

**Lily Wilson-Codega**  
**Mayoral Nominee for Director**  
**Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)**  
**Confirmation Questions**  
**2018**

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1. Do you have any suggestions for improving how Council and OIR work together? How would you suggest more effectively responding to Council interests?

OIR is committed to keeping City Councilmembers informed of issues of significance and strives to be extremely responsive to the Council. We take our unique role of reporting both to Council and the Executive very seriously. We make every effort to be available for questions, as well as providing written responses when needed. We are always happy to provide advice and context.

We currently brief Council every Monday morning during the state legislative session and provide monthly federal briefings. We generally brief Council once a year on our tribal affairs, federal and international work plans. Other interaction with Council includes our work with our Sister Cities program, our International Affairs Advisory Board, and the 10 Public Development Authorities that we oversee. We will be working closely with Council, Department of Neighborhoods, and the Mayor's Office on the Census 2020 as well.

We are happy to add additional briefings or reports or whatever might be helpful to Council.

2. Are there any goals you would like OIR to focus on and accomplish during your term?

While I'm proud of the work our team is currently doing; I think there is room for more cross-pollination between all of our areas of focus: international, federal, tribal, state local, and regional. The Durkan administration and Council both have ambitious agendas to achieve; a coordinated approach, working with all areas of government and our governmental partners, will be necessary in order to solve some of the tough problems we are facing today.

3. What do you see as the primary challenges facing OIR in the next four years?

As with much of the City, OIR must assist in the solving of the homelessness crisis. Our role is to be sure we are securing state and local resources, working closely with City departments and regional governments and funding agencies, working with local jurisdictions on siting and permitting issues, as well as providing assistance and support,

and encouraging positive relationships with King County and the cities that surround Seattle.

While we know the problem is particularly large in Seattle, creative solutions and partnerships may be found in and with other jurisdictions. This knowledge comes into play when we prepare memos for Councilmembers and the Mayor as we staff them in their regional leadership roles.

We also connect the issue of homelessness to efforts to secure state and federal funds for this priority. Other issues that we hope to make progress on in the coming year are the Seattle Promise free community college program. We hope to work with partners across the state on best practices for implementing and funding free community college for as many students as possible. This is a rare issue that crosses party lines and county lines. Our state, regional, and federal teams are all working on this issue and we have high hopes for success in 2018 and 2019.

On some issues, OIR faces the challenge of providing our best advice to elected officials with regards to maintaining positive relationships with other governments, while also keeping the interests of Seattle residents at the forefront of our work. We are up to the challenge!

#### 4. How do you integrate racial and social justice into your work?

Along with the Mayor and City Council, much of our effort at the state and federal levels is to help make Seattle safe and affordable for all its residents. Affordability and safety issues are often felt most acutely by those who are lower income or homeless, and of those residents, there is a disproportionate number of people of color.

As the One Table experience has shown us, across the board people of color are experiencing the toughest time in Seattle. Our regional, state, tribal, and federal strategies are focused on leveling the playing field and improving the lives of Seattle's residents. We are also exploring, in partnership with the Office of Civil Rights, the possibility of applying a Racial Equity Toolkit analysis to our policy agendas in advance of the coming session to better inform our work in Olympia and at other levels of government.

#### 5. Is there any area that OIR does not currently work in that you would like to see the office take on in the future?

I want to expand OIR's involvement in all the City's issues that touch our regional, tribal, international, state and federal relations. Strong relationships and frequent outreach from my team are essential to increasing the number and quality of relationships with external

governments. I want the team to be well versed in Council's and the Executive's initiatives and to provide expertise and assistance with development of new policy.

I also want to make sure that our current work plans are refreshed and current.

We are doing thorough studies of some of our current regional committees so that our relatively new staff can fully understand the history and relationships that OIR has and strategize for the future (e.g., Regional Policy Committee, Sound Transit, and Puget Sound Regional Council.)

I am excited to be working with our International Affairs team to look at some of our long-term programs with an eye to updating and modernizing. We are doing outreach and strategic planning with our partners, as well working with the International Affairs Advisory Board and I look forward to providing strategic direction to this process and its outcomes.

While we made tremendous gains this legislative session on pay equity issues, housing and behavioral health funding, voting rights and gun responsibility, there is still much work to be done during the interim. Our team will be working closely with the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on the 2019 state legislative agenda, while also laying the groundwork getting up to speed on new and evolving issues.

The current makeup of the federal government requires constant vigilance and action from Seattle and our allies. I look forward to integrating our work with other departments to respond quickly to pressing issues impacting Seattle and other urban areas. The Executive shares an interest in this work, as I know that Councilmembers do as well. The expertise, commitment and institutional knowledge of our team gives me confidence we are poised and ready to support the Executive and Council in tackling the many complex challenges facing our City and I'm honored to be considered for the position.