

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
Michael	Patrick	McGinn

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

3. Are you the incumbent? No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 27 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 27 years

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

**CAMPAIGN CONTACTS**

Campaign Name: McGinn for Mayor

Address: PO Box 23123

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98102

Campaign Phone: 206-321-9890

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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)
Mayor of Seattle	Elective	2010-2013	
Sound Transit Capital Committee and Executive Committee	Appointed	2009-Present	
Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board	Appointed	2009-Present	
King County Growth Management Planning Council	Appointed	2009-Present	
Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group	Appointed	2007-2009	

Bridging the Gap Oversight Committee	Appointed	2006-2009	
Restore Our Waters Committee	Appointed	2004-2009	
Transportation Implementation Working Group, Governor's Climate Action Team	Appointed	2007-2008	
Green Ribbon Commission	Appointed	2004-2006	
Urban Sustainability Advisory Panel	Appointed	2001-2005	
Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee 2	Appointed	2004	
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Search Committee	Appointed	2005	Chair

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Mayor of Seattle	2013

## 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.)

For the past three years, we've seen Seattle change in ways that I think we all should be concerned about. Rising housing prices combined with higher taxes are making our city inhospitable to lower and middle-income individuals and families. Similarly, small businesses are getting squeezed by taxes, regulations and rising rents.

The city's general fund budget has grown 25% over the last three years, over \$250 million a year, yet our city leaders tell us they do not have the resources to address homelessness or maintain our infrastructure.

When I took office in 2010, in the depths of the Great Recession, I had to cut over \$60 million a year from the city budget. I did so while maintaining essential services and while rebuilding the rainy day fund. If we took the same approach during these strong economic times, we could free up dollars for our pressing needs while reducing the pressure for new taxes. To the extent we need new taxes, I support options that are less regressive than our current reliance on sales taxes and property taxes.

Seattle has always been known for its inclusiveness and for its quality of life. If we don't address affordability in the city, we run the risk of driving out the folks who have lived here for decades. It will also become increasingly difficult for middle and lower income people to move to the city, and for the city to benefit from a community that is diverse and culturally rich.

I'm running for mayor because I see a path forward to a Seattle that is affordable, where the prosperity of our region is shared with everyone who lives here, and opportunity is accessible to people from all walks of life.

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

When I was mayor I made it a priority to listen to and partner with the public so that we can solve problems together. They told me what I should be working on, and then it was my job to go make it happen. Working on important issues and finding solutions with stakeholders and members of the public is not just a requirement of public office; it is also source of inspiration for me.

Two examples are education and public safety. In 2010 I launched the Youth and Families Initiative, which brought together 3,000 people in 130 meetings across the city to tell us how we can address the needs of our kids and help prepare them for success in school and in life. We took what we heard and it helped shape the renewal of the Families and Education Levy, which was nearly doubled in size and was approved by voters. On public safety, I launched Safe Communities, a process that has brought hundreds of community members together with Seattle Police officers in meetings in all five precincts to discuss common concerns regarding public safety and how we can address them.

I also brought together stakeholders in our Center City Initiative to develop strategies to improve public safety and conditions downtown. This has produced results, from a partnership with King County and the Downtown Seattle Association to invest in improvements to Third Avenue, to the effective Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) strategy in Belltown to reduce open-air drug dealing, to the deployment of patrol officers to known hot spots.

I'm also a hands-on, fiscally conservative manager, and I think the record shows how successful that approach has been. Every budget was balanced in my time as mayor, and we did so without raising general taxes and without cutting core services - and we rebuilt our rainy day fund at the same time.

Since the 2013 election I have had the opportunity to reflect on what I could have done better. There is unquestionably a steep learning curve in running a city, and while I climbed it as fast as I could, I know that I made mistakes. I want to take that experience and put it to work for the city on dealing with its most pressing issues.

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.

First, I am proud that in 2010 I maintained a balanced budget while also maintaining core services. When I took office in January 2010 we faced the worst recession in 70 years. The previous administration had spent down our rainy day fund. Tax revenues were way down and the need for services was stronger than ever. Through close management of the budget, looking for efficiencies and protecting core services while making some cuts to other programs, we were able to focus on the basics to help Seattle pull out of the recession.

Second, we worked with the public to expand our investments in our children through a renewed and enhanced the Families and Education Levy. We added more school-based health clinics at elementary schools, supported innovative programs at schools across the city, and provided more support for English language learners.

Third, I am proud that we made progress on connecting our neighborhoods with rail. I partnered with the City Council to develop a Transit Master Plan that prioritized five high capacity corridors in our city. We did the planning work necessary to get those five corridors ready to be funded and built. One of those corridors, Ballard to downtown, we planned jointly with Sound Transit. That work led to the Sound Transit Board advancing planning work for new routes across the region, which was a necessary precondition for the successful 2016 ballot measure to fund more rail construction.

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 a husband, parent, and coach, and the Mayor of Seattle. I credit much of my success to learning from the example of my parents. My mother was a schoolteacher and then principal. My father built a career in providing community services. I have been an attorney, neighborhood leader, environmental leader, and nonprofit leader, which are all experiences that led up to my current position leading the City of Seattle.

I have a degree in economics from Williams College, and worked for three and a half years for Congressman Jim Weaver of Eugene, Oregon. I also worked for Oregon Insurance Commissioner Ted Kulongoski in Salem, Oregon for a session of the Oregon legislature. These experiences led me to believe that real change starts in communities, and is not a top-down directive coming from elected office.

I came to Seattle and attended the University of Washington Law School, graduating in 1992. While in school, I won the position of President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate where I worked to preserve graduate housing slated for conversion to office space by taking our concerns to a City of Seattle Hearing Examiner, who ruled in our favor. We also won an agreement for the University to pursue health benefits for teaching and research assistants from the legislature and made significant progress toward the creation of the UPASS program.

In 1993 I began working as an associate at Stokes Lawrence, making partner in 2000. My practice was in business litigation. I represented both large and small businesses, as well as individuals in contract, trademark, employment, real estate, land use, and family disputes. In small cases I worked alone, in complex cases I managed teams of lawyers and staff. As a business owner, and as an advocate, I learned firsthand the challenges facing businesses.

As a lawyer, I learned both sides in difficult conflicts often have good reason for their position. I also learned when to settle, when to try a case, and how to do both effectively.

When a lawyer I began volunteering in the Sierra Club, and in my neighborhood, achieving leadership roles in both, with direct oversight of the Cool Cities program, public education campaigns, and political campaigns.

In Greenwood, I focused on transportation and land use issues. I led successful efforts to build new sidewalks, and develop a plan for Greenwood's business district. During this time I was often asked to serve on Seattle committees addressing transportation, zoning, global warming, and the health of Seattle's waterbodies, as well as search committees for DPD and DON heads. As a result of this work, I was also asked to serve twice on state level committees on transportation policy and global warming.

As mayor I served on the board of Sound Transit, on both the Capital and Executive Committees. I also served on the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board, the King County Growth Management Planning Council, and have regularly attended meetings of the Association of Washington Cities and the US Conference of Mayors. I brought together 47 mayors across Washington State to support in the state legislature a local revenue package to help cities and counties fund road maintenance and transit service.

Since 2013 I have continued my advocacy on climate, transportation and social justice. I stood with advocates

to [fund Seattle transit](#) when a King County measure failed. I [opposed Shell](#) using the Port of Seattle as a homebase for their Arctic Oil drilling rig. With [350.org](#) and a broad coalition we successfully pressured the Gates Foundation to substantially [divest from fossil fuels](#). I worked with council candidates in 2015 to make expansion of [Career Bridge](#) a priority, an innovative program to help felons returning to the community, an effort that also [succeeded](#). I highlighted the [work of local activists](#), past and present, to encourage more people to become involved in politics so that we can more effectively create the change we want to see in our city.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why? Duties are many. Highlights include effective management of departments and city services, representing the public, responsible fiscal management, an open government, and continuing to strengthen Seattle's position as a successful city with a high quality of life.

**Responsible budget management** - Budget decisions are not just a way to show responsible and prudent fiscal management, though that is immensely important. They are also an opportunity to represent our values as a City.

As Mayor from 2010-13, we dealt responsibly with the deep cuts required to balance our budget. We protected human services, public safety, and essential services while finding innovative ways to save money. We also began rebuilding our depleted rainy day fund.

Today, with the explosive growth in city revenues, the challenge is to direct those revenues to our highest priorities - homelessness and affordable housing. These challenges will mount as the Trump administration and a Republican Congress cut programs our residents depend upon.

**Ensuring basic services and responsive departments** - We must continue to protect our city from crime and support emergency services, establish stronger safety nets for those that need them the most, and continue the innovative efforts of our utilities, through strategic efforts that increase effectiveness and are a smart use of City funds. The flush times are a particularly good time to focus on maintenance of basic city infrastructure.

**Listening to the public** - As described above, representing the public is essential and requires a number of tactics. Convening stakeholders, making government more transparent and accessible, responsive constituent correspondence, and much more needs to happen in order to accurately represent the public. It is a mayor job to understand the public's priorities and translate them into decision-making and policy that is sustainable and equitable.

**Accountability and transparency** - As mayor, we put departmental performance agreements online and created online tools that give information the public didn't have access to before (on potholes, neighborhood crime, snowplow activity, and much more). At over 100 town halls and neighborhood visits we brought department representatives to talk with the public and hear their concerns, often leading to action taken in neighborhoods or in policy. If elected I would continue this type of outreach.

**Effective management of major events** - During my term, we have handled the January 2012 snowstorm, a series of Occupy Seattle activities, May Day 2012 and 2013, and several other events.

**Partnering with other leaders** - Working with local, regional, and state leaders is a big part of ensuring

that Seattle's interests are represented. I have convened or worked with mayors, elected leaders, and tribal leadership on many issues and look forward to renewing this work if elected.

**Building Seattle's Success** – Economic development, increasing our sustainable transportation networking, supporting innovation in the tech industries, protecting the existing job base, and ensuring shared prosperity are all actions that need attention so that Seattle's future will be sound, equitable, and successful.