

South Sound

CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

SPECIAL EDITION



2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

THOUGHTS FROM THE CEO

The Greater Federal Way Chamber does not endorse candidates; however, it does provide opportunities for the business leaders in our membership to see where candidates stand on economic and business issues with an annual Questionnaire and Forum.



Rebecca Martin, CCE
Greater Federal Way Chamber CEO

The Candidate Questionnaire includes four sections: Business and Economic Issues, Political Engagement, Campaign Activity and Finance, as well as Community Questions. This special edition of our newsletter includes candidate responses to the Chamber's business, economic, and community questions. Full responses to each section are available on the Advocacy page of federalwaychamber.com. No edits, corrections, or revisions have been made to any of the submissions.

Questions for candidates were based on input from our members, the government affairs committee, the Board of Directors, and industry partners. As the Voice of Business, the Chamber regularly connects with industry partners on legislative issues, including but not limited to the Association of Washington Business, its Grassroots Alliance and the Washington Retail Association.

The Forum was presented to members at our monthly meeting in October. The 2020 Candidate Forum was sponsored by Red Canoe Credit Union, a cornerstone investor of the Chamber. Andy Hobbs, editorial director for Sound Publishing's King County titles, served as Forum moderator. The Performing Arts and Events Center hosted the taping in accordance with King County guidelines for social distancing. These are the partnerships that make things happen at the Chamber.

Finally, on behalf of the leadership network at the Chamber, a sincere thank you to those seeking to serve our businesses and represent our community through public service.

Every Vote Counts. As we Take the Federal Way on the path to business success, remember to stop along the way and vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becca".

 **GREATER FEDERAL WAY**
Chamber of Commerce

SPECIAL EDITION
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2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

This special edition includes answers from the Business and Economic Issues section of the annual Questionnaire. The Political Engagement and Campaign Activity sections are available online at fedwaychamber.com/advocacy. No edits, corrections, or revisions have been made to any of the submissions.

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GREATER FEDERAL WAY
Chamber of Commerce
NOVEMBER MEETING

State
of
Education
featuring

DR. TAMMY CAMPBELL
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Public School District

NOV 4

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CREDIT UNION

[State Representative, Pos. 1]

JAMILA TAYLOR (D)

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

With the state facing a significant budget shortfall which may require raising taxes, cutting services or a combination of these. What services do you propose to reduce or eliminate? What taxes do you propose to increase or impose?

Washington experienced the mistakes of massive budget cuts after the 2008 Great Recession. Now, the legislature should ensure families & vulnerable populations have the support they need. Childcare resources, broadband access, rent assistance, behavioral & public health services, and support for small businesses to reopen safely must be prioritized.

Homelessness continues to be a national and state-wide issue impacting businesses and their communities. What will you do legislatively to address this issue?

Homelessness knows no borders. We must scale our response to the scale of the crisis. This means taking a regional approach and working with local, county, and statewide partners to streamline how and where services are provided. A key priority will be to ensure residents have rental assistance and protect funding for existing critical services.

The privacy of personal data remains an ongoing issue for businesses and consumers. What regulations do you propose should be instituted by the legislature regarding the collection, storage, use and resale of personal data?

Privacy regulations to protect consumers and business must keep pace with evolving technology. I will work closely with consumer groups, advocacy groups and business stakeholders to review the best options for residents. We should avoid placing unfunded mandates on small businesses and confusing regulations that do not protect consumers.

If elected, how will you work legislatively with the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce on economic development and other business initiatives? Please note any past or present engagement with Chamber projects.

While I have not been involved with the Chamber in the past, I will join the Chamber and welcome opportunities to connect on key issues facing the region. I look forward to opportunities to expand on existing public-private partnerships, use my voice to advocate for our complex and unique needs in the district and bring stakeholders to the table.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

What will be your transportation priorities, given the significant revenue reductions predicted in the coming transportation budget?

Transportation projects have been central in many economic recovery efforts. We should prioritize these investments. It will be essential to re-engage stakeholders given the evolving revenue outlook and the potential impact of I-1976 litigation. We must ensure residents in urban, suburban and rural areas have access to these projects.

What are your thoughts on the racial climate here in WA State?

Social and racial justice are two of my core values. I believe that despite Washington's attempt to be a progressive region, the vestiges of racially discriminatory practices and policies still have impact on communities of color. Yet, public and private entities seem to be more willing to implement equitable policies to address past challenges.

Adequate treatment for mental health and addiction continues to be a challenge for WA communities. If elected, what will you do to ensure people get access to the services they need?

I've been fortunate to work with many mental health and drug addiction agencies in my career. Mental health and drug treatment services clearly need to be restored, if not expanded, from the cuts after the 2008 recession. Our response must be a comprehensive and regional approach. We also have to reduce the barriers that interfere with treatment.

[State Representative, Pos. 1]

MARTIN MOORE (R)

City of Federal Way is a Pivotal Partner

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

With the state facing a significant budget shortfall which may require raising taxes, cutting services or a combination of these. What services do you propose to reduce or eliminate? What taxes do you propose to increase or impose?

I will fight to keep budget cuts as far away as possible from human services and to strictly limit new spending that doesn't support our COVID-19 response. Additionally, I believe it time to call on our rainy-day fund, which should be used for public health and economic recovery. I support tax incentives and a B&O tax waiver on vital businesses.

Homelessness continues to be a national and state-wide issue impacting businesses and their communities. What will you do legislatively to address this issue?

The lack of affordable housing is a large barrier to recovery from the cycle of homelessness. As a Councilmember, I advocated for renters' rights and will work to ensure we hold negligent landlords accountable, invest in the Housing Trust Fund, prevent cuts to social services, and encourage equitable opportunity for affordable housing statewide.

The privacy of personal data remains an ongoing issue for businesses and consumers. What regulations do you propose should be instituted by the legislature regarding the collection, storage, use and resale of personal data?

I support consumers' rights to review and correct inaccurate data on them and to opt out of some data collection methods. I also support establishing limits on the use of facial recognition technology. That said, I believe consumers should retain the right to consent to share their information.

If elected, how will you work legislatively with the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce on economic development and other business initiatives? Please note any past or present engagement with Chamber projects.

As a Federal Way City Councilmember, I have been around Chamber events. I understand your agenda, agree with it, and plan on continuing the productive tradition of working with Chamber leadership and especially now with how unprecedented events are impacting our business community.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

What will be your transportation priorities, given the significant revenue reductions predicted in the coming transportation budget?

I believe it is wise to support the expansion and repair of our transportation infrastructure, specifically public transportation as it helps it become easier for working families to get to their jobs and achieve work - life balance and increase the durability of our roads and bridges so they do not erode and become a safety issue.

What are your thoughts on the racial climate here in WA State?

One of the great attributes of Washingtonians is that we listen closely and act. As we begin recognizing the foundations upon which our institutions were built and reconsider how they function, I will push for policies that move us toward having more opportunities for those who have historically been at the receiving end of racist ideology.

Adequate treatment for mental health and addiction continues to be a challenge for WA communities. If elected, what will you do to ensure people get access to the services they need?

I will use bipartisanship to bring public and private investment together to create public health resources that are more accessible to rural and low-income residents and work with insurance and hospitals to provide better mental health coverage. We must continue efforts to destigmatize mental health and addiction challenges to encourage recovery.

[State Representative, Pos. 2]

JESSE JOHNSON (D)

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

With the state facing a significant budget shortfall which may require raising taxes, cutting services or a combination of these. What services do you propose to reduce or eliminate? What taxes do you propose to increase or impose?

My first priority is to working families and seniors who are already struggling, and the services that connect them with opportunity. Before I would consider cuts to housing, education, job training, health, or food assistance we must ensure all in our state, including large corporations, are paying a fair share while supporting small business.

Homelessness continues to be a national and state-wide issue impacting businesses and their communities. What will you do legislatively to address this issue?

On the City Council, and now as Representative, I have been focused on affordable housing, investments in mental health and addiction recovery, preventing unjust evictions and supporting homeless kids and families in our district. Healthy and strong communities require stable housing for every neighbor and the services that support their success.

The privacy of personal data remains an ongoing issue for businesses and consumers. What regulations do you propose should be instituted by the legislature regarding the collection, storage, use and resale of personal data?

We should give consumers a voice in enforcing their rights. The right to know what data they have, why it is being collected and the ability to correct any false data. But it is important to implement a balance of consumer protections while ensuring that small businesses, which make up a majority of our local economy, are not severely impacted.

If elected, how will you work legislatively with the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce on economic development and other business initiatives? Please note any past or present engagement with Chamber projects.

I am committed to strengthening our local economy. In my first session, I took bold action, securing funding for future economic development projects in partnership with the Chamber and a regional Maritime Apprenticeship School. While on the City Council, I voted against increasing utility taxes and helped to keep B&O taxes out of our budget.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

What will be your transportation priorities, given the significant revenue reductions predicted in the coming transportation budget?

Transportation infrastructure is a requisite for the safety of our communities, health of our economy, and combating the climate crisis. My priorities are to maintain existing infrastructure safety and affordability, and invest in projects in transit hubs that can help move neighbors and goods safely and efficiently.

What are your thoughts on the racial climate here in WA State?

As an educator and Federal Way Councilmember I have been a champion for prevention, diversion and early intervention. In the Legislature, I will continue to advocate for equitable investment in education, housing, healthcare, and hiring, as well as the long overdue reforms required to end systemic racism across our society.

Adequate treatment for mental health and addiction continues to be a challenge for WA communities. If elected, what will you do to ensure people get access to the services they need?

Our state lacked adequate investments in mental health and addiction before the COVID-19 pandemic. The added strain and isolation have only exacerbated our need. My priority is building healthy and strong communities and that requires affordable access to care. In Olympia, I will advocate tirelessly for the investments and resources required to expand our mental health and addiction care.

[State Representative, Pos. 2]

JACK WALSH (R)

Chamber Member Business

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

With the state facing a significant budget shortfall which may require raising taxes, cutting services or a combination of these. What services do you propose to reduce or eliminate? What taxes do you propose to increase or impose?

I oppose tax increases, especially given the current situation in which many businesses have permanently closed. A tax increase would place a further damper on the economy. We can return to the previous biennium's budget and by making use of the rainy-day fund, we can adjust for inflation and population increase and still balance the budget.

Homelessness continues to be a national and state-wide issue impacting businesses and their communities. What will you do legislatively to address this issue?

This is not so much an issue of housing as it is of addiction and mental health. Drug and shoplifting laws must be strictly enforced. Prosecutors and courts cannot continue the catch and release system presently in place. Funding needs to be diverted from band aid programs that enable bad behavior to the root causes: addiction and mental health.

The privacy of personal data remains an ongoing issue for businesses and consumers. What regulations do you propose should be instituted by the legislature regarding the collection, storage, use and resale of personal data?

The recent breach and fraud in the Employment Security Department justify the concern for the government as well as businesses and consumers. We live in one of the technology capitals of the world. The legislature should be spearheading a private/public partnership to determine best practices in data management to prevent further privacy breaches.

If elected, how will you work legislatively with the Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce on economic development and other business initiatives? Please note any past or present engagement with Chamber projects.

I have owned and managed a business here in the 30th District for the past nine years, during which I have been an active and engaged member of the Chamber. One of the reasons I am seeking election is to better represent our business community in Olympia. There needs to be more legislators who have actually signed the frontside of a check.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

What will be your transportation priorities, given the significant revenue reductions predicted in the coming transportation budget?

We must conscientiously trim waste in the budget. We must also insist that some important items, such as the completion of the Triangle Project and connecting 167 to the Port of Tacoma remain as major priorities, but may require delays. Also, the Sound Transit Board must be held accountable by being elected, rather than appointed.

What are your thoughts on the racial climate here in WA State?

We must strive for greater unity. For example, the current polarization around supporting law enforcement has been painted as a racial issue rather than a community issue. I support law enforcement, and I also support increased training for our officers. That will require more funds as they become available, rather than defunding the police.

Adequate treatment for mental health and addiction continues to be a challenge for WA communities. If elected, what will you do to ensure people get access to the services they need?

The status quo of enabling those with addiction and mental health challenges is not compassionate for those individuals or good for the community. Concepts such as safe injection sites should be rejected. Funding for programs which enable unhealthy behavior should be diverted to addiction recovery and mental health services.

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