

SHSC 2023 Human Services Candidate Questionnaire

Seattle Human Services Coalition (SHSC) 2023 Candidate Questions

Email *

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What is your name? *

Bobby Tucker

For which position are you running? *

Seattle City Council District 1

Seattle City Council District 2

Seattle City Council District 3

Seattle City Council District 4

Seattle City Council District 5

Seattle City Council District 6

Seattle City Council District 7

King County Council District 2

King County Council District 4

King County Council District 6

King County Council District 8

Other:

What is your understanding of Human Services? Which Human Service Providers are most familiar with? *

My understanding of the SHSC is the organization help and provide community of all ages and background with their needs so they can help themselves. Shelter is the provider I'm most familiar with.
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What do you think is the root cause of poverty? What do you think the role of Government has in addressing institutionalized poverty? *

I think the root cause of poverty is dishonesty! When money and vouchers are giving for the people of the community it missed used. I think the Government role is to make sure that institutionalized poverty should have ended along time ago. Don't just address it but solve it. God has created us to be brilliant people. I believe the Government can solve this if the Government wanted it solved!
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What is your understanding of racism and its impacts? What do you see as your role in addressing systemic racism? What solutions, ideas, or examples of policies would you offer toward ending the impact of racism and racial injustice? *

It's REAL! Racism impacts poverty more so than dishonesty. My role is addressing systemic racism is to confront those who practice racism should be held accountable and even be charged with a crime, because systemic racism has and continue to destroy people lives even unto death! My solutions and ideas would be to make it a crime for racial injustice and people should go to prison for practicing racial injustice!

As an elected official, what steps would you take to understand community needs? What is your approach to partnerships between communities and government? *

As an elected official I would have an open door so people can come to talk to me and I would go out into the community and talk face to face with the community. Partnerships is good as long as everyone do their part.

What do you believe are the root causes of the on-going homelessness crisis? *

Racism, Dishonesty, non-profit organization are not housing people instead they are putting people back on the street, this is what happen to my 2 year old daughter and !! I've been homeless and when I did get a place it is way out and is not the best place but I thank GOD for a roof over our head.

What would you say are some examples of metrics of success when it comes to the homelessness crisis? *

Let me say this there is nothing = about housing I think it should be a * because they house who they want to house and kick out and keep others down. There are some success and there has to be some but there is not nearly enough.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence frequently enter the criminal legal system due to their victimization, but criminal legal responses are problematic for most survivors for a variety of reasons. This is especially true for Black, Indigenous, and other survivors of color, refugee and immigrant survivors, and gender non-conforming survivors. What do you see as the role of the criminal legal system in responding to gender-based violence? Do you know of any community-based alternatives to responding to violence and how you would promote or support them? *

We really have to hold people accountable and when a lawyer, judge, police officer and any other hold back evidence of a person innocence should be charged. I'll talk more about that later.

At least one-quarter to one-third of people in our community will experience gender-based violence in their lifetimes, yet solutions and responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking are significantly under-funded. Given this, what specific solutions would you bring forward to address this systemic shortfall? *

Working together is a start. No one person can do it all but together we can change the community and again I will go more into detail later.

According to the GAO nearly half of all people over 55+ and approaching retirement have no retirement savings. When individuals begin to think about retirement, approximately 50% of them will have to depend solely on Social Security as they have no pensions. This is a big factor in the reason that more older adults continue working past expected retirement. What are some of your priorities in tackling elder poverty and ensuring that our older adults are taken care of? What are some actions elected officials can take to help prevent poverty for older adults? *

Age discrimination is a factor of that as well. So we need to make sure that employer are not discriminating against people because of their age that would be one of several action I would approach. There is nothing wrong with working when you are older but you shouldn't be force to.

What do you consider as some of the priorities for older adults living in the Seattle/King County areas? *

Safety! People want to feel and be safe. Not worrying about someone breaking in on them are taking advantage of them in their neighborhood.

City officials and nonprofit leaders agree that wages for human service workers do not reflect the education required, difficulty, or value of their work to build well-being. A 2022 City of Seattle funded study conducted by the University of Washington School of Social Work found that King County human service workers are paid at least 37 percent less than workers with comparable skill sets in other industries. The report provides several evidence-based recommendations that the City of Seattle can implement now to begin closing the gap. *

The primary near-term recommendation in the report is an immediate seven percent increase to all City of Seattle funded human service contracts. This represents the minimum level of investment needed in the short term to address high rates of turnover and align human service worker pay with the rest of the labor market.

Will you support and prioritize funding for a seven percent increase in city-funded human service contracts to address systemic wage inequity?

Yes

Over the next few years, the City of Seattle will have an opportunity to build on these investments and support the substantial wage increases recommended by this report. We call on City leaders to work in concert with other public and private funders to identify the revenue necessary to pay the full cost of providing essential, lifesaving human services to all Seattle residents. *

Will you commit to partnering with SHSC and other human service funders to secure the additional revenue necessary to close the 37 percent wage gap that human service workers face?

Yes

Many childcare workers struggle to afford childcare. Childcare workers in our coalition hesitate to accept promotions because they are concerned that higher pay might disqualify them from receiving a childcare subsidy that they themselves rely on. This is causing quality childcare providers to leave the profession altogether. In a recent survey of former King County childcare workers, one of the main reasons cited for leaving the field was the need to provide affordable childcare to their own children. A lack of access to affordable childcare has ironically created a shortage of qualified early learning professionals. What solutions would you offer to make childcare more affordable and incentivize childcare worker retention? *

Work with Childcare workers and understand why is the can keep being kick down the road. Like I said GOD has created us to be BRILLIANT people we can solve this problem together.

What are some ways that you would work to increase support available to folks struggling with mental health needs? *

I would help by making sure people are getting the help they need and not being taking advantage of.

Food banks and free meal providers in the region have always struggled to meet the needs of the public. During the pandemic there was an increase in resources to local food banks. As the pandemic has waned, the resources are also receding, yet the demand for food bank services has increased, especially with cuts to SNAP benefits and inflation. What solutions would you offer to continue to meet the needs of people struggling with food insecurity and ensuring that neighborhoods across the City of Seattle have equitable access to the healthy, culturally familiar food? How do you ensure reliable food support is available despite a much-varied landscape of hunger relief organizations and mutual aid groups? *

You would believe the food that organization throw away. When the Sea Hawk and all they other professional team play all the food they don't sell they throw it away. I think they should make sure it's taken care of and give it to the food bank. There are many other organization that throw away good fresh food that I think should donate to the food bank as well.

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