



## Magnolia Chamber of Commerce City Council Questionnaire

Seattle City Council Candidate Name:

Seattle City Council District:

Contact information:

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Hello City Council Candidates: To provide a valuable service to our members and the Magnolia community, the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce seeks information about your candidacy for the Seattle City Council. Your concise answers to the following questions will allow the Chamber membership and other engaged community members to make an informed judgment about your candidacy. As a reminder, the Magnolia Chamber does not endorse candidates, provide financial assistance, or provide campaign support other than sharing information. Your answers will be posted on our website, [discovermagnolia.org](http://discovermagnolia.org), unedited and publicly available to website visitors.

### 1. Coordination with District 6/7 Counterpart

The Magnolia peninsula was recently split into two Council districts. How specifically do you plan to work with your counterpart in District 6/7 to ensure coordination of efforts and adequate, cohesive representation of Magnolia's business community and residents? This includes but is not limited to the Magnolia peninsula's transportation access, the power grid and aging electrical infrastructure, growth, its impact on transportation in and out of the Magnolia peninsula, zoning and developments in Interbay, and emergency response access.

As a Fremont resident and Executive Director of the Fremont Chamber, I recognize the importance of being adequately represented in our community by the City Council. Fremont is divided by Aurora, with the eastern section situated in D4 and the western section in D6. Unfortunately, some council members (mainly the one whom I am running against) have not demonstrated sufficient collaboration across the aisle, resulting in a scarcity of necessary resources and cooperation. This is one of the motivating factors for my candidacy. We should expect coordinated efforts between the districts. One of my strengths is in building strong working relationships with colleagues. This is a much-needed skill that is currently lacking at City Hall.

### 2. Representation for Magnolia

Reflecting on the redistricting process and what you know about the constituents in the district, how will you represent the interests of Magnolia? Where will you seek constituent input, and how accessible will you be to constituents' concerns and issues?

Since the beginning of my campaign, I have made a significant effort to ensure that Magnolia is not considered just an afterthought to D6. I have personally knocked on more doors in Magnolia than all the other communities in D6 combined up to this point. My wife is getting sick of me gushing about how much I love it in Magnolia. I hope that you know that I will support and defend Magnolia when it comes to allocating city resources and receiving its input. And I will always be accessible to both the business community as well as the residents.

### **3. Coordination with the Mayor's office, departments, and commissions**

What do you expect your role to be with the mayor's office and related administrative departments and commissions to help increase the competitiveness of small businesses, such as fiscal policy, public safety, land use regulations, business incentives, and barriers to timely permitting, as examples?

The committees that I hope to sit on are Public Safety & Human Services, Economic Development, Technology & City Light, Transportation & Seattle Public Utilities, Neighborhoods, Education, Civil Rights & Culture, and Finance & Housing. Throughout my campaign, I have made it clear that the City has a responsibility to prioritize the permit process, protect our local businesses, and ensure our safety. We can rightfully expect a government that is responsive to our needs. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Mayor since he was on the council. I am confident that we can identify shared goals and work together toward advancing our city.

### **4. Public Safety**

How do you assess our current situation on public safety in neighborhoods and business districts in Magnolia? What actions would you take to enhance public safety, and how would you work with and support the Seattle Police and Fire Departments, community organizations, and other stakeholders to reach these goals?

It is evident that our Police Department is understaffed and underappreciated, while the Fire Department is facing a surge in unsafe situations. It is vital that we not only increase staffing levels but also invest in the necessary tools to fulfill our basic responsibilities concerning safety. As the former President of the North Precinct Advisory Council, an organization that I have been a part of for over two decades, I possess an in-depth understanding of Public Safety in our community. Additionally, I have professional expertise in Crime Prevention, Crowd Safety, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED). I have chaired Public Safety committees for the Fremont Chamber, Fremont Neighborhood Council, The Seattle Restaurant Alliance, and The Seattle Nightlife & Music Association. My extensive and robust relationships with the various agencies that make up our Public Safety network enable me to bring a wealth of skills and experience to the table, and I am committed to making Public Safety our top priority.

### **5. Access to Public Funding**

The next ten years present unprecedented opportunities to access federal funds through the Inflation Reduction Act, the American Rescue Plan, and other programs. How will you coordinate with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations or other departments to enable Magnolia's businesses and residents to benefit from access to these funds for affordable capital (subsidies/grants, loans, guarantees) and infrastructure, including climate-friendly retrofits and development?

As a city, it is imperative that we utilize all available Federal resources to rebuild our aging infrastructure. Our focus should be on prioritizing the repair and maintenance of bridges and roads, and any renewal of the Move Levy should reflect this priority. We must replace the

Magnolia Bridge.

**6. Looking Ahead**

We experience and hear consistent concerns about aging infrastructure across Seattle, such as bridges, potholes, electrical wiring, and drainage systems. How will you work with others to put Seattle on a better path to upgrade these areas before these essential items become urgent or even emergencies?

After Public Safety, our next priority should be our aging infrastructure. Unfortunately, bridges & roads don't vote and politicians rarely talk about it. But I feel strongly that we need to get back to our basic core responsibilities as laid out in the City Charter.

**7. Imagine it is halfway through your term in office. What three things will you be most proud to point to as evidence of your representation of Magnolia's interests?**

- Civility & Responsiveness
- A robust Public Safety Network
- A plan to rebuild the Magnolia Bridge!

Please respond to this questionnaire by June 22, 2023, by emailing a .pdf file of your replies to Jason Thibeaux, Executive Director, Magnolia Chamber of Commerce, at [Jason@discovermagnolia.org](mailto:Jason@discovermagnolia.org).

In addition, if you have questions or concerns, please call Jason at 206.618.1589 or Ann Goos, Magnolia Chamber Board member and Chair, Community Engagement Committee, at [agoos@seanet.com](mailto:agoos@seanet.com) or 206.465.5136.

The questions and your unedited answers will be featured on the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce website and in a newsletter to the more than 450 Chamber members representing businesses and residents of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> City Council districts. So again, if possible, please send your replies in a .pdf document so our members can easily access your campaign's positions.

Thank you for your participation and your candidacy.