

Municipal league of King County 2017 Questionnaire

1. I believe my name will appear as "James W Norton Jr" on the ballot.
2. Mayor of Seattle
3. No
4. 20+ years in various neighborhoods all in Seattle.
5. Same as #4
6. Partisan
7. Democratic
8. Norton4Seattle P.O. Box 9125, Seattle WA 98109, 206-261-0544, james@norton4seattle.org, Norton4Seattle.org
9. No political background

Section II

1. I have given my time through volunteer work that includes Animal Shelters and rehabilitation programs. I have volunteered for "soup kitchens".
I recently did some volunteer work to help clean up Cal Anderson Park.

Effectiveness...I feel as though I provide the pinnacle of community work for friends/family and neighborhoods with my job. Everyday I choose to put my life on the line in order to keep the people and city I love safe. This is the reason I became a police officer in the first place. I wanted to give back to a city I love in the ultimate way I could.

In becoming a Seattle Police Officer I face the challenges of our city and work with these challenges for safe and sane resolution to everyone involved. When I am out and interacting with the public I have to make life changing decisions for myself and people in a split second. I also hear and respond on a constant basis to the concerns and issues that confront our city and communities. I have to "lead" in way that sometimes takes tough decisions but are the right choices for the situations presented. I often have to tell people and businesses, "No" which is becoming am tough thing for others to say.

I believe my job has prepared myself for the challenges of working "for" the people and communities of Seattle better than anyone else in this election. The most important thing is that I truly have a vested interest in Seattle. I truly love it and want the people who live hear to feel the same pride I do.

Involvement...I have not worked as a government politician but I do mediate/facilitate problems everyday with a good and productive resolution on a daily, even hourly basis. I have received numerous awards and recognitions for this everyday work from my department and my colleagues. I am often put in a position of leadership when a dynamic situation arises and people seek my advice/council in difficult situations.

I was the lead officer in many high profile cases.

I tend to work extremely well with others and often understand that sometimes I have to step aside for someone who is better at a particular resolution than I am at that moment. To me this is the sign of a great leader, surrounding yourself with people you can believe in and putting them in a position to succeed so that you all reach your goals together. This is quality that is necessary for working with communities and the city.

Character...I know I have the traits required for this job. I know I have the insight and integrity for this job. My current employment is all about accountability. I am constantly being scrutinized by the city I serve and my own department. But I believe my strongest trait is my passion. Everything I do I do it with my utmost passion. As I said, I live this City and want it to thrive. I know I will work tirelessly to make this a reality.

I am a leader. I am outspoken and often want to confront the issues most people are afraid to talk about.

One of the things I constantly hear from people, friends, family, and supervisors when I stated I was going to run for Seattle City Mayor was, "You are brave. I know I couldn't do it." And my response was then let me do it for you. I am not afraid of this challenge and I embrace it by showing everyone through my hard work.

Knowledge...I have always adapted. I have lived in several large cities (Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco) prior to coming to Seattle. I am a self made person who had to learn my skills out in the world. I have adapted, to cities lifestyles, careers, even my current job as a police officer has changed dramatically in the pst 10 years with how we do police work and interact with society. I have excelled in all of it and through it remained focused with my passion and integrity to do the right thing.

I interact with both people visiting and living in our city everyday. I hear their concerns, more importantly I address their concerns. The concerns that I hear over and over are the same and focus on what I feel are 4 major issues with our cities growth. They are Homelessness, housing, traffic and police/community relations. These are a brief

introduction to the issues as they are very in depth. I know these issues. I know how our city has handled them or not handled them. I don't have a panel or a study given to me to tell what is really happening in our city. No other candidate can say the same thing.

1. Why am I running for office...

It's hard for me to hear people who live and now are moving out of the city because they feel they are being left behind by our growth. It's hard for me to hear about how crime is down when I respond to many more 911 calls in a day than I used to. I am tired of being frustrated that I thought about retiring in Seattle and am not sure I will be able to because of the cost and failing infrastructure. I feel our city has no real plan for the future and we just do things on the "fly".

The main reason is, I believe in the city and out of all the places I have lived believe it's still the best city in the world. The reason I became a police officer was to give back to the city and say thank for how it has become so important to me. I feel I have reached a plateau as a police officer. I have done a lot of amazing things for the city and people but I want to do more. I believe my work as a police officer has prepared me for the challenges of Mayor. I welcome the opportunity to come to the job from a much more practical side, a side that I don't think has been explored or given a chance. I don't have a political agenda. I don't have goals to use this as a stepping stone to become governor or move on to a state legislator. I simply want to make Seattle the best city it can be while including the people in that process. I want to continue to work for the diverse people and communities.

2. My best characteristics and traits...

I am the kind of person that wants to do the right above all else. Often putting my personal wishes aside to do so. I will never forget a story of when I was in 6th grade a fight between my best friend at the time and another boy erupted. Afterward my friend asked me about the fight and I told him he was in the wrong. My friend got very angry with me and stomped off. Another boy over hearing this, said to me, "Jimmy, that's what I admire about you, you tell the truth even though it's sometimes hard for people to hear it sometimes". That story has stuck with me ever since. I know it's cliché for me to say I want to do the right thing but a standard I continue to try and hold myself to everyday.

The other trait that drives me is my passion as I have mentioned before. It is my willpower to push myself beyond what others often think I am capable of. I love when I am underestimated. I have high standards for myself and push daily to achieve them.

To quote a famous line, one I tend to say often, "never tell me the odds". If there is a .001 chance I believe I am that .001 that can get the job done.

3. Accomplishments...

The first one would be to be able to leave my home at 17 years old with nothing and succeed. I didn't fall into crime, drugs or bad habits. I was lucky enough to have found people throughout my life who taught me the way life should be lived and how to respect those around you.

The second would be my going to college here in Seattle. I went back to school for about 2 years. Paid for it myself and enjoyed learning. It was something I don't believe any other family member did. My father told me he didn't even have a high school diploma.

The third thing was applying for the police department and finishing the Academy. It was not hard in the sense of difficult physically or academically. It was that I had to change my mind set regarding police. Prior to becoming a police officer I hated police. A very strong viewpoint I know but it's the way I felt. I was so unhappy with Police I decided I wanted to become the change I wanted to see in the world. Another cliché to some people I know but is what I set out to do and I did. It's made me a better person for myself and others.

These skills I have learned, the ability to be humble, adapt, surround myself with good people and hold myself accountable are traits I feel are imperative for Seattle City Mayor.

4. Community Service... I think my role as a police officer for the past almost 10 years has prepared me for the office of Seattle City Mayor. And my 20+ years as a community member while living in various areas in Seattle has shown me the diversity we have here.

5. Duties for office... I believe accessibility and giving of my time are extremely important. But I believe the most important thing is for me to continue to remember that as the Mayor of Seattle I work for the people and businesses to act and do what is best for our city.