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Page 1: ALL CANDIDATES: Welcome

Q1

Your information

Name	Xtian Gunther
Email Address	info@xtiangunther.com
Phone Number	2062294085

Q2

Yes

I have read instructions at the top of this page

Page 2: ALL CANDIDATES: Campaign Contact Information

Q3

Campaign contact information

Candidate first name	Xtian
Candidate last name	Gunther
Campaign email	xtiangunther.com
Campaign phone (optional)	2062294085
Campaign website (optional)	xtiangunther.com

Q4

Candidate name pronunciation (optional)

Just call me X ;-)

Q5

Candidate pronouns (optional)

He/him

Q6 Respondent skipped this question

Campaign Manager information (optional)

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

Campaign Treasurer information (optional)

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

Campaign Consultant information (optional)

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

Other Campaign Contact information (optional)

Q10 Respondent skipped this question

Other paid staff or full-time volunteers (optional)

Q11

Additional Campaign contact information (all optional)

Facebook Page (campaign)

<https://www.facebook.com/XtianGuntherSeattleCouncil>

Instagram

TBD

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/x-tian-gunther-755b865/>

Twitter

@XtianGuntherSeattleCouncil

YouTube

TBD

Other URL 1

<https://www.xtiangunther.com>

Q12 Use Other URL 1

URL to Headshot (optional)

Page 3: ALL CANDIDATES: Yes / No Questions

Q13 Yes

Are you a Democrat?

Q14

Yes/No Questions

	Yes / No / Qualifie d
Have you ever been a member of another political party?	Yes
Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission, or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?	No
Do you have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?	Yes
If you have paid campaign staff, would you support them joining a labor union?	Yes
Is there anything from your past that might hamper your success as a candidate?	No
Do you support employees of your jurisdiction (e.g. your city's employees, the Port's employees, etc.) exercising their collective bargaining rights without fear of retaliation; including the right to bargain and strike for better working conditions and pay?	Yes
Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat institutional racism and implicit bias?	Yes
Are you willing to have yourself, your staff and your peers undergo training to understand and combat sexual harassment?	Yes
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate fossil fuel PACs?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate pharmaceutical PACs?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate health insurance PACs?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from corporate building industry PACs; including the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) and National Association of Home Builders?	No
Will your campaign be accepting contributions from police guilds or sheriffs' organizations?	No
Will you denounce contributions that you don't support from companies who support your campaign anyway?	Yes
Have you previously participated or will you be participating in a candidate training program like Institute for a Democratic Future or Emerge?	Yes

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q16

Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, labor union affiliation etc.)

I was born in NYC and grew up in the Northeast, in the NYC-Montréal corridor, attending SUNY Purchase where I studied music composition and production and History with a concentration in US/Canadian History. I move to the Northwest in 1999, after a year in Portland in the mid-1990s. I worked in the music industry for Virgin records and General Production Company in the 1990s, then did a stint with North By Northwest Music Fest in Portland in 1995 followed by on-air talent at WEQX and managing the marketing for Capitol Repertory Theatre in Albany, NY. While in Albany, I cofounded the Albany Coalition for Light rail, did community activism around smart growth with folks including author and urbanist James Howard Kunstler and volunteered on behalf of Councilmember Sharon Ward, a democrat. In Portland, I continued working to advance theaters (Artists Rep, Imago, etc.) and fair compensation for those who worked at them, as well as musicians. I ran for office, garnering a bunch of endorsements (including from the winner of the campaign!) and thousands of votes, on a progressive ticket centered on green living and business, arts funding and infrastructure and housing. After that and before heading north to Seattle, I was selected to Mayor Tom Potter's Vision Committee where I chaired the communications subcommittee and named the award winning multi-year citywide engagement and visioning campaign (visionPDX). Next, I headed to Seattle! That was in 2006. One of the first things I did in Seattle was to enjoin in the effort to get Seattle to ban styrofoam containers at foodservice. I moved on to working to rid our city of plastic bags as a citizen activist, then lent my voice to campaigns to preserve Capitol Hill's historic buildings and the Showbox, as well as for \$15 Now, Bernie Sanders 2020, housing equity and police reform and accountability, usually as a 'lone wolf' but not always. Though I haven't been a union member in many, many years, I wholeheartedly support them.

Q17

Please describe your history of involvement (if any), with particular emphasis on the last five years, in local, regional, and/or state politics.

I attend occasional meetings here and there (mostly virtual these days) and provide written feedback and please, with a focus on progressive taxation . I've rallied for progressive candidates and causes, especially police reform, equitable housing development and attended meetings around the Ports planning for food commissary space. Activism, participation and awareness are a big part of my everyday. I testified on behalf of Save The Showbox and I've tried to get Jamie Pedersen on board for rent control.

Q18

Please describe the progress of your campaign and goals. How do you plan to win?

I'm an out of the box thinker who has a good grasp of models that have worked in other places and have even worked in the USA in the distant past. In my opinion, too many in today's politics seem afraid of or unaware of these options. In my career, I've worked hard, been bold in my thinking and I've gotten good results. I put in the time to listen to people, hear their ideas, thoughts and worries and I let them know that I genuinely want to help them and I'm not afraid to stick my neck out to do so. I am unencumbered. I owe nothing to anyone. I am running on a platform of innovation (something Seattleites are quite familiar with) and bold solutions that could do wonders for Seattle. and, many of my plans have funding mechanisms built in. I will be pounding the pavement and attending forums as hard as I am burning the midnight oil to type these answers for your deadline(!). As one who has lived in and spent time in a good many different places where I've always been engaged, I see solutions that work in other places and I've learned models that can be applied to solve different problems My message resonates with others. Many have asked me "Why don't YOU run?!" Also, as a lifelong marketer, I know how to connect with people and deliver an idea. Seattleites don't want to be bought off or pandered to. Seattleites are too smart for that. I will bring the smart solutions and I will bring them hard!

Q19

What issues do you think deserve more attention from media or elected officials? How would you seek to remedy that through your campaign or when elected?

The very simple fact that is: we must create a PLAN to build tens of thousands of units of affordable housing for the homeless, chronically ill/challenged and destitute -yes- but also for the multitudes who don't enjoy large monthly payouts from the tech sector and other very-well-paying work. I propose a Public Utility District to build both dorm-style supportive housing but also housing for less wealthy renters and any first time home buyer who can't afford half a million to one million dollars-plus for a condo. After initial seed money from the Feds, State and Local governments and the private sector, then-supportive housing would become largely or mostly self-sustaining through rents and mortgages. Seattle City Light provides low cost clean energy and we can do the same for housing.

There is much talk about police reform. However, none of it addresses several troublesome realities. 1) We are a rapidly growing city with a shrinking police department. 2) Most police don't live in the city. 3) Our handful of police precincts are wildly inadequate to provide the type of community policing so many are calling for. I agree that we likely need less armed police but we need more precincts and more public safety personnel, not less. Just, we need the new hires to be, mostly, By-Law officers, mental health officers and community officers who are unarmed or minimally armed. And, we need to require residency for all new hire public safety personnel. We could have a small elite armed force (less hires there, easier to pick the best, most altruistic and brightest) but fill out the majority of our public safety ranks with a new kind of (to Seattle) officer. The workaround SPD? If they continue to stonewall real reform, resolve and rebuild. We can rehire the best who are already on the force, those who really want to make Seattle amazing and leave anyone who doesn't even like us (see the many documented comments for union newsletters, social media, videos, etc.) to find other work elsewhere (preferably doing something else. We need to be bold or we will just remain in the ridiculous pattern that ruins lives in perpetuity. How is that smart or rational? It's not. By-Law officers are common in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and parts of Australia. Residency requirements make so much sense (we can provide housing aid, if necessary, as other municipalities do). So do frequent but smaller precincts where public safety officers develop real relationships in the communities they visit, stroll and police.

Arts and food industries. Along with that housing the new Public Utility will build, there will be retail space in each building. That space should be available to local food producers and food service and artists/musicians at a cut rate (but not money-losing). Pearl Jam, too many to name Jazz greats, Sir-Mix-A-Lot, etc, etc. put this city on the modern global map as much as Starbucks and Amazon did. Singles was a cultural phenomenon for my generation. Yet, today, most creatives can't even afford to hone their craft. It's just too expensive. Some juggle jobs and their art, usually until they can't. Then, they leave or abandon their dreams. Seattle needs to do more to aid true creatives, the artists and food makers of our community. Instead, most of these folks who sacrifice in every payout they earn, are taken advantage of time and again. We need to do more. We need to pool the might of the Amazon Studio/HBO/Microsoft etc, etc. companies that have a huge presence here and huge stakes in creating entertainment and work with these private partners to build a Seattle entertainment industry that our city is worthy of. We should listen when folks like Tom Sizemore lament that Seattle is underperforming in its role of honing and promoting its own artistic talent. No more "12th Avenue Arts" apartment buildings that almost every artist I know assumed were going to be artist housing units, but were far short of what the name promised. We should carry out the plan that former Portland Mayor Sam Adams and I concocted where artist/musician housing is built for artists to live in and, in return they teach in our schools, provide mentorship programs and lend their talents to community causes in return, all while focusing on developing their careers. The more we do that, the more successful working artists will be bringing business activity and tourists to our town, as well as furthering the Seattle "brand". Also, we must embark on additions to and construction of additional community centers, adding on commissary kitchens, rooftop gardens free or almost free-house space for musicians, actors, filmmakers, etc. Everyone doesn't want to or can't work in tech and we don't want everyone to. The food trucks, cafés, restaurants, caterers and local grocery producers that make our food scene the envy of the nation are being crushed by the lack of affordable space to prep, get their start and/or work around crazy-high upstart costs. It is unsustainable and we must address it. Now.

With regard to equity and justice, we must acknowledge the terrible cost of surrendering neighborhoods to the highest bidder, forcing longstanding communities to be ripped apart. While there is recent progress in the CD, we must acknowledge that there must be massive effort made to return the historic black populations of that area to their rightful homes. And, we must acknowledge the same should be done for AAPI folks who wish to live in the ID, Little Hanoi and South Seattle and that as we 'fix up' and redevelop areas such as Rainier Beach, we take the opportunity to fix longstanding failures, instead of just allowing 'the market' to force people out. Some of this can be achieved through the new housing public utility I propose. Build affordable, attractive, non-profit green housing

alongside the particleboard six story boxes of 'luxury' housing going up in areas at risk for 'gentrification'. We need beautification. There is no need to 'gentrify' anything and we must stop that practice through zoning and real large-scale community development, led by better zoning and the new Housing PUD. Speaking of zoning. We must zone-require certain parcels or blocks to contain full service grocery stores. And, our economic development folks need to prioritize equity. Why is there no Trader Joe's in South Seattle?! Seattle must commit to ensuring that every corner of this city feels the beauty, prosperity and aesthetics enjoyed in our most revered districts and neighborhoods. We are coming up short, especially in areas where new immigrant and BIPOC populations have traditionally lived and/or settled in. We cannot do what we are doing today, which is an over reliance of 'market forces'.

We must end, once and for all, the nonsense argument and complaining that Seattle needs to completely overhaul its zoning laws so we can tear down single family, historic neighborhoods and replace them with the relative equivalents of glorified cardboard boxes we call multiunit housing. There are so many ideal locations in this city where prime-for-high-density-lots and land is being squandered. Why not a need tower building above Capitol Hill Station. Ditto the train stations in Ravenna, Othello and Mount Baker? Such an approach is very common in Vancouver/lower mainland BC, London and, increasingly in other parts of the world as well. Why are there a series of surface parking lots and big box stores being developed in Interbay and at the Ballard blocks. This is a profound failure of our often-lauded zoning and planning. We can and must do better. Building 25-35 story buildings at train stations and along major thoroughfares will not blight Seattle if done correctly and such development will ease pressure to build cheap multi unit housing in East Capitol Hill, North Fremont and throughout the many quiet set back neighborhoods that dot Seattle's north, south, east and west. The assertion that tearing down dozens of homes and churches, many of them historic, to build a few hundred units of multi-unit housing is better than a single slim tower that can do the same with less impact is ridiculous and either disingenuous or wildly ignorant. I will start the heavy lift to change the narrative to one that reflects reality and preserves a multitude of choices for how one can live in Seattle.

Q20

How do you plan to involve all residents and engage all communities in the decision making process? How would you work with people who lack trust in our institutions?

In theatre and some music marketing (my profession for a long time), we must reach all potential audience demographics. Additionally, most non-profit LORT and smaller theaters bake it into their mission to use live theatre as a tool for engagement, outreach and education. Then, these organizations (and I) have to find these audiences and develop dialogue and relationships. Whether church groups, new immigrants, the LGBTQIA community, 'blue collar' workers, ethnic communities or ethnic enclaves, almost every group has their 'number' or numbers. And, one must respect that and cater to that. Also, our efforts in visionPDX worked wonders engaging with marginalized, often forgotten and immigrant communities. Honest, culturally sensitive and culturally EDUCATED approaches go very far. And, we sought out communities through their institutions, the local neighborhood community centers and food shoppes. It takes time and persistence but once a seed of trust is planted, if one is genuine, that seed will usually grow and spread roots.

Respect for cultural norms and any little knowledge of a community I hope to engage opens the door more often than not. I do not come across to people as a threat. I celebrate differences, really and truly. The banh mi I ate from Chu Minh Tofu last night came with a quick playful chat with one of the co-owners. I revealed in the Vietnamese foods on offering and I made that clear, as well as expressing a deep appreciation for their hard work in preparing it. I chatted at length with a long time resident of the CD who told me all sorts of history about Seattle I never knew. I was engaged and interested. I asked for nothing, other than this man's honest feedback. I also acknowledge the shortcomings of 'my people'. That goes far and it reflects an honest opinion of mine. A lot of people like to shout from the mountains how empathetic they are these days. Maybe so. I don't walk around professing to be an empath but I guide my life through empathy. I always have. And humility, where it's called for. Both my professor mum and I have been accepted into her community in Alabama by folks who have extreme distrust for white people, and with very good reason. It's a remarkable thing to have people who aren't and have never been 'privileged' call you out as a rare approachable exception and I'm embarrassed to even have to mention it, but the truth is, growing up where and how I did, I've been around a diverse crowd my entire life and I have been exposed to the many injustices suffered by all-too-many of those I know. As much as I can, I 'get it'.

Q21

COVID has increased existing inequities. How will you use your office to support the most vulnerable? How would you promote an equitable recovery and create opportunity for all?

As the previous questions hopefully began to illustrate, I will work to end food deserts, SYSTEMICALLY, demanding better zoning and development policies. I will be a loud voice for ending displacement, for expanding social housing for all and removing stigmas. My food commissary plan and the expansion of arts employment opportunities and positive extracurricular activities (take the graffiti tagger and teach them to paint murals, then create a MuralFest, give young folks tools and space to create, jazz and hip hop in our community centers), as well as increased opportunities to garden and public-private partnerships of mentoring and training that leads to well paid work are all part of my wish list. And, again, housing,. housing, housing. It all starts with food, clothing and safe shelter. Everything else grows from there .I am not only committed to working to ensure those three bases are covered but also to the next step offerings that allow people and their families/careers/passions to grow from there. Additionally, I think it is imperative that Los Angeles, SF, Portland, Seattle and other big West Coast cities plagued by homelessness, the extremely high cost of housing and the soaring cost of living, generally band together to insist and demand that the Federal government step up in a huge way to aid us because the reality, as Mayor Durkan says ad nauseam, is that our moderate West Coast climate and Left Coast big city relative generosity (humanity, really) of services, inadequate as they are) attracts a lot of folks from the rest of the USA, including the disadvantaged, the challenged and the speculators and opportunist developers. It is an unsustainable mix that requires special assistance at a national level if we are to have enough resources to build the infrastructure and programs necessary to address these special problems long term.

Q22

If elected, how will you use your position to address racial inequality, and advance an anti-racist agenda? How specifically would you support the Black Lives Matter movement?

I've covered a lot already but, to reiterate, we must allow for black people who's families call and called the Central District and area home for generations to stay and return. We must end food deserts (and by putting expensive offerings in communities that don't want that). We must provide safe and equitable housing for all. We must rebuild our police department into a public safety department, ideally recruiting as many black Seattleites and people of color to enjoin and police within their own communities. We must support and encourage, through low/no interest loans, affordable leases and commissary facilities ,business development, especially in the food and entertainment fields but also through partnership programs, in tech, law, medicine. We must offer more constructive opportunities so young marginalized youth don't succumb to gang life and crime. I also think we need to work with local colleges ,universities and educational institutions to increase the number of BIPOC participants, whether starting with mentorships or just the knowledge that such programs are available from a young age. And, the trade off might be that participants in such a scholarship program perform a minimum of one year of (paid) service in their local Seattle community. Just think of the potential dividends. We should create a grande Juneteenth music, arts and food festival, one that doesn't lose site of what Juneteenth is all about. Such a festival could be mounted at 23rd & Union or 23rd and Jackson or right in the heart downtown. We must elevate the discussion of how to honor and return some level of equity to the Duwamish people.

We should rename Fremont district to an appropriate black or indigenous honor. John C Frémont, the man Fremont is named for, was a genocidal psychopath who was responsible for the deaths of innumerable First Nations peoples.

As for the bigots, the emboldened anti-AAPI and the anti-semitic/muslim/progressive both on our streets and in our media (KIRO radio), we must speak with a loud united voice that we will not tolerate such behavior. With a larger and largely unarmed public safety department, we should expect that no Proud Boys or other hate groups EVER get to stroll our streets terrorizing our citizens again, even if that means new laws that we must fight to preserve in the courts. I fear that there are some in our police ranks today (and last summer, too), who are/were sympathetic to these terrorists. We cannot rationalize the behavior and intimidation of hate groups away. We must find clever ways to keep them out of our city and to educate in our institutions that not only is such vile behavior intolerable, it's also counter to everything we as Seattleites collectively stand for. I think we need to revisit the discussion of a very limited deployment of CCTV cameras, as well. Between better public safety, specific laws, greater public safety presence in our communities, heightened education and met own and my fellow politicians voices rising up to deliver the clear message loudly that Seattle doesn't welcome such visitors nor such citizen attitudes in our midst. Zero tolerance with meaningful sentences and rehabilitation for infractors.

We must begin to stitch the fabric of all of these solution things, offerings, amends and programs as we forge a future of atonement and addressing of wrongdoing.

Page 5: ALL CANDIDATES: Jurisdiction and Position

Q23	City Council
Position Sought	
Q24	Seattle (City of)
Jurisdiction	
Q25	9
Position number	

Page 6: KING COUNTY OFFICES ONLY: Questions for King County Executive and King County Council

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for King County

Q27

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q28

Respondent skipped this question

How have you worked to combat climate change and promote climate justice? How would you use your elected office to ensure King County drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

Q29

Respondent skipped this question

King County plays an important role in providing many health and human services, as evidenced in the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. What has King County done well in its response to COVID? What would you continue, expand, and change? Do you support increased funding for many health and human services? How would you fund those services - even after the pandemic is over?

Q30

Respondent skipped this question

How would you advocate for alternatives to incarceration in the County's criminal legal system? How would you make zero youth incarceration a reality in King County?

Q31

Respondent skipped this question

What would you do to ensure that businesses owned by people of color have a fair shot at County contracts?

Q32

Respondent skipped this question

"Structural racism is not always caused by racist actors – it is caused by institutional arrangements overlaid on historical policies that continue to perpetuate racialized outcomes." - Stephen Menendian How would you use your position to work to dismantle these arrangements including, but not limited to, exclusionary land use policies?

Page 7: MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES ONLY: Questions for ALL Mayor, City Council, and City Attorney Candidates

Q33

Yes/No Questions for municipal candidates

	Yes / No / Qualified
Do you support maintaining or increasing the minimum wage to reflect the cost of living in your city / jurisdiction?	Yes
Do you support raising revenue at the city level to expand transit service?	Yes
Do you support requiring bid requests to include local hiring preference or apprenticeship preference?	Yes
Do you support development impact fees to help pay for schools, roads, and parks, as allowed under the Growth Management Act?	Yes
Do you support building a municipally owned and operated broadband system in your city?	Yes
Do you agree that municipal governments should use their borrowing capacity to fund additional units of affordable housing?	Yes
Do you support requiring police officers in your jurisdiction to wear body cameras?	Yes
Do you support your municipality implementing a "Ban the Box" program as is already in place in Seattle and Spokane?	Yes
Have you made any non-trivial donations to Democratic candidates or Democratic party organizations since January 2016?	No
Have you knowingly made any donations to Republican candidates or Republican party organizations since 2000?	No
Do you support reduction of police budgets in favor of social services?	Qualified

Q34

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

I support reducing police funding allocation for unnecessary weapons, capital and munitions, as well as funding reductions for the number of armed officers but our Public Safety department is actually too small on a per capital basis. Rather than reduce moneys to reallocate to social services, I believe any savings should go to hire mental health officers, community officers and by-law type officers who can be in the community, increasing social wellbeing and safety, which IS a form of social service. Additionally, in lieu of increases to public safety budgets once a stable budget range (that factors in COLA, raises, etc.) is set, I support using new funding - that's more than possible in the near future of a growing, booming city- for housing and added social services.

Q35

Our region is growing quickly. How will you ensure that existing residents and newcomers alike have equitable access to affordable housing, public transit, and neighborhood amenities such as parks and schools? How will you protect current residents, and especially our most vulnerable communities, from displacement caused by this growth? How will you provide for and protect those displaced?

I feel like I answered a lot of this already! We need to create a Housing PUD that will build enough new housing to address shortfalls and stabilize, if not reduce the average cost of housing. PUD-built housing would be green-built, pleasant and high quality, just not luxurious. If private developers want to compete in that market space, they'll have to innovate and meet the market where the non-profit PUD will be. We must fix existing roads and bridges but we must do it in a manner that supports cycling, scooters, pedestrians and users of public transport. New sidewalks? Yes. New and wider roadways for civilian autos? No, no, no. By building up in select transit corridors we can preserve more land that should flip to greenspace whenever possible. We must start to require all multi housing rooftops to be gardens and parks, including some with public access, i.e. public parks. Our housing PUD is a perfect fit for such a program! As for public transportation, we must add several subway lines and accelerate construction on the already proposed lines. Seattle cannot wait for Sound Transit's absurdly long timelines that won't even connect us when its latest phase is complete. Instead, we should use Seattle Subway's proposed service map as a guide to connect our city with fast subway service from the Renton border to Lake Forest Park and with several East West connector lines. The investment is necessary as Seattle densifies and the heightening threats from global warming draw nearer and nearer. We cannot be a city of cars and congestion. The patchwork that Seattle needs to build to grow itself in a sustainable fashion that preserves the diversity and livability that makes this city great, all while progressing, demands that it be one of equity and inclusion for all. If all are safe, we are all safer. If all are housed, we are all happier. If all can get around easily, we are all more easily moved, less-stressed and collectively, a more prosperous community. Seattle City Council, unfortunately has precious little say in schools. Still, I'll use my voice to insist that every public school in the city must be funded toward excellence. Seattle should look to Michael Bloomberg's efforts, recruiting the wealthiest citizens to pitch in to invest in creating a much-improved school system for all.

Also, there are some quick fixes Seattle should explore. A lot of the most affordable housing and small shop retail space in the city is owned by long time landlords, many of older age. I'd like to explore taxation easements that could help these honest landlords to keep rents down as their taxes and fees stabilize. Not every landlord in Seattle is looking to gouge their tenants. Good behavior and practices should be rewarded and elevated over corporate greed and rental management companies that are owned by giant equity firms and investors.

We must do everything legally possible to end displacement wherever possible. No more rent hike evictions. No more "corrections" to rents of 25, 40, 100% to the 'going market rate'. We must use any legislative powers to stop such rotten practices and lobby Olympia hard when it stands in the way of progress to amend the wrongs of our housing code. We should also explore some small fee that could go into a housing 'rainy day fund' so that all-but-displaced' folks can have a last resort place to turn for 3-6 months rent to keep them from being evicted, if what they need is some breathing room to get back on their feet. We must also keep pushing for rent control, even with a PUD. A million, ONE MILLION of NYC's 8.5 million people live in rent controlled units. That's more than 11%, most of whom likely couldn't live in The Big Apple otherwise. Seattle needs to get real. Olympia needs to do its job and serve the people better. I will lobby fellow democrats who refuse to budge on rent control, including and especially those who live in Seattle.

Q36

How have you worked to combat climate change? How would you use your elected office to ensure your region drastically lowers net carbon emissions by 2030 and achieves carbon neutrality by 2050?

I lobbied city council to ban styrofoam and plastic bags. I encourage everyone to get out of their cars. I worked for both Car2Go and ReachNow, knowing their services would drastically reduce the reliance on autos. I've spent most of my adult life advocating on behalf of rail transportation. I have done extensive business development work in the food space, advocating hard for waste reduction, reduced packaging, the end of palm oil use and decreased reliance on autos and carpooling for business trips. Everywhere I work, I bring best practices around recycling, composting, reduction and reuse. And, I try to keep plastics use personally and in any work I do to a minimum. I doubt, really, there is any aspect of my life where I haven't incorporated carbon footprint reduction. I use grey water whenever possible and want to introduce measures in the city to systemize more grey water use. I fly less and urge others to do the same. I am a servant supporter of the Green New Deal, and Platinum+ LEED construction. If there's a way, I believe Seattle should seek to ban particle board/ oriented strand board construction.

I am disappointed that Seattle and King County failed to introduce new, round-the-clock ferry service to West Seattle after the West Seattle bridge shut. Who knows, maybe people's habits could have been changed enough to allow for a new, slimmer, less ugly bridge with rail capacity, instead of repairing the carbon-pollution-supporting monstrosity that is that overbuilt (and, yet, obviously, underbuilt) bridge.

The Mayor is correct in taking up Mike O'Brien's idea to ban natural gas. I LOVE cooking with gas but I love Earth much, much more.

The reality is, we MUST declare war on autos. People don't want to hear it but

a) all of the pollution

b) even with EVs the carbon footprint of producing and disposing of vehicles is massive

c) Seattle has 80 square miles of land. When we hit a million people, which will likely happen soon, where will those cars go?

No, we need to end the congestion mess, and get off of our reliance on automobile travel.

Toward that end, we must roll out a plan to toll drivers in central Seattle within the next few years and, if commuters don't get on board the trains as they are built, we must explore commuter taxes, too.

We must also come to terms with the fact that, unless or until a plane manufacturer figures a way out of the carbon nightmare that is air travel, we must all fly less. Maybe president Biden can be coaxed into funding that high speed rail line that's in preliminary stages. We must get off of the planes and onto the trains unless/until air travel is much, much, much more green.

I think we should explore a beef and meat tax, similar to the sugary drinks tax. More and more alternatives to animal meats are coming on market every month and animal methane is so problematic.

I have spent my life advocating for walkable/bikable communities. that are served by great public transport. I actually considered not moving to Seattle because of its lack of train travel at the time. The Seattle I advocate for and will fight for will be a much greener, cleaner places. With a lot less noise, cleaner air and a lot more day-to-day convenience and safety (less collisions, less automobile deaths).

Seattle should also explore in-city electricity generation. As our city grows, we're only going to need more 'juice', even at a time when mountain runoff decreases are a real threat that could diminish our hydroelectric supply. To say nothing of the fact that some of our state's dams need to go away.

Lastly on Global Warming, I think Seattle needs to lean on King County and the State to accelerate rules and requirements around manufacturing, end the burning of anything in backyards other than BBQs and mimic Seattle's efforts to end our reliance on autos and today's crop of airplanes. More electric trains!

Q37

What specific actions will you take to address the homelessness crisis in King County, both in the short term and long term? How do you plan to implement these solutions?

Short term, I think we must see how the course being set by the Regional Homelessness Authority plays out, in conjunction with city and county efforts. While only a band-aid, I think the short term efforts to house homeless in hotels and tiny home villages is a start.

Creating a public utility district for housing is a top priority for me and I believe there are others on council now who will support the concept. I will start their and build support and a framework in consultation with a variety of players. The top priority for a housing PUD must be to house every person living on the streets/parks/sidewalks, etc. While I hope the county, city and region will be successful in getting everyone off of the streets quickly with their current efforts, the numbers seem to fall far short.

I would like to explore build outs to vacant buildings for temporary shelters with private down rooms for homeless folks but the reality is, homeless folks, first and foremost NEED A HOME. We must build them and a PUD is the most logical way. I will begin discussions with the Gates & Bezos Foundations and any corporate player who will listen to me, in an effort to raise seed money, estimated at several billion dollars. I will coordinate with our local congressional delegation in an effort to gain federal funding. And, I will bring together folks from Habitat for Humanity and similar organizations as well as building trades experts to pool expertise to get things rolling on a comprehensive plan.

If I'm working in Seattle City City Hall (or virtually), I won't rest as people sleep in the cold and wet. I will pull strings as much as I can to assemble acceptable places and spaces for folks to stay dry and warm.

I do think it's worthwhile to explore a builders' corps kind of like Americorps in an effort to speed up construction of Tiny Homes and other temporary solutions shelters.

Also, on the longer term side, I found the \$100,000 budget for washing stations around Seattle laughable. \$100,000?! No. I am committed to pushing for a citywide 24-7 public restroom system that would be available to all citizens. While it could take years to build out, I'd like to see the first few in operation within a year or so of my first term. And, I want their maintenance to be a public-private partnership to help defray operating costs. No more restroom incompetence for Seattle (remember the Portland 'loo debacle? Beyond embarrassing. Enough. everyone needs to relieve themselves in public at some point. Homeless folks usually have no other option. That really needs to end now.

Q38

"Structural racism is not always caused by racist actors – it is caused by institutional arrangements overlaid on historical policies that continue to perpetuate racialized outcomes." - Stephen Menendian How would you use your position to work to dismantle these arrangements including, but not limited to, exclusionary land use policies?

Again, a PUD for housing will help. However, outside of community-built housing, there are several things we can and should do. We must end predatory land speculation, you know, the postcards from Realtors who keep trying to buy your house. We need to create stopgaps so that Seattle doesn't have "Up" houses where obnoxious developers pressure and squeeze people to sell.

And, we should have a dedicated Auditor type of someone position in OPCD where people and/or developers can take their complaints if they feel, at all, that they are being stonewalled, excluded or marginalized.

Really, when it comes to planning, zoning and development in Seattle, I believe there is room for systemic change. It's great that our planners aren't as bad as in many cities but that's still a low bar. It seems no one is ready to admit that the way we plan leaves a lot to be desired, intentional or not. What's bad for marginalized folks and the less-well-off is usually bad for everyone. I am all for starting over so that I don't sit in another meeting where there's no recourse for a 100+ year old building to be saved because 'that's just the way the rules are written'. The same must be said for exclusionary zoning. If we change the method of zoning (heavily restricted by the state -and that needs to be changed), we can drastically improve the way we zone so that we focus on right-fit sizing and architecture. The simpler the litmus for what can be developed where, the less overlay rules and the more units of potential overall development per district (with overall density increases but, in many areas, less development opportunities per lot), the better the opportunity for inclusion and the less opportunity for marginalization. Specifics, laid out clearly, leave a lot less space for sneakiness or worse.

To change the structures around bigotry, more often than not, we must disassemble and reassemble/rebuild those very structures in a new, better fashion, whether that's policing, planning and zoning, housing construction, education and/or public facilities and spaces. Things must change and I bring the courage to fight for those big changes.

Q39**City of Seattle**Jurisdiction Check

Page 8: SEATTLE-ONLY: Questions for SEATTLE-ONLY municipal candidates

Q40

Yes/No Questions for Seattle municipal candidates

	Yes / No / Qualified
Are you participating in the Democracy Voucher program?	Qualified
Would you support the placement of Community Health Engagement Locations (CHELs) (sometimes referred to as supervised injection facilities) in your district?	Yes
Do you support the forced removal of unauthorized homeless encampments ("sweeps") in your district?	Qualified
Would you support the construction of a 10 or more unit permanent supportive housing building on your street?	Yes
Would you support the construction of an affordable housing building on your street?	Yes
Would you support a "congestion price" on downtown drivers in order to relieve traffic congestion and fund public transit improvements?	Yes
Do you support the installation of more protected bike lanes on arterial streets?	Yes
Have you made any non-trivial donations to Democratic candidates or Democratic party organizations since January 2016?	No
Have you made any non-trivial donations to Republican candidates or Republican party organizations since January 2016?	No
Do you support reduction of police budgets in favor of social services?	Qualified
Do you support the proposed "Clean Campaigns Act" from 2019?	Yes
Are you supportive of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program?	Yes
(Question removed)	
Will you commit to ending the ban on apartments and condos on Seattle's residential land, thereby allowing more housing types, such as triplexes, town homes, and small apartment buildings, to be built across the city?	Qualified

Q41

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Democracy Vouchers - hopefully!

Generally, I am against sweeps but there could be exceptions (and I've seen a couple of them), where fires, violence and extreme lack of sanitation are serious threats. Having said that, I do not like the way sweeps are conducted, I think the city has done a very poor job of keeping up with sanitation services and some people say they are NOT offered a viable alternative place to stay. The city needs to do a better job of leaving dignity and possessions intact for the houseless and learn better 'bedside manner', generally speaking. It's a rotten situation but our public servants need to do better on that front line.

I answered the question "Do you support reduction of police budgets in favor of social services?" many questions back. ;-)

I also addressed development earlier. I do not think the ban on condos and apartments on Seattle residential lands is an either or question. The truth is in the middle. There are areas that could and likely should be rezoned. There are other residential areas where there is little need or benefit to ending the ban and could be a threat to historic preservation as the city's preservation laws are woefully inadequate. I lived across from a house that the owner had just put almost \$500,000 into renovating two years before it was sold to a developer who bulldozed it and put up ugliness that could have, should have been build 3 blocks east. Now, that historic house is gone forever and the photographer and other artists inside were evicted. Seattle is not Hong Kong. We still have options. We do not need -at all- to open up every last parcel to potential redevelopment. We can be more selective.

Q42

What actions would you take to address homelessness? Please consider addressing land use, revenue, regional collaboration, the role of social services, the role of the police and justice system.

- a) Create a Public Utility District to build tens of thousands of units of housing over the next decade.
- b) The first housing built should be supportive housing for the most vulnerable and the homeless. At the same time, mental health and chronic homelessness service experts will need to be recruited to plan for staffing and hiring of aids and orderlies, etc. Initial funding would need to be seeded to the PUD. A combination of local, state, federal and private funds would be needed and continuing partial funding could potentially come from rents, mortgages and interest earnings from other housing built by the PUD for ordinary citizens.

Outside of supportive shelter and services for the chronically homeless, and those with mental health challenges, housing for homeless folks needs to begin with dry, comfortable sheltering as soon as is physically possible. Then, as the Public Utility District and non-profit others build housing and dorm spaces, each person should be set up with a safe, clean living space. Those who can realistically pay toward their keep, should pay. Those who cannot, cannot.

One of the first things needed before a massive construction undertaking can be planned is a land inventory campaign for the area (city/county/region) that will be participating. If only Seattle, what land can the city convert over? The state? The County? Is their land that's been all-but abandoned? Is there land that can be bought at cut rate from sympathetic owners? Will there be insurmountable opposition and lawsuits against the development of said land for mixed-use housing? (I believe that most homeless people should cohabitate in buildings with others, especially if they don't have any violence in their background).

Because I believe many issues and situations don't call for armed police, I think less involvement of police is probably best but that is often a case-by-case judgement. I can foresee a situation where some homeless people refuse help and refuse to leave the streets. That is a complexity that I'd feel most comfortable consulting with experts on.

As for regional collaboration, seeing how Renton and Mercer Island have "collaborated", I'm not holding my breath. I do believe that communities that seek to 'dump' their unhoused populations should be subject to legal action and Seattle shouldn't shy away from utilizing the fullest extent of the law to fight back if it can be proven that a municipality is systemically pushing their homeless populations to Seattle. As is the case with Seattle City Light, I believe that if there are willing cities (or the County itself) that would be willing to collaborate, that should be taken advantage of as much as possible and/or practical.

Q43

Seattleites are divided on how to fund and what to fund within police work and public safety. How would you help bring the community together and adjust the Seattle Police Department (SPD) budget as needed? By approximately what % would you adjust the SPD budget?

I refuse to give a percentage because I truly believe the best path forward regarding the future of public safety in Seattle is not rooted in percentage reductions. How does that solve anything? The goal for 90-something percent of us is a non-lethal (except where absolutely, totally unavoidable), respectful, culturally-sensitive, situationally-sensitive public safety force, complete with suitable mental health and community/social services officers. How are we to deduce how we achieve that through some almost arbitrary percentage?

Emotions were very high last spring and summer. Now, as we confront the change we wish to see, let's focus on the actual change Andrea outcomes we want. When Aunt Christine phones for a mental health officer because her nephew is menacing with a knife, here primary concerns are likely

- a) did the 911 operator get what I was asking for correctly?
- b) has a mental health officer (or several) been dispatched
- c) is/are the mental health officer(s) well trained and suitable to deal with the situation?

I can all-but guarantee you that Aunt Christine isn't thinking about the % reduction.

First we need to envision the public safety department we want and need. Then, we can estimate the cost for that. Maybe it costs less. Maybe, it costs more. However, if we can afford the price tag, wouldn't we want to spend the money to give the people what they want?

Realistically, it's might be difficult to provide good public safety coverage with our new model (whatever that ultimately is) and come up with large amounts of community investment funding every year, unless new revenue streams are identified. I am firmly in the 'no way' column on leaving things as they are. The current department structure is untenable.

A big, related question: Are we going to rewrite the city charter to ensure, in clear language, that the chief of police does NOT have the last say in operational and staffing decisions? I certainly think we should. The police chief shouldn't have that level of power unchecked, in my opinion.

Q44

How will you prioritize transportation infrastructure for biking, pedestrians, transit, commercial vehicles, and cars? Which do you view as most important to prioritize funds for?

Cities are for people, not cars. Apart from basic maintenance (prioritized, based on safety and importance of use), streets should only receive priority when such priority is directly linked to bike and pedestrian safety. Certainly, there are many streets in Seattle that desperately need to be turned from a series a bad potholes back into some form of paved roadway. I cycle and our streets are so bad on my bike.

Of course, commercial vehicles provide critical services of all sorts. However, I believe the main commercial arteries and those that grant access to business strips and districts should receive top priority of all streets being repaired for, particularly, commercial vehicles.

Otherwise, bikeways, pedestrians and public transport should receive top priority. Though they are equally important, obviously public transport investment requires larger funding outlays, so depending on the plan, the urgency and any long and short-term goals, each should be weighed accordingly. If Seattle wanted to build a new city-owned subway line, that could take years to get to construction. In the meantime, a disproportionately higher investment should likely be made in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

Sidenote: I am interested in what, if anything, is being done to get Seattle off of petroleum-based and concrete street paving. There must be a much greener way?

Q45

Do you support utilizing Seattle's newly granted authority to implement a 1% flat income tax?

Yes. So long as there is a rebate program for lower and moderate-income earners.

Page 9: PORT ONLY: Questions for PORT Candidates

Q46

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for port candidates

Q47

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q48

Respondent skipped this question

As the Port recovers from the economic impact of the pandemic, how will you use your position to ensure that future growth and activity among tenant operations is inline with limiting climate impacts and encourage environmental stewardship to be a good neighbor and steward of our environment? How would help alleviate today's present and real issues, specifically homelessness?

Q49

Respondent skipped this question

Since the pandemic and recent trade tariffs, the Seaport and Airport revenue and user statistics have plummeted. However, their capital investment was based on previous growth trends. As Port Commissioner, how will you help the Port to address these new economic realities?

Q50

Respondent skipped this question

The Port has operations and activities on tribal and indigenous land. How would you use your position to elevate indigenous people and encourage more equity and opportunity for BIPOC Communities? Give us some specific examples of your plans in this aspect. How would you handle your approach to women-and minority-owned businesses.

Q51

Respondent skipped this question

Considering the health impacts and socio-economic ramifications of increased airport activity, how would you balance the future growth of SeaTac airport with the interests of the residents of airport-adjacent communities?

Page 10: SCHOOL BOARD ONLY: Questions for SCHOOL BOARD Candidates

Q52

Respondent skipped this question

Yes/No Questions for school board candidates

Q53

Respondent skipped this question

For any yes/no questions you answered "qualified" please explain:

Q54

Respondent skipped this question

How has the pandemic changed your perspective on educational equity? What will you propose to address the educational consequences of the COVID pandemic? What specific policies will you seek to ensure that all staff and students can safely return to in-person school safely during the COVID pandemic? How will you work to bridge the digital divide both now and after return to in-person education?

Q55

Respondent skipped this question

What policies or changes will you seek to ensure that all students— regardless of their gender, race, class, disability, or ethnicity—receive an education that enables them to reach their fullest potential? What would you do to advance anti-racist and indigenous curriculum? What do you see as your role in disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline?

Q56

Respondent skipped this question

What should schools and school districts do to support the physical and mental health of all students; including LGBTQ+ students and students with disabilities? Please provide specific examples. Also, what actions would you take to remedy student access to and pay inequity among school nurses, paraeducators, and school office staff?

Q57

Respondent skipped this question

What would you do to advocate for ample and equitable funding for k-12 education including special education, school nurses, counselors, mental health professionals, and paraeducators?

Q58

Respondent skipped this question

Has the disruption of regular schooling and introduction of distance learning in the last year caused you to re-evaluate any aspect of traditional instruction and the structure of schooling? Are there changes you would like to see implemented?

Page 11: JUDICIAL ONLY: Questions for JUDICIAL Candidates

Q59

Respondent skipped this question

Have you served full-time or pro-tem as a judge or justice? What did you learn from that experience and how will you use that learning to help improve equity and fairness in the justice system?

Q60

Respondent skipped this question

How have you helped tackle climate change issues from within your courtroom daily activities to an overall sustainable plan?

Q61

Respondent skipped this question

How has COVID-19 experience changed your perspective/behavior/actions on access to justice within your courtroom?

Q62

Respondent skipped this question

How would you advocate for more equity in our State's justice system? How can we make it more open, transparent and responsive?

Q63

Respondent skipped this question

How are you going to make sure you don't allow bias (including, but not limited to, racial bias) while serving on the bench and/or in the courtroom?

Q64

Respondent skipped this question

Do you believe judges can be biased and if so in what ways, please provide examples?

Q65

Respondent skipped this question

Do you see addressing bias and racial disparity in the court system as activism? Why or why not?

Q66

Respondent skipped this question

Do you think that judicial training focused on racial competency is activism? Why or why not?

Q67

Respondent skipped this question

Do you think racial disparity exists in the court system and more specifically on the bench?

Q68

Respondent skipped this question

What will you do as a judge to eliminate and mitigate bias on the bench?

Q69

Respondent skipped this question

What committees, commissions, workgroups do you currently or have previously served on?

Q70

Respondent skipped this question

Have you received or are you seeking political or financial support from any police officer, police guild/union or elected law enforcement official?

Page 12: ALL CANDIDATES: Submit Questionnaire

Q71

I, candidate, affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Candidate full name (as signature)

Xtian Gunther

Date

22 May 2021**Q72**

Candidate

Information in this questionnaire was input by:

Q73

Respondent skipped this question

(If information input by someone other than candidate) I affirm that all responses were reviewed and approved by the candidate. (Use Prev and Next buttons to review.)

Q74

Share with King County Democrats

King County Democrats may post this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by King County Democrats Endorsements Committee members and Executive Board.

Q75

Share with LD Dems and YD Endorsement Committee members

King County Democrats may share this questionnaire to a password-protected folder for access by members of the Endorsements Committees of Legislative District (LD) Democratic organizations and Young Democrats (YD) organizations.

Q76

(OPTIONAL) Share with PCOs and/or Members

Democratic organizations overlapping the jurisdiction of my campaign whose rules require sharing questionnaire responses to Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) or Membership may share this questionnaire with those groups.

Q77

(OPTIONAL) Share with Public

Democratic organizations overlapping the jurisdiction of my campaign whose rules require sharing questionnaire responses publicly may share this questionnaire publicly.

Q78

Email Copy

Please email a copy of my completed submission to the campaign email address. I understand it may take 24-48 hours (or more) for my completed submission to be emailed.
