

Youth Voice Questionnaire

Information:

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Michael McGinn

Office sought: Mayor of Seattle

Are you the incumbent? no

How long have you lived in Seattle? 20 years

If the office is partisan, please indicate party:

Campaign Name: McGinn for Mayor

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Questions:

1. What are you doing to engage young voters in your campaign? Please include the names of your top two endorsements from people under the age of 21.

I am really proud of my campaign team. We've given a lot of meaningful responsibility to volunteers under the age of thirty, including organizing volunteers, running phone banks, and staffing events. A number of high school students who started volunteering for a civics class assignment have elected to continue working for us past their required number of hours because they want to have a voice in our city's future. Our success so far exemplifies what can happen when young people apply their energy and hope for a better future to the world around them.

The top-three under-21 endorsements would have to be my three children, Jack, Cian, and Miyo. Their support has been invaluable.

Brian Carver and Michael Neguse are two endorsees that work promote or advocate for youth. We have not made a specific effort to recruit people of a certain age but would certainly be honored to have more youth on our endorsement list.

2. What work have you done with or on behalf of young people in this region?

I was instrumental in passing the recent Parks Levy. Young children need places to play, and teenagers need places to go that don't require them to spend money. Recreational activities are very important to many youth, while everyone needs places to relax and be with friends.

I am also very passionate about securing a sustainable future for future generations. If we aren't working to solve our transportation and land use issues and move away from an automobile-centric city we are not doing our part for those who will inherit the city we've made. Working on the No-RTID campaign for the Sierra Club and land use for Great City, the non-profit I started, are both examples of how we can take steps forward that will secure a better future for our city.

3. What is the City department you most think would benefit from the input of young people, and why? Should you be elected Mayor, what plans, if any, do you have for supporting and enabling youth voice in this City department?

There are many City departments that could benefit from youth participation. Having said that, many cities have Youth Arts Commissioners with full voting power for the year they are seniors in high school, and I do think it is important to engage youth in this capacity.

Continuing support for the YMCA's "Get Engaged" program will assist with gaining input from young people. Having the city increase efforts to reach out to organizations and schools will ensure these roles get filled.

4. What do you think are the three most pressing issues facing young people in the City? As the potential incoming Mayor, what are you prepared to do to address these issues?

Education. *Seattle graduates only 63% of our children. Having more than one-third of our kids dropping out of school is not acceptable. As Mayor, I pledge to be held accountable for the success of the school system by taking an active role in our city's schools. Here are some things a Mayor can do:*

- *Ensure our kids are safe at school*
- *Fund pre-kindergarten*
- *Create a public-private partnership for scholarships for Seattle High School graduates, similar to the Pittsburgh Promise*
- *Fund afterschool activities at the schools*
- *Support great transportation to and from schools*
- *Stand up for Seattle Public Schools in Olympia*

Support the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative and Green Jobs. *Together, these efforts will work to address some of the most troubling trends in Seattle's youth.*

I support Seattle's renewed effort to focus on the approximately 800 children in our community who are at the highest risk of committing a violent crime or being a victim of violent crime. This program focuses on repeat offenders, middle school truants, youth arrested for minor crimes that don't automatically require detention and victims of violence and their friends and relatives.

I will aggressively seek funding from programs like "Green For All", which provides living wage jobs and vital opportunities for professional development. Integrating green jobs into existing job resources and increasing outreach to at-risk members of the community will provide opportunities that not only keep them on the right track, but give them the means to contribute to the local community and economy.

Improve our transportation system. *Improving our bus system, adding light rail, and supporting biking and walking are essential to creating a city that will support future generations as well as the increase in population we expect to come in the next decades. I discuss this in more detail in question 12 and at <http://mcginnformayor.com/issues/transportation/>.*

5. Who is your favorite local rapper (and not Sir Mix-A-Lot!)?

I grew up in New York—the birthplace of hip hop—and my vinyl collection includes early classics from the Sugar Hill Gang, Run-DMC, and Grandmaster Flash, among others.

For a favorite local rapper, I'd have to pick Geologic from the Blue Scholars. I saw Champagne Champagne for the first time at the recent Reverb Fest and was very impressed with them as well.

6. Who is your favorite local graffiti artist?

I like the new mural on Capitol Hill and the freestanding structures on 23rd & Union that feature Inye Wokoma's photographs are great.

7. What was the last show you attended?

I saw Champagne Champagne and Zera Marvel at Reverb, and the campaign hosted a bash with the Maldives, Presidents of the United States of America, and Krist Novoselic at the Crocodile. I don't make it to too many shows, but I regularly attend Bumbershoot, Folklife, and street festivals with music.

8. What do you think the threats or challenges to all-ages access to live music are, and what will you do to protect and expand all-ages access to music shows?

Some of the threats to all-ages shows are the same for age-restricted shows—problems with adjacent property owners and public safety are a piece of the puzzle. Making it easier to be successful as a business model is a problem unique to all-ages shows. I plan to address those threats by doing the following:

Encourage music and other art:

- The Seattle Office of Film + Music must remain open and active.*
- In order to help maintain an environment where Seattle's music scene can continue to thrive, the Seattle City of Music Initiative must remain in place and will be improved upon through work with the Seattle Music Commission.*
- To further encourage the arts, the next Families and Education Levy should include funding for music and art programs in Seattle public schools.*

Helping nightlife and development coexist:

- New residential development must not be able to drive out existing nightlife establishments*
- Any new development within the proximity of an existing bar or club should be required to build sound-proofing measures into their plans.*
- To maintain an open dialogue between the nightlife community and the city, the Seattle Music & Nightlife Association should have quarterly meetings with the mayor.*

Giving support to encourage all-ages access is essential and will be a part of these efforts. I know that providing more opportunities for youth to engage in positive activities such as music is important for many reasons, and I will do what I can to encourage this activity.

Please see the complete Nightlife policy at <http://mcginnformayor.com/issues/music-nightlife/>.

9. Are you familiar with Mayor Nickels' Youth Violence Prevention Initiative? If you are our next Mayor, do you intend to continue to fund this program at its current level? What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the initiative currently?

Please see above (question 4).

10. What is your perspective on Operation Sobering Thought? Do you see efforts like this as an effective means of working with nightlife in this city?

I don't believe Operation Sobering Thought has been successful—having seventeen arrests end in no convictions is not a success.

11. Are you planning to keep the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Mayor's Office of Film and Music funded and staffed at the levels they are now? What value do you think these two departments bring to the community?

Yes, I plan to protect the budget and staffing levels. Seattle's arts, culture, and heritage communities are some of our most treasured and vital assets. Rarely does a city of our size have as many major arts institutions as Seattle does, and artists make up an important part of neighborhoods all over town. It is important for youth to have a lot of variety in the artwork that they experience. Many non-profits provide special low-cost programs for youth. They deserve the City's support.

Please see <http://mcginnformayor.com/issues/arts/> for other details on my Arts, Culture, and Heritage policy.

12. Can you clearly articulate the argument for or against Bus Rapid Transit versus Light Rail? Please consider the impact that public transportation has on young people in your answer.

We need both Bus Rapid Transit and Light Rail; they are two different tools that have good uses. In order to create a city where it is easy for people to make a sustainable transportation choice, we need to do everything we can. We can improve local transit service now by adding BRT, while continuing to work extend the light rail system (which is a longer-term solution). Within two years of taking office, I will bring a plan before the voters of Seattle that gives them the choice of expanding light rail service within our city. This will give us the chance to create essential in-city service that would be in addition to the plan for Sound Transit that was approved by voters in 2008.

Stepping back further from BRT vs Light Rail: I also think it is essential to improve our regular bus system. We can dramatically improve local transit service with simple steps such as removing redundant bus stops, widening sidewalks at bus stops, creating traffic signal priority for transit, implementing pay-before-you-enter fares, boarding passengers through all doors, leveling boarding, and adding bus-only lanes.

This will allow our existing bus fleet to serve more people efficiently, as well as provide more reliable service. An investment in better buses means that we can create service frequency, reliability and comfort that will make the bus more competitive with the car for more kinds of trips.

This kind of transit service is essential to serve those who cannot drive, do not want to drive, do not have a car, or do not have a choice for other transportation means. For these riders, the improvements I suggest will have a marked impact in quality of life.

13. What do you think is the single biggest challenge facing the City and its working relationship with the State? And how do you propose to address it?

Education and transportation are two of the biggest issues that we need to address with the State. During my campaign, I have been building a case for change in Olympia. "Education is the paramount duty" of Washington State. Why isn't it fully funded? And yes, we need to

replace the viaduct, but we need to do so in a way that doesn't burden your generation with excessive costs and cost overruns. While it's true that I am at odds with the state on the tunnel decision, I still believe it is important to stand up for what is right, and then work in a collaborative and solution-driven way.

Boards and Commissions (appointed):

Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group, Bridging the Gap Oversight Committee, Restore Our Waters Committee, Transportation Implementation Working Group (Governor's Climate Action Team), Green Ribbon Commission, Urban Sustainability Advisory Panel, Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee 2, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Search Committee, Seattle Department of Planning and Development Director Search Committee, New Source Review Advisory Committee.