

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Keith	J	Whiteman

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

Mayor of Seattle

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

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

12 years. I have lived in Capitol Hill, Queen Anne and Wallingford.

5. How long have you resided in King County?

12 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party: Common Sense Party

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:

Keith Whiteman for Mayor

4642 Eastern Ave N

Address:

Seattle WA 98103

City/State/Zip:

306.455.1403

Campaign Phone:

mayorkeithwhiteman@gmail.com

Campaign E-mail:

mayorkeithwhiteman.com

Campaign Website:

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			

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

Office Title	Year of Run
NONE	

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.)

“Promise the Future” is what I believe in. Society often struggles with the conflicts that arise when it attempts to absorb the unpredictable times that surround change. I believe we are currently in such a momentous time, and I want to bring a new thought process to how City Hall and the Office of the Mayor handles that change. If life is in a state of constant change, than I am willing to only promise you one thing, the future. I will tell you though, that I will be there in that future with you. Figuring out the best way our two futures will intertwine, and then how we both will intertwine with others and so on and so on until we weave a society beneficial for all.

Seattle, as a system, is comprised of three main parts, governance, business and community. Some believe that each part of this system will have their intersections while maintaining separate responsibilities. I believe that governance and the businesses should be all encompassed by the Community. I believe that government and business depend on the community to survive and thrive, and therefore should work together to hold each other accountable to produce a city that the community wants. A city that is not made in image of business or government, but by the eyes, ears and minds of the community.

My aim is to make Seattle better for the entire population. I will take earnest responsibility to represent those who feel they are being pushed aside, paved over, priced out and forgotten.

I view the Mayor of Seattle as a microphone and megaphone for the community. Much of the power within the city is held by the City Council, the School Board, King County and Olympia. Some may ask why I am running for Mayor and not a position that would be more inline with my experience. To that I say, I will be more effective as a microphone and megaphone than I would be sitting on City Council. Listening and speaking out for the issues which people find important, with a clear voice and a steadfast stance is

something I am willing to stake myself upon. I have no larger political aspirations. I am not using this a stepping stone to something grander, loftier or to further business opportunities.

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

One of my personal characteristics that I employ in both my personal and professional life that directly relates to the office is critical thinking, or design thinking. Being able to handle critical criticism, suggestions, comments and appropriately address questions and concerns from all people, not just those who agree with me. I feel that this idea of critical thought is what creates a beneficial system and government for all. The Mayor of Seattle is a position of influence, communication, thought and progress. It has little, to no executive powers, but it has quite the pulpit. Being able to effectively bring about change, propose comprehensive solutions to the City Council, all the while maintaining my own values is something that I feel very strongly about.

My ability to bridge communication gaps, listen in earnest and foster working relationships within a stressful working environment is also key. I have learned and studied a lot of communication techniques that are effective in creating good relationships and getting the best work out of people and myself.

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.

Touring Musician : Playing music for a living is hard. Playing music on tour is hard. Playing music on tour, when it's not your living is a certain experience that only few people have. The dedication, planning, cooperation and reliability that is involved in that leads me to have a tremendous amount of experience that I can say no one else in the race has earned. Traveling all around this country and meeting the real people day in and day out (not just visiting or on vacation), also creates a tremendous amount of learned empathy for people in all races, religions and situations.

Working Hard(Real) Jobs : In regards to knowing what it is like for the hard working, underserved, mostly industrial jobs that are finding it harder and harder to maintain and live in Seattle, my experience working those exact jobs is also something no one else has. I have cut steel for 8 hours a day. I have worked in woodshops sweating, sanding and painting wood. I have worked in kitchens and hospitality and often this jobs paid just above minimum wage. I know what it takes to survive in those situations and jobs and just how hard it can be for the working class. It is not just sentiment when I say I know the situation and I am wanting to help. I do not believe that any other candidate for Mayor can say the same thing. I hope I am wrong though, I think it is something very integral to creating a cohesive Seattle growth plan.

Becoming Creative Development Lead for the R&D Dept at my company. When I started at my job about 5 years ago, I had little or no experience in office work, certainly not in the field of product development. Being confident and capable, I was not only able to talk my way into my beginning position (prototype assistant), but rose quickly to other positions and responsibilities within the organization. I did this with a strong critical and design thinking brain, hard work ethic and ability to foster incredible relationships within the company.

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.

Touring Musician: see above : 2007-2012

Mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor U program : 2016-2017

Growing up in Washington, DC, being super aware of politics my whole life, history major, all around curious listener: 1980-now

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

The office of the Mayor of city of Seattle is basically the CEO of City Hall, appoints department heads and movements and actions in which the departments will take. They mayor also submits the budgetary information. The mayor has little executive power, but more important has a very large pulpit to drive progress, effective change and community reports.

I think one of the most important duties of a mayor is to listen, really listen, to the people that the position represents. Truly listening and then reporting back on what the actual people said is important. Setting up committees, panels or discussions to better investigate a subject or problem is decent work, but most of the time the people who it is effecting do not hear or see these actions as valid. There is hardly any distinct change. The people of Seattle want to know and hear that they are being heard. Too often, they feel like they are being forgotten in lieu of progress, development or business interests.