

## **Answers from Shannon Braddock**

### **Q2: For which position are you running?**

Seattle City Council, District 1

### **Q3: What do you know about the unmet basic human needs in your district? (150 word limit)**

While District 1 serves as a microcosm of many of the issues facing the city of Seattle writ large, my long involvement in the community has highlighted a few of the most salient unmet basic human needs of our residents. For instance, in D1 pollution disproportionately affects the lives of lower-income communities and people of color living near the contaminated Duwamish River. In fact, Duwamish Valley residents have up to a 13-year shorter life expectancy than wealthier parts of the district. Additionally, my time as a volunteer and board member at the West Seattle Food Bank and WestSide Baby has highlighted the problems of food insecurity, inequality and the lack of resources for families living in poverty. I am running for City Council because I want to ensure District 1 is a community where all people – young and old, and from a variety of income brackets – can thrive.

### **Q4: How has race affected your life? (250 word limit)**

Because I am not a person of color, I have personally had to be educated about my white privilege – a concept my parents introduced at a young age before I was even aware it was termed 'white privilege'. My 8-year old daughter is adopted from Korea and we have lots of conversations about skin color and ethnicity and how we 'fit in' in our families and communities. She has asked questions about why most magazine covers feature white women with blue eyes and has asked if she would have been treated differently during the civil rights era. These conversations continue to educate me and push me to create a space that provides positive role models of people of color in my family's lives.

### **Q5: What strategies do you see as the most promising to create and preserve affordable housing in Seattle? What steps would you take to make those things happen? (150 word limit)**

I support the following strategies for creating and preserving affordable housing in Seattle: 1.) Encouraging affordable housing production via zoning to allow more development and by encouraging the private sector to build housing alternatives like micro-units or cottage housing. 2.) Expanding the voter approved Housing Levy and implementing an affordable housing mandate to increase supply. 3.) Exploring the opportunities created by impact and linkage fees. 4.) Providing incentives for accessory dwelling units such as mother-in-laws and garage apartments to provide more options in our single family neighborhoods 5.) Reviewing our Multi Family Tax Exemption incentives to potentially expand and build on that option. 6.) Allowing additional height and density around light rail stations and high transit corridors. 7.) Exploring impact investment to create affordable housing options. To achieve these outcomes I would include low-income residents, developers, land use experts, service providers and elected officials in discussions related to affordability.

### **Q6: Describe how you would represent your district to ensure there is equal access to the emergency food system. What policies and investments would you support so that Seattle residents have access to equal access to adequate, culturally-appropriate, healthy food? (150 word limit)**

As a former board member of the West Seattle Food Bank I am acutely aware of the need for the equitable distribution of and access to the emergency food system in District 1. I would represent my district by soliciting input from and working closely with front-line Human Service Department employees who best understand the problems and needs of food insecure D1 residents. I have a proven track record of helping to secure critical funds for human services at the County Level and I would bring the same effectiveness and sense of urgency as the representative for D1. To address the problem of food deserts we must first increase access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods by incentivizing grocery stores to move into affected neighborhoods. Equally as important though, we must engage in outreach to affected communities in order to make clear the benefit of healthier diets and better shopping habits.

**Q7: What do you see as government's role in preventing and responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, and commercial sexual exploitation? (200 word limit)**

Government should work to raise awareness of these issues and is responsible for combatting and preventing them through its own entities and by providing financial support and partnership with private sector and non-profit actors. For instance, continued work with partners such as KCSARC and Youth Care is key to addressing these issues. Government must care about the wellbeing of all – that much is clear – and our policies and strategies must always reflect that holistic goal. In my professional life I have been proud to aid in the work of King County to tackle our human services issues – homelessness, mental illness, drug dependency and issues like support for domestic violence survivors. The City and County need to continue to partner and improve partnerships to streamline resources and effectively address these issues throughout our region. I would like to see the Department of Human Services at the city and the Department of Community and Human Services at the County work with providers on a regional strategy to address issues of domestic violence and sexual exploitation. Seattle cannot work in isolation on these issues. As the D1 representative I will advocate for human services and the human rights of all our citizens.

**Q8: The number of people experiencing homelessness in Seattle and King County is increasing and local, county, state, and federal resources must increase in order for us to help and house people. Homelessness and insufficient affordable housing cannot be solved at the neighborhood level. As Seattle shifts to District representation on the City Council, how will you ensure that your role on City Council supports a robust city-wide response to homelessness? (150 word limit)**

Homelessness is a city-wide problem and therefore formulating and implementing city-wide and even regional solutions is imperative. I will ensure a robust city-wide response to homelessness by ensuring that our housing service providers have the resources necessary to meet the existing demand. We must guarantee that our shelters are equipped with enough beds, particularly for the most vulnerable - homeless families, women and youth. It is vital that we harness the energy of those involved in client intake, shelter provision, support services as well as our elected community leaders, toward increasing systemic efficiency. There is no excuse for having empty beds in our shelters while many sleep unsafely on the streets. We should increase the coordination and sharing of social service resources by informing those in need of the options available to them when they visit food banks, mobile medical facilities or mental health providers.

**Q9: The population of Seattle is growing at one of the fastest rates of any city in the country, bringing more families. How can the city build capacity to serve the early learning and child care needs for the growing number of children? (150 word limit)**

As a mother of three I am familiar with the challenges of child care and the financial burden early learning places on families. I serve on the Board of Directors at WestSide baby, an NGO dedicated to alleviating the childcare burden placed on low-income families by providing them with the supplies to adequately provide safe environments for children and babies. As a councilmember I plan to advocate for similar policies, such as expanding child care subsidies to low-income families to ensure that their children have a good start in life. I am firmly committed to the principle of equality of opportunity and I believe that in order to realize that ideal we must begin making an impact early in children's lives. I am an advocate for universal access to quality early learning and while I support the Seattle Universal Preschool Program I would like to see it scaled to cover more of our city's disadvantaged children.

**Q10: What are your ideas for how the city can insure a built environment that supports people who are older and or living with disabilities? (150 word limit)**

We must maintain Seattle as a city where all people – regardless of age or disability – have a chance to thrive. I am committed to working with public and private sector partners to ensure that our elderly and disabled citizens can afford to continue living in the city they love and that they are able to live with dignity. I would like to provide the elderly with as many options as possible and would work to guarantee their independence, choice and control over their lives. The city can do this by ensuring that we have the requisite facilities, expertise and budget to provide them with the care they deserve. I truly believe our city and nation should be judged based on how it treats its most vulnerable residents and as a councilmember I would support forming a task force and gathering input from disabled persons to identify opportunities for improvement.

