



## Magnolia Chamber of Commerce City Council Questionnaire

Seattle City Council Candidate Name: [Olga Sagan](#)

Seattle City Council District: [7](#)

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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.

[To ensure the effective coordination of efforts and cohesive representation of Magnolia's business community and residents, I plan to work closely with my counterpart in District 6. By establishing open lines of communication and fostering a spirit of collaboration, we can address the pressing issues faced by the Magnolia peninsula. Together, we will prioritize the improvement of transportation access, address concerns related to the power grid and aging electrical infrastructure, manage the impact of growth on transportation, carefully consider zoning and developments in Interbay, and enhance emergency response access. By forming a joint task force that brings together the expertise and perspectives from both districts, we can develop sustainable solutions that meet the unique needs of Magnolia. Through this](#)

collaborative approach, I am confident we can ensure the prosperity and well-being of Magnolia's residents and businesses.

**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?

I understand your disappointment with the outcome of the redistricting process and the split within the community of common interest. While it is unfortunate, I want to assure you that as a councilmember, I will be committed to respecting the constituents of Magnolia and ensuring they have a strong advocate in me. I will work tirelessly to bridge any divides caused by the redistricting and foster unity within the community. Your concerns and priorities will be heard, and I will actively engage with you and other residents to address the issues that matter most to Magnolia. Together, we can navigate these changes and build a stronger, more connected community.

**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?

In my role as a councilmember, I recognize the importance of collaboration with the mayor's office and related administrative departments and commissions to enhance the competitiveness of small businesses. To achieve this, I will actively engage with these entities to advocate for favorable fiscal policies that support small businesses, streamline permitting processes, and address barriers to timely permitting. Additionally, I will work closely with public safety departments to ensure a safe and secure environment for businesses to thrive. I will actively participate in discussions surrounding land use regulations, advocating for sensible and balanced policies that promote economic growth while preserving the character of our community. Moreover, I will actively seek opportunities to introduce and support business incentives that encourage entrepreneurship and attract investment. By fostering strong partnerships with the mayor's office and relevant departments, I aim to create a supportive ecosystem for small businesses, driving their competitiveness and contributing to the overall economic vitality of 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?

Our public safety situation is a mess. It's better in Magnolia than it is downtown, but all across Seattle, we have a crisis of leadership on public safety. People use drugs openly,

commit crime with impunity, and the City Council completely ignores the homelessness crisis and other issues. My opponent proposed cutting the police department by 50%, and now, he's flip-flopped on other issues including his vote against a comprehensive drug enforcement policy in Seattle to address fentanyl deaths. I will actually work with our law enforcement and public safety personnel to give them the resources they need, and I will listen to their expertise, not impose my own ideas.

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 small business owner, I deeply understand the significance of collaboration to stimulate investment and economic growth. The American Rescue Plan and Inflation Reduction Act have provided substantial investments in domestic manufacturing and climate action, marking a pivotal moment in American history. As a councilmember, I will be relentless in advocating for Seattle to receive its fair share of these tax dollars. I will actively engage with federal and state representatives, highlighting the unique needs and opportunities present in our city. By leveraging these funds, we can foster innovation, create job opportunities, and bolster the local economy. Moreover, I will work closely with business associations, community organizations, and other stakeholders to identify strategic projects that align with the goals of the American Rescue Plan and Inflation Reduction Act.

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?

As a small business owner, I understand the urgency of upgrading aging infrastructure in Seattle. To get things done, I will bring a customer-service orientation to City Hall, prioritizing the timely and efficient completion of infrastructure projects. I will work tirelessly to streamline bureaucratic processes, reducing red tape and ensuring that upgrades are implemented at regular intervals *before* they become urgent or emergency situations. Furthermore, I will actively seek out funding opportunities, including grants and partnerships with state and federal agencies, to supplement the city's budget for infrastructure improvements. By actively listening to the concerns of businesses, residents, and community organizations, I will ensure their needs are at the forefront of infrastructure decision-making.

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?

I hope I will be able to get our housing plan through by then. I favor the Comprehensive Housing Growth Alternative 4, which accomplishes key goals, such as upzoning along major transit corridors and entrances to large parks, but doesn't change the zoning in areas where those amenities are not present. District 7 is home to downtown where I live, but also Queen Anne. These communities have very different needs when it comes to adding new housing, and Alternative 4 does an OK job at balancing the needs of the community while still adding capacity for 100,000 new homes.

The second and third things are related to public safety. We have an epidemic of homelessness in Seattle, and while I don't expect to solve it in two years, I hope that we can at minimum start to reverse the trend of homelessness increasing and get mobile crisis responders (who are not law enforcement personnel) to help people into treatment that they might need, whether it be for drug addiction or mental health issues, and into supportive shelter to get them back on their feet and into a more permanent solution.

Last but certainly not least, I believe we need to fix the problem of small businesses shutting their doors like I had to do temporarily in 2021. Our small businesses need to be respected, listened to, and supported by fiscally sound, thoughtful policies, and we're not seeing that now.

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.