

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
Jason	B	Roberts

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

3. Are you the incumbent? NO Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city? 46 years

5. How long have you resided in King County? 46 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Roberts for Mayor

Address: PO Box 80242

City/State/Zip: Seattle 98108

Campaign Phone: 206 931 0775

Campaign E-mail: Roberts.campaign.2017@yahoo.com

Campaign Website: Roberts4mayor2017.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)
No public office			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
First time	

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.)

When I entered the race in February, I felt that the incumbent was not addressing the issues that I considered to be most important in Seattle. Issues like the homeless crisis, opioid addiction, affordable housing, and small business were present, but washed in campaign rhetoric. Extraordinary circumstances have caused the Mayor to withdraw his bid for re-election and invited a stampede of new candidates. I still feel like the important issues are taking a back seat to political agendas. That's why I have paid my filing fee and remain in the race.

I am a first-time candidate and new to the political theater, though I have lived and worked in Seattle for my entire adult life. My objective is to tackle the issues that face our city head on and do it within the framework of our current budget. Recent increases in property tax and a pending soda tax are excuses for bad budgeting. In my professional life, I have made a career of doing more with less resources, improvising, and spending wisely. I intend to introduce this ethic to city government.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.
- Honesty is in short supply when it comes to politics. I have always been true in my professional and personal life and have been rewarded with the trust of my peers. My ability to adapt and solve problems creatively would be a huge asset to the mayor's office. I am used to working in an environment that presents unique problems daily. Delegation and organization are assets that I expect to employ vigorously as well.**

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.

One of my favorite accomplishments is running an event space for non-profit functions. The company I worked for had a venue that was slated to be torn down, however we had nearly a year before that was going to happen. I used the space to host events that benefitted a wide variety of social causes. I would book the entertainment, help promote them, handle the production and staff them. It worked very well until the building was replaced by a multi-use residential and commercial building.

I worked with the Seattle Nightlife Association, a local coalition of bar and nightclub workers. We collaborated with the City Council and Mayor Nickles to help keep the city safe. From this collaboration, we now have the nightlife taskforce made up of city, county, and state agencies; that work together ensuring the safety of our nightlife community.

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 ran a business in Seattle for over 10 years that grossed an average of \$6 million. The nature of the business required strict budgeting, high levels of organization, and a great deal of delegation. This business also worked in lock step with many neighborhood groups and city offices ensuring compliance with all regulations and neighborhood safety. Negotiation, coalition, and collaboration were all necessary in achieving this success. While the office of mayor is clearly not a business, the skills I have learned in the private sector will serve me well in building a successful team to achieve our goals.

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

The duties of mayor are legion. In my opinion they begin and end with proper budgeting. While the mayor is not the sole architect of the city budget, it is the mayor's responsibility to ensure that it services the multitude of agencies under its umbrella. It is of profound importance that areas of waste are identified and that methods of optimization are employed. Recent years have seen property taxes raised and a proposed soda tax introduced. It is the mayor's duty to ensure that those funds perform for the people, not to cover up poor budgeting. Matters of policy, social programs, and transit must exist within the framework of a functioning budget. Certainly, city policy can have dramatic effects on the budget, such as the ongoing threat of losing federal funding over our status as a Sanctuary City. As I would choose to remain a welcoming city, it only further galvanizes my point that budgeting is probably the greatest of all the mayor's responsibilities.