

What is your name?

Chris Peguero

1. For which position are you running?

Seattle City Council District 2

2. What do you know about the unmet basic human needs in the district you would represent?

Homelessness in our district and throughout the city of Seattle is the most prominent issue we face. We need to make easier for our family, neighbors and friends to gain access to basic services when they experience crisis. Our campaign believes that housing is a human right and in supportive secure housing options first, harm reduction, safe injection site, increasing the number of city sanctioned encampments and the elimination of homeless encampment sweeps. We would prefer to see the money spent on homeless encampment sweeps (\$10,000,000 in 2018) go to invest in permanent low and affordable family housing, an increase in sanctioned encampment and supportive secure housing first housing options. Our houseless family, neighbors and friends have come into crisis each in their own very personal way - sustainable solutions to addressing the most urgent social issues in our district and city need to be just as personal. District 2 has the highest percentage of people of color, limited English proficient, low income and immigrant and refugee community members, the highest percentage of union represented working families and some of the highest income inequity. We need to uplift those in our district most impacted by systemic oppression and racism, economic and environmental injustice.

3. What has afforded you the privilege and power to run for office, and how will it impact your role in this position?

I am a 12 year union represented public servant City of Seattle employee. My husband and I both work full time. I have centered my public experience in the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice initiative as a CORE team member, LGBTQ and Environmental Justice. As a working family in a very expensive city, we do not have the resources to run a political campaign without working - we are not millionaires. We are using the City

of Seattle's democracy voucher program - a public campaign finance program. This allows us to be responsive and beholden to regular working families and constituents of our district versus large corporations.

4. What experience do you have in listening to and amplifying community voices? In what ways do you base your policies and priorities on the needs of those who will be most impacted by them?

I have 10 years as a CORE Team member of the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative. The initiative purpose and my experience at the city is to uplift and center those in community most impacted by systemic oppression and racism when designing public policy. I am the founder and current chair of the City of Seattle LGBTQ Employee Resource Group and the energy and current manager of Seattle City Light's Environmental Justice Program. I am biased to not only identifying unintended consequences of City policy and process on impacted communities but also want action to mitigate those inequities - I want to bring this experience to the Seattle City Council District 2 Office.

5. The cost of health care increases every year. Recent federal policy changes have threatened the long-term sustainability of Medicaid — such as attempts to reduce funding or turn the program into a block grant — and have aimed to undermine the viability of private health insurance markets — such as eliminating the individual insurance mandate from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or not defending the ACA in court. Given so many barriers being placed at the federal level, how would you work to improve health care access at the local level to ensure stronger and more vibrant communities?

I am supportive of Universal Health care and will lobby and support any movement in that direction.

6. Federal policies over the last few years have created a climate of fear for immigrant and refugee communities across the country. Even Washington State, long a welcoming environment, is no stranger to these challenges, as the recent Department of Licensing scandal showed. This climate of fear impacts immigrants and refugees of all statuses, and new research shows this fear is driving immigrants away from health and human services programs they are legally eligible to participate in. What would you do to leverage local systems and resources to bring immigrant and refugee communities back out of the shadows?

Absolutely! The City of Seattle has declared itself a sanctuary city - stating that it will not be a conduit of information and immigrant status with federal law enforcement. I think we need to come up with a plan for enforcement that is determined by communities impacted, DACA recipients and other immigrant and refugee community members. We need to continue to build trust within those communities and build strategies if we see federal ICE raids here in Seattle. There have been a few instances of elected officials taking a strong stance to inform immigrant and refugees and undocumented communities of impending raids. I would not hesitate the risk of jail to do the same for our communities. My grandmother was a migrant worker and my father was a social worker in the state of Wisconsin who worked with migrant workers when I was a kid to make sure families had access to basic services and were safe. I think we need to do more than just "not share immigrant status information" with federal law enforcement.

7. Over half Seattleites and over 40% of people in King County are renters. Currently in most of Washington State tenants can be forced to move with only 20 days' notice and even within the city of Seattle, there is no guarantee that a landlord will renew a tenant's lease. [For

King County Candidates] As part of the King County Council, will you enact just cause protections to give tenants stability? [For Seattle Candidates] As part of Seattle City Council, will you expand just cause protections for renters with fixed term leases who are up for a lease renewal? [For both] What are your plans and strategies to protect renters?

Absolutely. I would also lobby for local rent control and eviction law - we need to increase tenants rights. If we truly believe we are in a housing crisis, we must provide stronger protections for renters so they don't end up homeless. We must increase multi-family low income and affordable housing options especially near transit corridors.

8. In 2018, the consulting firm McKinsey and Company conducted an extensive analysis of the current crisis response and homeless housing programs in Seattle and King County. They found that our region dramatically under-invests in housing and other system-wide responses, while the numbers of people experiencing homelessness grows. They found that between 2014 and 2017, the number of households accessing homelessness services grew by an average 11 percent a year, while funding grew by an average 2.4 percent a year. The McKinsey analysis estimated an additional investment of between \$360 and \$410 million per year for at least ten years is required to make and maintain progress in solving homelessness. Such added resources would bring our community in line with sister cities and counties addressing homelessness and affordable housing crises. What are three specific revenue options (local, regional, and state) you would use to generate the necessary funds to fill the gap between current local, state, and federal dollars, and the housing and service system investments required to do the job for Seattle and King County residents experiencing homelessness?

We need to push for a new Employee Head Tax and increase the tax from the first EHT. It's time for wealthy folks to pay their fair share to address the homeless crisis. We need a more unified process between the City of Seattle and King County, there are redundant and complicated processes with overlapping systems - a unified process would be more cost effective. we need to stop homeless encampment sweeps and take those dollars (\$10,000,000 in 2018) and reinvest into increasing sanctioned encampments, low income and affordable family housing options and supportive stable housing options - like Plymouth Housing.

9. Seattle and King County are in the midst of a child care crisis because child care is expensive and unaffordable for many working families. At the same time, some child care providers cannot afford to pay workers a living wage and stay in business. What ideas do you have for solutions?

I have two children, 5 and 6, and am in the midst of the expense of childcare. Ideally, our childcare and teacher would be those highest paid people in our workforce and childcare would be free. Until we can establish investing in our future as a fundamental value - guaranteed affordable preschool and childcare based on income should be established. We can subsidize low income families.

10. Survivors of gender-based violence frequently enter the criminal justice system due to their victimization, but criminal justice responses are woefully inadequate and problematic for most survivors for a variety of reasons, especially Black, indigenous, and other survivors of color, refugee and immigrant survivors; and gender non-conforming survivors. What specific solutions will you bring forward for addressing issues of gender-based violence in our city? What mechanisms would you employ to shift the structural oppression and racism, specifically in criminal justice institutions?

I am in favor of the decriminalization of sex workers - whom have a disproportionate number of black and indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ who experience assault and violence. Decriminalization would allow for employees to build better trust with law enforcement, decrease instances of STI and HIV infections and give agency to those who choose to engage in sex work. Our campaign does not believe that the state should control the sexual behaviors between consenting adults. As with other issues of systemic oppression and racism, we need to instill a foundation of Race and Social Justice at the City of Seattle, not just as an option, but a priority, expectation and responsibility as public service.

11. Describe how you would represent your constituents to ensure there is a pathway to emergency food services for all who need it. What policies and investments would you support so that residents across Seattle and King County have equal access to adequate, culturally appropriate, healthy food?

Food insecurity is an issue for many families in District 2. I would support and lobby for robust and sustainable funding of EBT state programs. We need to uplift community centered food security strategies for our community youth and our elders - summer free lunch and dinner programs. Many communities do not have access to nearby grocery stores with fresh produce - I would like to develop a partnership program between the City of Seattle and King County to bring mobile weekly community busses to neighborhoods experiencing food insecurity.

12. According to a 2017 FBI report, nationwide reports of hate crimes increased by 17% from 2016 to 2017; by 32% in Washington State, and 198% in Seattle. Within Washington State, 38% of reported hate crimes were in Seattle. The City Auditor analyzed data that reported hate crimes doubled from 2014 to 2016 and doubled again from 2016 to 2018. 54% of the crimes related to race/ethnicity and 32% sexual orientation. What are your ideas for responding to hate crime in our region without criminalizing communities of color?

The City needs to work with LGBTQ and black and indigenous communities of color non-profits and organizing safety groups to learn tactics to stay safe - public service safety trainings - to learn what to look for and strategies to stay safe. Neighborhood police programs can take the lead. SPD has a few programs that emphasize businesses to be safe space for LGBTQ people facing potential bias crime. Those communities with a high potential for bias crime need to know better strategies and what trends are for such crime in real time.

13. As a city, we have moved to district representation. However, the needs of our residents are not necessarily most efficiently and effectively addressed by district. Nonprofit services most often cross multiple districts and people who make use of the services interact with providers throughout the city. How will you work to represent both the needs of your district as well as Seattle as a whole?

I believe the City can be a part of the solution to our most pressing needs and can have the potential for incredible positive impact - but that it is incomplete without the community and those non-profit organizations with deeper relationships with community. I would like to continue to support the work of those organizations where those successful positive impacts are happening vs. getting in the way or trying to coopt that work in the community. By focusing on those most impacted by systemic oppression and racism - we all benefit. I believe in collective liberation - as we focus on liberating those most impacted by oppression - we are all uplifted in our own liberation.

14. Will you support an automatic annual inflation adjustment tied to the CPI-W for the City's human services contracts so providers can maintain current levels of service as costs of doing business increase?

Yes