1. Looking at the current City Council, on what issues would you say it has been particularly effective and, in your opinion, where has it been less effective? Why?

One of the effective things the City Council has done is to approve a 12-month moratorium on the conversions of mobile-home parks, though if elected, I would legislate for permanent protection for our limited stock of truly affordable housing, not just mobile-home parks.

Frankly, I feel our current City Council has not done enough to fulfill their duty to the residents and businesses of Seattle. Their job is to develop laws and policies to promote the health and safety of Seattle residents. We have far too many people living in sub-human conditions in tents, RVs and sheds. We aren’t safe when our police department has been told to ignore open illicit drug consumption. Public health is being ignored when nothing measurable is being done about the pockets of squalor and trash all over our city. Businesses are losing customers. Tourists are declining to visit. Conventions aren’t being held in Seattle that we have previously hosted.

Our City Council should be taking more decisive action: create affordable housing though a foreign investment tax, such as that in Vancouver, B.C. (a recent transaction would have resulted in 370 units of affordable housing); spend our tax dollars more effectively to provide immediate assistance to those who are economically homeless (with no mental health or drug addiction issues); working cooperative with King County Public Health, to provide residential treatment programs for the addicts living on Seattle streets and/or mental health services as needed; appreciate Seattle-based businesses for the jobs they provide; treat the residents of Seattle respectfully and be responsive to their concerns.

2. More than 52,000 daily transit riders from across all seven City Council districts use Third Avenue daily to get to and from their jobs in downtown Seattle. While Third Avenue acts as a front door to our downtown, it’s also the epicenter of the Seattle’s largest outdoor drug market. A recent report commissioned by DSA and neighborhood district partners has outlined a large amount of criminal activity across the city, including property crime, assaults and robberies, is being perpetrated by a small number of prolific offenders who cycle through the criminal justice system. Have you read the report? If elected to the Seattle City Council, what policies might you pursue to curb property crime and address these issues in downtown in order to make our streets safer for all? How might you work with your elected colleagues to enact these policies?

Yes, I have read the report. It is time to use one standard to apply to everyone, and that is, we all have a responsibility to obey the law and be good citizens. I’m supportive of effective diversion programs and second chances, but we must enforce the law. If someone is dealing drugs they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. If someone is an addict, they should be given the option of going into residential treatment or go to jail, with a warning that they must honor the constraints of the treatment and diversion program to avoid jail time. (There is a study that shows that individuals given a choice of
treatment or jail are more likely to have a successful treatment outcome than those that enter treatment programs voluntarily.

It is my hope that the nature of the City Council changes with this election cycle. If it doesn’t, it is time to have townhalls to hear from the residents and businesses impacted by the criminal activity happening downtown, and in our neighborhoods – to hear about the thefts and vandalism that are negatively impacting our city. Questions need to be asked of sitting City Council members: What level of crime would create a tipping point for you to finally take action? How bad does it need to get? How many drug addicts need to die on Seattle streets before you will take action? Do you need to be the victim of a crime before you will start to care?

3. **Homelessness continues to be the top issue facing Seattle, yet we have made little progress toward housing our homeless population. In your estimation, what is the City’s role in addressing this crisis? Where would you spend your energy, leadership and resources to have the greatest impact?**

We can’t call everyone on our streets “homeless” and expect to provide the proper solutions. Barbara Poppe’s report of our failure to adequately address the homeless crisis did not contain the words ‘drug’ or ‘addict’. We can’t bring people into proper shelter without determining each person’s needs and addressing them. We need to provide a different set of services for the economically homeless (housing vouchers, job counselling and caseworkers) from those who are living on our streets due to mental health and/or drug addiction (residential treatment, proper medication, caseworkers and mentors to closely follow their progress).

Our City leadership has failed to follow Barbara Poppe’s thoughtful recommendations regarding homelessness in general and fund programs to align with a well-conceived plan of action. It was frustrating to watch the City Council budget hearings as they added their pet projects to the mix without regard for a bigger vision or the previous outcomes of those agencies.

If elected, I will audit the over 100 agencies that are being funded to address ‘homelessness’ and determine which agencies are not producing any measurable results. Going forward, I would want to consolidate the effort into a few effective agencies that would continue to be monitored for outcomes and measurable results.

Since we have a housing crisis, we must act expeditiously to address the problem: contract directly with builders to build SROs on surplus city property (which could later be converted to youth hostels); work with King County to convert the nurses’ dorm across from Harborview into a residential treatment program for drug addiction; temporarily use long-vacant properties to serve as emergency housing. We can act swiftly and decisively by working with our Governor to bring additional resources to Seattle to address the problem and assist with the construction of proper shelters. Long-term, I want mandatory, inclusionary affordable housing in all new developments, across the affordability spectrum.
4. Seattle’s lack of housing options that are affordable to our low- and moderate-income employees is an important issue for DSA and its members. In the wake of MHA passing at Council, what kinds of new policies would you pursue to help expand the availability of affordable housing in Seattle? How might current zoning fit into your thinking? Who would you imagine working with to enact these policies?

HALA has failed to provide the affordable housing we need in Seattle. The in-lieu fees are completely inadequate, if collected at all, to address the issue of affordability. We can’t let developers pay $5 to $22 per square foot to opt out of building affordable units when the cost of construction is roughly $300 per square foot. I would eliminate the in-lieu fees still allowed in the proposed MHA legislation and require inclusionary affordable units in every new development, across the affordability spectrum. That modification, combined with a foreign investment tax, would be a great start to providing an adequate supply of affordable housing units.

The proposed upzoning in the MHA legislation, if passed, will disproportionately impact minority communities and low-income households. I don’t believe the City Council has properly filtered the legislation, to date, through the lens of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. I would hope that review takes place before any legislation is passed to ensure upzones are applied equitably. I would prefer to see upzones in the Urban Village areas as designated by the Neighborhood Plans which communities across Seattle agreed upon through a long process of outreach and consensus building.

5. Between 2010 to 2018, downtown Seattle added over 85,000 jobs. During this time, we have seen a major shift in how the majority of people get to and around downtown, with percentage of people driving alone to their jobs shrinking to roughly 25%. Still, as the regional transportation and economic hub, downtown street space is at a premium. What steps do we need to take over the next two-to-four years to ensure that people can access downtown and that our streets work well for all users?

We need to increase our mass transit services in the downtown corridor. I would like to see better parking availability on the borders of downtown, combined with frequent bus service through the corridor. I would like the city or county to own and operate electric scooters (with baskets for shopping bags, etc.) that remain in the downtown corridor, with proper parking spots so they don’t obstruct our sidewalks. The scooters should be allowed to operate in our existing and potentially new bike lanes. A properly operated scooter program could be a source of revenue of the city or county and serve to move people effectively. (San Diego has a great scooter program.)

6. DSA currently manages and activates Westlake and Occidental Square Parks through an agreement with the City, which has allowed us to bring furniture, programming, staffing and security into these parks, as we work to make them welcoming for all. We also manage McGraw Square with some of the same types of activities. What is your view of this type of public/private partnership as the City contemplates major new public space opportunities along the waterfront and above Interstate-5?

I think these public/private partnerships are great. They save the city from having to fully staff these parks, and the parks are more engaging than they would be without DSA’s involvement. As long as ownership of the property remains in the hands of the city, I am fully supportive of more such public/private partnerships.
7. Downtown Seattle is the economic center of the region, with large and small businesses employing more than 300,000 people. However, economic success for employers and employees are continuously strained by unpredictable and burdensome regulations and taxes being imposed at the city level. How will you work to ensure that there is more predictability and consideration for employers to support growth in jobs, retail, restaurants and investment in downtown?

I own a business. I understand the strain on businesses as I have IT clients in just about every industry in the area. I know some business owners work to pay their staff and take little or nothing themselves. I know other business owners that have taken out loans to make payroll or pay taxes. I also believe the past six years have resulted in a lot of new taxes and regulations impacting employers. Several of my clients have chosen to leave Seattle or close their businesses altogether because of the new taxes and regulations.

First, I promise to never vote for a new tax until we have taken an in-depth look at our current bloated city budget to determine how we can reduce spending and/or produce better results from the budget. Our city budget has increased by $2 billion since 2012, but does Seattle look or operate better today than it did 7 years ago?

Second, I promise to bring the genuine voices to the table that would be impacted by any new legislation – not the pre-arranged ‘yes’ folks that agree with the City Council to ensure their continued funding – but the actual residents and businesses that would have to deal with the results of proposed legislation. As an example, businesses should have been brought to the table before the ill-fated Head Tax was voted for by the City Council. I will work with businesses to phase in changes in a way that works for everyone. I will always have an appreciation for the impact new taxes and regulations have on all employers in Seattle and the region.

8. In 2015, a city report looked at Seattle’s commercial development capacity and determined we could absorb another 115,000 jobs by 2035. Yet, in the last three years alone, we have added over 23,000 jobs, indicating that we are likely to surpass our growth targets much earlier than anticipated. Seattle has limited existing zoning capacity, and inadequate permitting systems in place to accommodate the future demand for commercial development. Where might you look to expand our city’s capacity in this regard?

We need to charge developers impact fees as new development occurs, both residential and commercial. We must have adequate infrastructure to support the additional jobs and residents coming to Seattle – adequate transit, roadways, utilities, school capacity, first responders, etc. We need to ensure we have adequate resources to support the increase in population, such as an adequate fresh water supply.

It is vital to have a vision for Seattle’s future, 5, 10, 50 years from now, and to build and develop to meet that vision. The big vision, a coordinated plan for the future is lacking. I would work with my fellow Councilmembers to develop that vision, along with Seattle businesses and residents, then work with the appropriate city departments to deliver on that vision, ensuring we have the capacity to support the job and population growth
9. As the City strives to allocate limited resources to manage and activate our complex urban environment, it has increasingly turned to Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) for support. These BIAs build community capacity and give agency and tools to local communities to address their own priorities. What is your view of these groups and their impact?

Over the decades I’ve lived in Seattle, I’ve witnessed many business districts transform from lack-luster to thriving districts. I am in favor of BIAs setting priorities and goals for their own business districts, as no one knows the issues facing a business district better than the businesses located there. The city should do what it can to support the success of all businesses and to support the agendas of BIAs. I also prefer each community having its own flavor and character as opposed to every business hub being cookie cutter copy of the next business hub.

10. Downtown is not only one of the fastest-growing residential neighborhood in the region, but also the jobs center of Seattle. If you are elected to serve on the City Council, how would you go about balancing the needs of your district with the City has a whole? What are the top issues facing your district and how do you see them intersecting with the issues at play in downtown?

Though I am running for a district position, I will always vote for what is in the best interests of Seattle residents and businesses regardless of the district in question. I would never vote for a program to be placed in another district that I wouldn’t be willing to have located next door to my house or business.

The growth in downtown is bringing great prosperity to Seattle, so I will continue to support that prosperity and growth. But the prosperity isn’t always making its way to the districts. In District 3 we have many un- or under-employed young Black men. I would like to see a cooperative effort between employers, Seattle Public Schools and our local colleges and universities to produce the workforce required by the major employers in the region. I would like to see more economic opportunities for the residents of Seattle, which support and expand the prosperity to more: funds to invest to minority-owned small businesses, development grants, training and apprenticeship opportunities, etc.

The more economic development and success we have in the districts, the more people who will have the disposable income to patronize the shops and restaurants of downtown Seattle.