

# SHSC 2023 Human Services Candidate Questionnaire

Seattle Human Services Coalition (SHSC) 2023 Candidate Questions

Email \*

MargaretforSeattle@gmail.com

What is your name? \*

Margaret Elisabeth

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? \*

Human services which are necessary for people to live a health and happy life in society.

Mental and Physical Healthcare professionals are one which I'm most familiar with.  
.....

What do you think is the root cause of poverty? What do you think the role of Government has in addressing institutionalized poverty? \*

Private Property ownership. The government serves at the will of the People and should not act in ways which are contrary to the common good. Educating people about money is important and helps people understand the relationship between property and wealth.  
.....

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? \*

Racism is the intersection of class and sexism expressed through the lens of skin tone. As a city council member I can address this issue through continuing Affirmative Action and helping educate others in my office about the intersections of oppression which we're striving to overcome.

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

Talking with the communities is important and I think the best way to do that is through community forums.

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

Corporate greed.

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

More homed people. There is no other metric which makes sense.

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? \*

SPD needs to ensure that cases of sexual assault are investigated in a timely manner and that police resources are dedicated to doing so. There's an epidemic of missing Indigenous Women in our area and it's a travesty.

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? \*

I would propose creation of an office of Gender Violence Prevention which would have oversight of all cases of sexual assault and gender-based violence which would work with the police to investigate crimes and prosecute offenders.

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? \*

We deserve a Universal Basic Income of \$3000/mo. for every citizen in the country which would alleviate the concerns of most 55+ individuals while still allowing them meaningful work if they so wished.

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

Easy, convenient access to public transportation, feeling safe when they go out and about in the city. Single Payer Universal Healthcare would address many of the healthcare coverage gaps that impact older adults with limited income.

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?

City offices should offer free childcare during the work week to all employees in the office who many need  
it.

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

We need to remove the police as a first responder to healthcare calls. The Fire Department is better  
equipped and more well training to offer primary and advanced medical service responses. The city can  
work with nonprofits to increase education around mental health and reduce stigma for people seeking  
help.

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?

I need to continue funding these programs and the increased revenue from the recently passed capital  
gains tax can provide the funding necessary to maintain and expand food coverage for all citizens.  
Everyone should have a place to live and food to eat, as a city we can provide these services to our citizens.  
I believe we have a moral obligation to do so.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.