RV lots set up. Unfortunately, the lots closed after 6 months due to astronomically high operational costs.

Today we are a community of over 3200 people who push the city and the county for Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, instant access to detox and rehab, and other evidence-based solutions to help our homeless and addicted neighbors.

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

The duties are as follows:

- Provide a collective vision which unites our city and establish the plan to achieve the vision.
- Set the standards for integrity, accountability, and transparency.
- Build a team to best execute the strategies of Seattle's collective vision.
- Develop the strategies and leverage technology to address the challenges the city faces.
- Create a budget to support the strategies for the collective vision of the city.
- Measure the results of those strategies and adjust them to yield the best results.
- Constantly seek feedback from the community and adjust the plan as needed.
- Continuously reevaluate the needs of the city and work in a proactive manner to address these needs.

Having the vision is the most important duty. Seattle must have a clear path from a short-term, mid-term, and long-term perspective. However, all of the other duties are just as important. If we fail in any of these other duties, it will diminish the outcomes.