

King County Questionnaire
Saunatina for Seattle Pos. 8

Candidate Name: Saunatina Sanchez

Pronouns: She/Her

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Campaign Phone Number: 425-499-3476

Are you a Democrat?*(Required)*

Yes

Have you ever been a member of another political party?*(Required)*

No

Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?*(Required)*

No (but coming soon)

For or any “Qualified” responses, please provide explanatory notes in the field provided at the end of this section.

Special Purpose District candidates also are given these questions, though we recognize many lay outside the scope of your role. Please answer as you feel appropriate.

Will you commit to change zoning, permitting, and other obstacles in your city to increase housing availability for mid and lower income levels?*(Required)*

Yes

Will you commit to an increased percent of funding towards community and behavioral health services?*(Required)*

Yes

Will you actively support increased non-auto dependent transportation?*(Required)*

Yes

Do you support alternatives to the forced removal of unhoused people?*(Required)*

Yes

Do you support regulations to restrict police practices historically applied unfairly or abusively?*(Required)*

Yes

Do you support offering broadband internet access as a public utility?*(Required)*

Yes

Will you support allocating public safety budget dollars to the LEAD and CoLEAD programs of community-based intervention and diversion?*(Required)*

Yes

Free response questions

(up to 200 words for each question)

All municipalities are facing housing issues in their region. What changes will you make and how will you fund those changes?*(Required)*

I am in favor of passing I-137 and changing zoning laws to allow for more development, both of which will boost the supply of affordable housing—either by increasing the total supply or by being owned by the city. I have advocated for the creation of an Office of Renters Standards in the past and would like to see it finally put in place to mediate and ease tenant-landlord relations.

Regarding our homelessness crisis, I would like to look at approaches that have worked in other cities, like New York's right-to-shelter policies. We have the ability to house everyone in

our city as we did during the pandemic, but we lack the willpower to do so. By raising progressive revenue through increasing JumpStart, vacancy taxes, and capital gains taxes, we can house everyone on the street and begin getting them back on their feet—which, in the long run, is cheaper than letting them remain unsupported.

All municipalities are facing behavioral health issues in their region. How is your community specifically affected, what changes will you make, and how will you fund them?*(Required)*

This issue has been building since the 80s when Pres. Reagan defunded mental health and closed institutions without creating solid community support programs. I've heard from many people in my life how hard it is to access mental health care, from finding a therapist to accessing medication to just being able to take time away from work for a life crisis. I want to increase hiring for our human resources so more caseworkers have time to focus on individuals in their care. Capital Gains taxes and wealth taxes are two possible sources of progressive revenue that would not overly burden those in most need of this kind of support. We should work with the county as they open up behavioral healthcare centers across the county and ensure we are funneling resources into the most effective programs and not create duplicative programs that accomplish little.

Ongoing inequity is an issue in King County. Other than housing, what are your immediate plans for addressing this injustice?*(Required)*

Inequity thrives when those chosen to manage our communities don't listen to the community that's being affected. I am committed to hiring people in my office who have the most direct experience with the services that keep our city running. Uplifting those from our community who have lived experience will bring a broader perspective to the city's functioning and help prevent blind spots in the city's services, programs, and investments. We need to invest in and adequately support historically neglected communities, whether investing in infrastructure, schools, or economic opportunity.

Many cities have claimed a commitment to reducing carbon emissions. What specific actions will you take to ensure that your city drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?*(Required)*

The vast majority of our carbon emissions in Seattle come from cars. We need to decrease reliance on personal automobiles as the preferred method of transportation and massively expand and streamline the construction of our public transit network. Connecting our bike lanes so that cyclists no longer have to merge in and out of the flow of traffic, pedestrianizing neighborhoods where desired by the local community, and right-sizing our infrastructure—with

an emphasis on our thoroughfares—will cut emissions by making other options available and convenient to Seattle’s residents.

I also want to plant more trees along roadsides and thoroughfares, as well as expanding greenways and greenbelts to areas of Seattle which do not have ready access to them, especially down south.

Yes/No/Qualified

Will you support allocating ongoing operational and future capital funding, as well as prioritizing public lands to ensure the Seattle Social Housing Developer (as enacted by I-135) is successful?*(Required)*

Yes

Will you support re-funding JustCARE or a similar program to provide community-based public safety resources?*(Required)*

Yes

Do you support safe consumption sites in every city council district?*(Required)*

Yes

Will you introduce or support legislation to fund affordable childcare facilities, with workers paid a living wage?*(Required)*

Yes

Will you support moving Seattle elections to even years to increase voter turnout?*(Required)*

Yes

Free response questions

(up to 200 words for each question)

What specific legislation would you introduce to reform the Seattle Police Department?*(Required)*

I want to listen to the officers and craft a bill to remove the aspects of community care that don't belong to the police. I want to strengthen our oversight bodies and bring SPD more in alignment with other city departments' disciplinary standards. I also want to adjust the hiring qualifications and what they say about the people we're trying to attract to our force. We need to invest in programs like CARE to prove that SPD's scope of work can be reduced to more narrowly deal with violent crime and actively disruptive and dangerous activity.

What are your policy priorities to ensure that Seattle residents are able to earn living wages?*(Required)*

Bring more funding to our Office of Labor Standards in order to hire more people in the Enforcement Division. The amount of money people are able to enjoy is also dependent on the cost of living, which is why I support policies that keep rents reasonable and inflation under control.

Do you support the taxes recommended in the 2018 Report of the Progressive Revenue Task Force? Please share your thoughts.*(Required)*

If needed, you can find the 2018 Report of the Progressive Revenue Taskforce on Housing and Homelessness at:

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Council/Issues/ProgressiveRevenueTaskforce/Report-of-the-Progressive-Revenue-Taskforce-03-09-2018.pdf>.

I support them. The report brings to light the very obvious fact that those who benefit the most in society contribute the least to it. People with high wealth and income in our state pay less of their resources, while those with no wealth and low incomes pay a higher percentage of their resources in taxes. My approach to raising progressive revenue is echoed in the report, which is to say that we should not raise taxes lightly and that we clearly must do so to address the housing crisis and keep city services functioning. Raising progressive revenue, especially from businesses, would be my first inclination—but there are other options as well, including capital gains taxes, estate taxes, inheritance taxes, and vacancy taxes. All of these are on the table, but I would like to ensure that they are progressive even within the context of progressive revenue—I do not want to punish smaller businesses.

Will you support a Comprehensive Plan that includes upzones that allow for multifamily housing, light industrial, and commercial uses in all residential areas, as

well as allowing for high rises near all light rail stations, as described in the proposed Alternative 6 plan?*(Required)*

If needed, you can find Seattle's 2035 Comprehensive Plan at:

<https://www.seattle.gov/opcd/ongoing-initiatives/seattle-2035-comprehensive-plan>

I support upzoning all of Seattle, allowing corner stores in every neighborhood, and creating walkable communities around all light rail stations plus major bus corridors. Pedestrianizing communities—especially where the community has been clamoring for these changes—and tying all of these spaces together with a comprehensive and convenient public transit system is a key accompaniment to this comprehensive plan.