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TOWARDS A HUMAN RIGHTS SCORECARD



A Seattle Human Rights
Commission Report



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TOWARDS A HUMAN RIGHTS SCORECARD: PREPARED BY THE SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Enabling visibility and accountability for aspiring and current holders of public office



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TOWARDS A HUMAN RIGHTS SCORECARD: PREPARED BY THE SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Seattle
Human Rights Commission

ABOUT THE SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Seattle Human Rights Commission advocates for justice and equal opportunity by advising the City of Seattle on human rights issues. It also collaborates with private and public sectors in order to educate them on methods to prevent and eliminate discrimination city-wide. The goals of the commission are to elevate community voices to our elected leaders, ensure there is greater public awareness for human rights concerns, and create actionable objectives for local officials.

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INTRODUCTION

In January of 2021, the Seattle Human Rights Commission convened a group of research fellows to develop a “**human rights scorecard**,” a tool to be used by citizens to evaluate the level of commitment by a political candidate or office holder to upholding the Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). As Seattle is a human rights city, this is a requirement for those looking to hold office.

Under the guidance of Seattle Human Rights Commission Co-Chair Dr Tyrone Grandison, four fellows (Emma Kamb, Katie Pattenau, Jack Reinhardt, and Joey Uzarski) have created **a framework that we hope any city, county, state, or country may utilize, modify, and incorporate into their process for assessing a candidate’s dedication to securing and advancing human rights for the citizens that they seek to represent.**

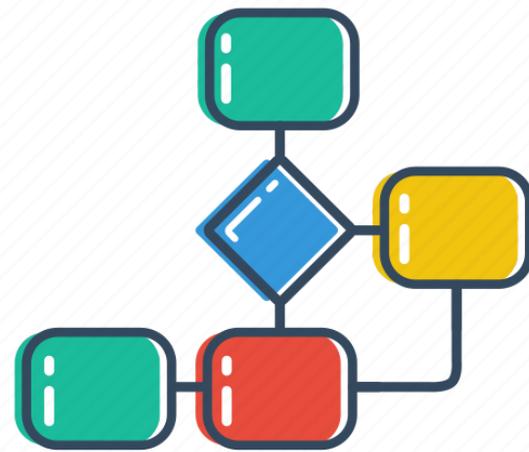
Through the use of this scorecard, **we hope that voters obtain a better understanding of where their candidates stand with respect to human rights.** Additionally, we hope that this tool will be useful in holding political leaders accountable for their human rights actions and policies.

First of all, we acknowledge the difficulty in producing a framework for a human rights scorecard given that some candidates may not have extensive records. We aimed to ground this framework in actions (as much as possible); rather than rhetoric. **Beliefs are great. However, if they don’t translate into action then they have no impact on community.**

We also attempted to get as holistic as possible perspective on candidates and made inferences and assumptions that are applicable to Seattle that may need to be customized for other municipalities that wish to use this framework. We do all of this to provide voters with a glimpse into the actions that a candidate may take when in office because **prior actions are an effective predictor of future behavior**. Past is prologue.

METHODOLOGY

Figure 1 shows a condensed version of the 30 Articles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. This is our starting point. Our methodology involved the following steps:



1. Deriving a tractable set of human rights dimensions that we can use to evaluate each individual; based on the 30 Articles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights,
2. Determining sources of evidence that allow us to substantiate (or not) an individual's supportive actions (or lack thereof) for each dimension, and
3. Constructing a scoring framework that allows for, as consistent and as fair as possible, evaluation and rating, based on candidate actions, to occur.

Let's examine each of these steps.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

<p>1 Equality</p> <p>Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and with rights.</p> 	<p>2 Freedom from Discrimination</p> <p>You should never be discriminated against for any reason.</p> 	<p>3 Life, Liberty and Security</p> <p>Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security.</p> 	
<p>4 Freedom from Slavery</p> <p>No-one shall be held in slavery or servitude.</p> 	<p>5 Freedom from Torture</p> <p>No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading treatment.</p> 	<p>6 Recognition as Person Before Law</p> <p>You have the right to be treated as a person in the eyes of the law.</p> 	<p>7 Equality Before the Law</p> <p>You have the right to be treated by the law in the same way as everyone else</p> 
<p>8 Remedy by Tribunal</p> <p>You have the right to remedy by competent tribunal.</p> 	<p>9 Freedom from arbitrary arrest</p> <p>No-one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.</p> 	<p>10 Fair Public Hearing</p> <p>You have the right to a fair public hearing.</p> 	<p>11 Innocent until Proven Guilty</p> <p>You have the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.</p> 
<p>12 Privacy</p> <p>No-one has the right to interfere with your privacy, family, or home.</p> 	<p>13 Freedom of Movement</p> <p>You have the right to freedom of movement in and out of the country.</p> 	<p>14 Asylum</p> <p>You have the right to seek asylum in other countries from persecution.</p> 	<p>15 Nationality</p> <p>You have the right to a nationality.</p> 
<p>16 Marriage and Family</p> <p>You have the right to marriage and to raise a family.</p> 	<p>17 Property</p> <p>You have the right to own property.</p> 	<p>18 Freedom of Belief</p> <p>You have the right to freedom of belief and religion.</p> 	<p>19 Freedom of Opinion</p> <p>You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression.</p> 
<p>20 Freedom of Assembly</p> <p>You have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.</p> 	<p>21 Take Part in Government</p> <p>You have the right to take part in the government of your country.</p> 	<p>22 Social Security</p> <p>You have the right to social security.</p> 	<p>23 Work</p> <p>You have the right to desirable work and to join trade unions.</p> 
<p>24 Rest and Leisure</p> <p>You have the right to rest and leisure.</p> 	<p>25 Adequate Living Standard</p> <p>You have the right to a decent life, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care.</p> 	<p>26 Education</p> <p>You have the right to education</p> 	<p>27 Participate in Cultural Life</p> <p>You have the right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community.</p> 
<p>28 Social Order</p> <p>You have the Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document.</p> 	<p>29 Mutual Responsibility</p> <p>We all have a responsibility to the people around us and should protect their rights and freedoms.</p> 	<p>30 Freedom from State or Personal Interference</p> <p>There is nothing in this declaration that justifies any person or country taking away the rights to which we are all entitled.</p>	

Figure 1: Summary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

Source: Seattle Human Rights Commission

an individual's right to plan a family, to terminate a pregnancy, to use contraceptives, to learn about sex education in public schools, and to gain access to reproductive health services.

3. Racial Equity: The rights to equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of race, ethnicity, or skin color. We achieve racial equity when race no longer determines one's socioeconomic outcomes.

4. Homelessness: The rights of the unhoused population include protection against segregation, enforcement of their privacy and property rights, equal rights to medical care, upholding of their free speech, free movement, and voting rights, and provision of opportunities for employment.

5. Right to Adequate Housing: This refers to the economic, social and cultural right to adequate housing and shelter. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and that of their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood circumstances beyond their control.

6. Corporate Accountability: This refers to holding corporations accountable for their actions that impact their employees and their communities. This includes making sure they don't negatively impact the environment, they don't treat their employees poorly, don't act in an unethical manner; entailing but not limited to wage theft, underinsurance, etc.

7. Income Equality: Everyone deserves fair pay and enough to support themselves at the same level solely based on their skills and jobs function.

8. Immigrant and Refugee Rights: This refers to the protection and support of immigrants and refugees; ensuring that they have the same human rights as all other citizens.

9. Right to Free Speech and other first amendment rights: This refers to allowing individuals to express themselves without fear of government interference. This includes speech from journalists, protesters, and advocates for individuals' rights.

10. Freedom of Assembly / Redress: This refers to the freedom of religion, being allowed to protest, and being allowed to assemble for cultural reasons, such as indigenous rights.

11. Freedom of Religion / Cultural Expression: This refers to the free practice of all religions and the freedom to express culture.

12. Human Trafficking: This refers to the right of all people not to be trafficked. Human trafficking is a large issue facing our ever increasingly connected globe faces, whether it be sex trafficking, slavery, or unauthorized transportation across borders.

13. Right to Mental Health: This refers to the right to access mental health care services like counseling, therapy, other social works, and the right to having a sound, healthy mental state.

14. Right to Physical Health: This refers to the right to access physical health care, the right to a healthy self, and the right to a healthy environment.

15. Right to Education: This refers to the right to public education for all. This includes policies for increasing schools' funding, for addressing inequities in academia, for valuing teachers' labor, etc.

16. LGBTQIA+ Rights: This refers to addressing the unequal treatment that is imposed upon people based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex-related characteristics. All LGBTQIA+ community members should have the same rights as all others.

17. Rights of the Disabled: This refers to advancing the rights of individuals with mental and physical disabilities so that they are adequately accommodated and their needs are taken into account.

18. Rights of the Incarcerated: This refers to the sociolegal and substantive rights that are granted to individuals who are incarcerated. In the United States, this specifically speaks to the eighth amendment's protections against cruel and unusual punishment, due process, and minimum standards of living that must be maintained for those that are incarcerated.

19. Right to Privacy: This refers to the fundamental right to personal autonomy that protects individuals against public scrutiny or government action regarding private decisions and information.

20. Due Process / Equality under the Law: This refers to the guarantee to prevent individuals from being deprived of their life, liberty, or property, and the requirement that everyone be subject to the same governmental treatment and protections.

With these twenty (20) dimensions, we need to place them in the context of a framework that allows us to score individuals.

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE



The team spent a considerable amount of time examining possible artifact categories that could be used to demonstrate the action(s) taken by a candidate in support of (or not) of a particular dimension. We ran into a number of interesting issues.

For example, a category area like “Legislation Co-Authored” would unfairly bias the scorecard results against people with no government experience. To further complicate the issue, this particular category is nuanced and may contain both elements for and against dimensions; depending on the compromises made to garner support and pass a piece of legislation. Thus, categories like this one were not included; in an effort to ensure a level playing field. If one is only scoring a set of seasoned legislators, please feel free to add this source of evidence. However, we consciously and explicitly exclude this class of similar categories, such as “Voting Record on Previous Legislation,” because utilizing them would not only be inequitable, but it could create a bifurcated system that could potentially be biased in favor of those with prior political experience. **We aim to put individuals, regardless of previous offices held, on the same level playing field.**

While platform declarations were not initially considered strong signals of actions, the team decided that their signal of intent and belief was significant enough for them to be considered an evidence source for our context.

We further grappled with the notion of appropriate proxies for the demonstration of action towards a particular dimension.

In the end, we codified the following insight into our evaluation:

- One's prior employment history may represent a basic need to earn money and one's employer's stance on issues may not align with yours; if you are not in the executive ranks. However, company executives make a conscious decision to buy into and propagate the corporate stance on issues. It is also true that employees may actively choose to work for companies that reflect their beliefs and values.
- The entities that a candidate accepts funding from have outsized influence on the candidate and they offer a strong indicator of the candidate's future actions and positions.
- A candidate's choice of how they invest their non-working hours demonstrates the issues and causes that they are passionate about.
- The people and organizations that endorse a candidate also signal their future stances on issues. Endorsers' specific statements about a candidate are indicative.

After months of deliberation, we settled on the following sources of evidence for each of our twenty dimensions:



Past Employment

Understanding a candidate's role in their current and past companies and the public stances of those companies may provide insight into the candidate's human rights stance.



Campaign Funding

Investigating campaign funding allows one to see any conflicts of interests, moral hazards, or demonstrations of commitment to the UDHR that exist with economic stakes at hand.



Volunteer Work

Volunteering is a demonstration of the candidate's priorities; as these are actions that they chose to take part in without monetary compensation.



Endorsements

Examining a candidate's endorsements allows one to view what organizations and other vested interests have formally supported a campaign and to see what they say about the candidate's commitment to that cause.



Platform

Examining candidates' platforms is useful to see if they are even mentioning or running on certain dimensions, for good or ill.

Now that we have selected sources of evidence, we now need to understand how to interpret the evidence that will be found in terms of its contribution to a human rights dimension.

We created and utilized the following way for interrogating and interpreting the evidence source for each dimension:

1. **Gender Equity**: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have passed legislation that increases gender equity within their workplace, they have worked for an organization that advances gender equity, they have worked for an organization that helps those who have suffered the ills of gender-based problems, such as domestic violence.

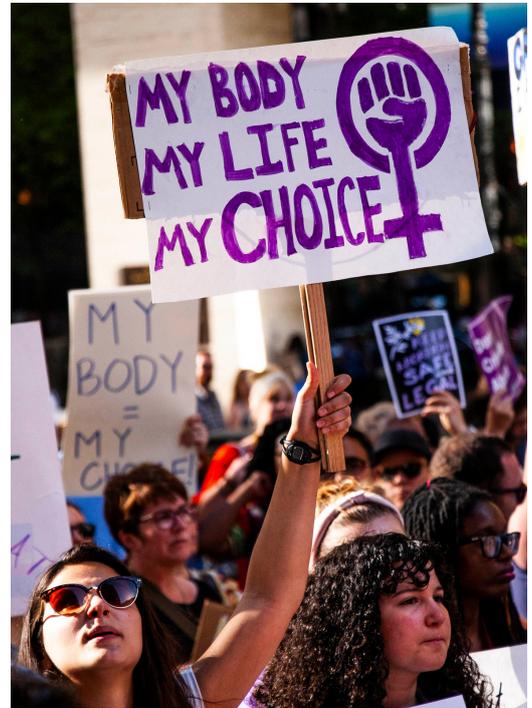
Campaign Funding: they have received major funding from a women's rights or gender equity group.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered for gender rights organizations, they have volunteered for a campaign to pass a bill that advances gender equity, have volunteered for an international org that advances gender equity globally.

Endorsements: they have received endorsements from an individual or group specifically; where endorsers cite the candidate's commitment to gender equity.

Platform: they have explicitly stated that they intend to advance gender equity; possibly through eliminating workplace discrimination, alleviating inequities for women of color, advocating for trans rights, etc.

2. **Reproductive Rights:** An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked for a reproductive rights organization, such as Planned Parenthood, they have sponsored legislation that protects reproductive rights, they have worked as a medical professional in the field of reproductive rights, sex education teacher, etc. It should be noted here that a negative score may be warranted if the candidate is an executive and worked in a school district that promotes abstinence only education.

Campaign Funding: they have received funding from a reproductive rights organization.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered for an organization that advocates for reproductive rights.

Endorsements: they have received an endorsement from an individual or organization that prioritizes gender equity within their institution or platform. This endorser provides a statement that vouches for the candidate's support for reproductive rights.

Platform: they have explicitly outlined a plan for advancing reproductive rights, whether that be working to improve sex education in public schools, advocating for affordable and accessible abortions and birth control.

3. Racial Equity: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked for a firm that seeks to eliminate racial inequities, they have sponsored bills that advanced racial equity.

Campaign Funding: they have received funding from a racial equity organization or a racial equity advocate.

Volunteer Work: they have worked with mutual aid or community groups that advocate for racial equity, police abolition or reform, criminal justice reform, Black Lives Matter, etc.

Endorsements: they have endorsements from an individual or organization that promotes racial equity, such as Black Lives Matter. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for racial equity,

Platform: candidate explicitly says they intend to advance racial equity; through police reform or abolition, funding for schools in communities of color, environmental health for communities of color, equal opportunities for youth of color, supporting black businesses, etc.

4. **Homelessness:** An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked for a firm that aims to eliminate homelessness through sustainable solutions, they have sponsored bills that protect the rights of the unhoused population.

Campaign Funding: they have funding from an individual or firm that prioritizes advocating and supporting the unhoused population.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered for a young adult shelter, food bank, or donation center, they have worked with the homeless population, they have protested homelessness sweeps, etc.

Endorsements: they have endorsements from an individual or organization that advocates for the unhoused population. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for human rights friendly homelessness solutions.

Platform: they have explicitly stated that they intend to support the unhoused population through denouncing sweeps, building sustainable housing, actively advocating against police intervention, etc.

5. **Right to Adequate Housing**: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked for a firm that seeks to support affordable housing and eliminate housing discrimination, discriminatory zoning laws, eviction, etc.

Campaign Funding: they have funding from an individual or org that prioritizes the right to adequate housing and shelter.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered with activists or organizations that advocate for adequate and affordable housing, etc.

Endorsements: they have endorsements from an individual or organization that prioritizes affordable and adequate housing. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for this right.

Platform: they have explicitly stated that they intend to support the right to adequate housing through eliminating housing discrimination and keeping rent affordable.



6. Corporate Accountability: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked for a union, as a lawyer (depending on type of work), grassroots or environmental organizations, lobbying group that advocates for this corporate social responsibility. If a candidate was or is an executive in a large corporation with a history of unethical behavior, this indicates a negative disposition to this dimension.

Campaign Funding: they have funding from grassroots environmental organizations. It should be noted that individuals with large amounts of fundings from businesses or individuals with influential roles at businesses (especially large corporations) warrant a negative score.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered at a union, a grassroots environmental organization, or for a lobbying group defending this dimension.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by grassroots environmental organizations that state the candidate's support for this dimension. Endorsements from large corporations warrant a negative score.

Platform: they have stated that they support workers rights. A negative score is warranted if the candidate supports tax cuts or subsidies to businesses.

7. **Income Inequality**: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have engaged in union work, they have worked with women's rights and people of colors rights groups. Candidates who held jobs with influence at a large corporation with a history of underpaying employees warrant a negative score.

Campaign Funding: they have funding from women's rights, or people of colors rights groups. Funding from large corporations with a history of underpaying employees and any corporation that uses cheap labor abroad warrants a negative score.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered for union work, women's rights, or people of colors rights groups.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by women's rights or people of colors rights groups. Endorsers state the candidate's support for income inequality.

Platform: they have stated their support for workers rights and income equality.



8. Immigrant and Refugee Rights:

An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked as an immigration lawyer advocating for immigrant and refugee rights. Candidates who worked for Border patrol warrant a negative score.

Campaign Funding: they have received funds from immigrant rights organizations.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered for an immigrant advocacy organization; aiding refugees.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by an immigrant rights organization and or famous immigrants. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for immigrant and refugee rights.

Platform: they have stated in their platform that they support immigrants rights.



9. Right to Free Speech and other first amendment

rights: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have worked as a journalist, been a free speech or first amendment advocate, etc.

Campaign Funding: they have received funding from journalists, free speech or first amendment advocates, etc.

Volunteer Work: they have participated in peaceful protests, they have volunteered at a local news organization.



Endorsements: they have been endorsed by free speech advocacy groups with statements proclaiming the candidate's advocacy.

Platform: they have stated in their platform that they support the right to free speech.



10. Freedom of Assembly / Redress: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have worked in community organizing, they have been a freedom of assembly advocate.

Campaign Funding: they have received funding from community organizers, cultural organizations, or activist movements. Care should be taken when it comes to religious groups as they may require restriction of the rights of other groups.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered for an activist movement, they have planned or participated in peaceful protests.

Endorsements: they have received endorsements from activist groups or community engagement entities; with statements proclaiming the candidate's advocacy.

Platform: they have stated that they support protests, activists, and minority/cultural groups.

11. Freedom of Religion/Cultural Expression: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have worked within or advocated for spiritual or cultural institutions that support freedom of religion.

Campaign Funding: they have received funding from non-demoninational spiritual leaders or organizations, they have gotten funding from leaders or organizations emphasizing secular cultural expression.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered in a non-demoninational organization centered on cultural and religious expression.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by non-demoninational religious and cultural actors with statements proclaiming the candidate's advocacy.

Platform: they have stated in their platform that they support freedom of religion and culture expression.



12. Human Trafficking: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked in an anti-trafficking firm or agency, or as a lawyer or prosecutor focused on eliminating trafficking.

Campaign Funding:

they have received funding from anti-trafficking organizations.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered to help victims or raise awareness for human trafficking, etc.

Endorsements: they have received endorsements from anti-trafficking organizations or lawyers/prosecutors with experience in advocating progressive human trafficking laws. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for ending human trafficking.

Platform: they have stated their support for eliminating human trafficking.



13. Right to Mental Health:

An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked in the mental health industry, they have worked advocating for the right to mental health care.

Campaign Funding: they have received funding sources from mental health hospitals, therapists, counsellors, etc.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered in the mental health industry.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by mental health experts. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for this dimension.

Platform: they have stated that providing more mental health resources is critical, they have advocated for greater access to suicide prevention resources, social workers, therapists, addressing poverty, reaffirming identities, etc.



14. **Right to Physical Health:** An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have worked in the fitness and physical health industries, they have professionally advocated for the right to physical health care, etc.

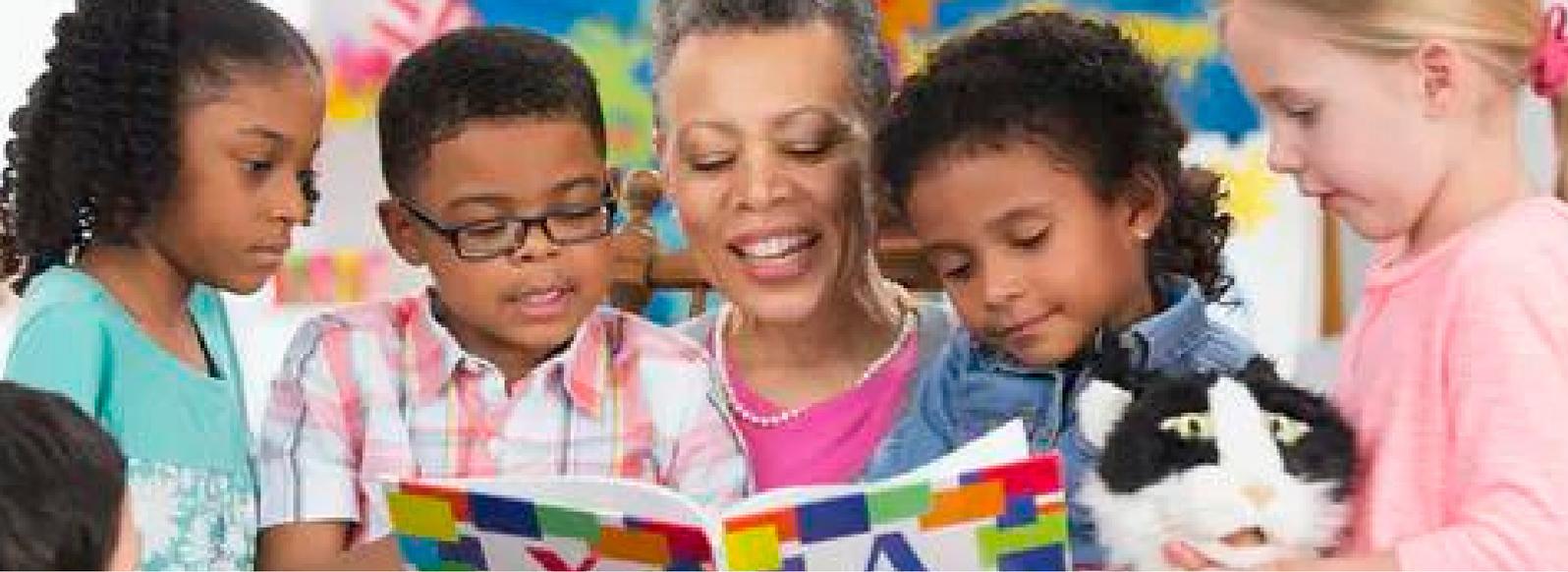
Campaign Funding: they have been funded by actors in the physical health space.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered in the physical health space.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by actors in the physical health space. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for the right to physical health.

Platform: they have a platform that focuses on the right to physical health and the access to it.





15. Right to Education: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have worked in education, have advocated for the expansion of the right to education, etc.

Campaign Funding: they have received financial support from teacher's unions, teachers, and other teacher-friendly education advocacy groups and organizations.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered in the educational field, such as libraries, literacy programs, tutoring, reaching disadvantaged children, advocating for education in prisons, etc.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by a teacher's union or other similar academia-related actors. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for the right to education.

Platform: they have stated support for increased access to public education, the right to education, etc.

16. LGBTQIA+ Rights: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked for organizations that have made a public commitment to the equal treatment of LGBTQIA+ people and advocate for their rights on the basis of gender and sexual orientation.

Campaign Funding: they have received financial support from organizations that are outspoken about their commitment to the equal treatment of LGBTQIA+ people.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered at an organization that either recognizes or has a commitment to advancing the rights of individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by any lobbying or activist group advocating for the equal rights of LGBTQIA+ people. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for LGBTQIA+ rights.

Platform: they have stated their support for LGBTQIA+ rights in their platform, they state their support for legislation that affirms non-discrimination protections for all individuals.

17. **Rights of the Disabled:** An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:



Past Employment: they have worked in the areas of social services, community living, or health organizations that

offer disability support and or advocate for the entitlements of individuals with disabilities, disability rights, etc.

Campaign Funding: they have been funded by organizations that actively advance the health and rights of individuals with disabilities: including in employment, healthcare, or community-based organizations.

Volunteer Work: they have been involved in a sector that serves the physically or developmentally disabled: such as job accommodation, advancing inclusive communities through advocacy work, and increasing awareness of the nature of disability.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by any activist or advocacy groups that advances the rights and inclusion of the disabled community. Endorsers provide statements that proclaim the candidate's support for disability rights.

Platform: they have included advancing disability rights in their platform.

18. Rights of the Incarcerated: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have maintained work at an organization or field in the area of criminal justice that brings awareness to the rights of the incarcerated.

Campaign Funding: they have received campaign funding from groups or organizations that advocate for the rights of incarcerated individuals and the sustained disproportionate impact of America's criminal justice system.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered with an organization or group that advocates for the rights of incarcerated individuals and their families involved in the criminal justice process.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by any activist or advocacy group that actively ensures that the rights of incarcerated individuals are protected. These endorsers provide statements proclaiming the candidate's advocacy for the rights of the incarcerated.

Platform: they have stated their support advancing the rights of the incarcerated.





19. **Right to Privacy**: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have been employed by an organization that focuses on protecting an individual's privacy.

Campaign Funding: they have been funded by an organization or group that recognizes the importance of an individual's right to their personal privacy.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered with an organization that supports and protects an individual's privacy.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by privacy rights organizations These endorsers provide statements proclaiming the candidate's advocacy of the right to privacy.

Platform: they have included their support for the right to privacy of all citizens.

20. Due Process / Equality under the Law: An individual scores positively in this dimension (by evidence source) when:

Past Employment: they have been employed in an organization or field that defends and upholds the rights that are granted in the US constitution for all citizens. This could include public policy organizations and other law making roles.

Campaign Funding: they have been funded by any organization or lobbyist group that protects an individual's right to the substantive due process and equality under the law.

Volunteer Work: they have volunteered in an organization or field that defends and upholds any of the rights that are granted in the US constitution for all citizens.

Endorsements: they have been endorsed by groups that are outspoken about equality under the law and due process, and practice providing respective services to individuals that ensure this regardless of socioeconomic status, race, gender, etc. These endorsers provide statements proclaiming the candidate's advocacy.

Platform: they have stated their support for due process and equal criminal legal system.



SCORING FRAMEWORK

We developed our framework for scoring that was grounded in objectivity and ease of understanding as a team and for the recipients of the report. In order to enforce as much universality as possible, we decided on the range of scores being between -100 and 100. This was based on the different dimensions of scoring via examining each evidence source. We felt the need to use a number and create a scale that was large enough to convey an understanding of a candidate's commitment to human rights (or lack thereof).



We decided on 100, because we had narrowed our list of dimensions to 20, and we had five sources of information for each dimension. We decided that simply assigning one point (either positive or negative score) for each source of information would be the most understandable for readers.

As stated previously, our process starts with a human rights dimension, we examine each source of evidence for that dimension, we assign a score for that evidence source for that specific dimension, and repeat until complete.

For each evidence source, when being evaluated within a dimension, we assign a score of +1, 0, or -1, depending on their respective demonstrations of being for, against, or neutral on the specific human rights dimension being examined. A score of 0 means that working towards that human right is not part of the candidate's plan, that the candidate has not made it a priority, that the candidate lacks available information on the human rights dimension, or that the candidate is lacking in experience in the dimension.

Each human rights dimension, for each candidate, can be in the range of -5 to 5. When looking at a specific human rights dimension, any score above zero indicates a commitment to upholding that specific human right. A score higher than 2 indicates substantial efforts in preserving and furthering that human right, which would require an individual to put in a substantial amount of time and effort. A zero score is simply an indication that an individual is not prioritizing that human right. We can see lots of scenarios where many dimensions will have a score of zero. This will no doubt drastically lower an individual's overall or aggregate score, but does not indicate that they are not committed to upholding the UDHR. Our rationale for the prior statement is that **our design choice of focusing on evaluating actions and proxies for action translates into us assuming that no action does not mean that a candidate does not believe in the promotion of that right.**



When it comes to the aggregate score, we ended up with the following thresholds and interpretations:

- **Score ≥ 35** indicates going above and beyond to uphold the UN declaration of human rights
- **Score ≥ 20 and Score < 35** indicates commitment to upholding the UN declaration of human rights
- **Score ≥ 0 and Score < 20** indicates that they are not actively working against upholding human rights and are in general for human rights
- **Score < 0** demonstrates substantial issues with their human rights platform

We arrived at the threshold values for our score ranges through retroactive analysis and iterative refinement; as we ran empirical tests on local races.

To arrive at the threshold values, and thus the score ranges, we estimated what would be reasonably achievable by an archetypical candidate. While a score of 35 may not seem high, it requires considerable work from the candidate to achieve it.

We recognize that these thresholds may need to be customized for your local context.

During our process, we found that generally a cumulative score may be difficult to create, interpret, and evaluate. It could potentially obscure a particularly negative approach to a specific human right. Additionally, due to our desire

to create a holistic viewpoint of a candidate with regards to all human rights dimensions, we are cognizant of the fact that it will be difficult for candidates to have a very high score; simply because one can only have done so much in one's life.

We hope candidates use this tool as a way to determine their weaknesses in the field of human rights and improve upon them over time.

For us, we decided that an overall score is still beneficial because it provides a clear data point for voters to utilize.

For the motivated citizen, one can examine and compare candidate positions in specific human rights dimensions, see their score for each dimension, and evaluate the summarized evidence for themselves.

HUMAN RIGHTS SCORECARD SUMMARY

2021 Seattle Mayoral Election

Figure 2 shows the results when we applied our framework to produce a human rights scorecard for each candidate in the 2021 Seattle Mayoral race.



Our human rights dimensions :

- Gender Equity
- Reproductive Rights
- Racial Equity
- Homelessness
- Right to Adequate Housing
- Corporate Accountability
- Income Equality
- Immigrant & Refugee Rights
- Right to Free Speech
- Freedom of Assembly/Redress
- Freedom of Religion/Cultural Expression
- Human Trafficking
- Right to Mental Health
- Right to Physical Health
- Right to Education
- LGBTQIA+ Rights
- Rights of the Disabled
- Rights of the Incarcerated
- Right to Privacy
- Due Process/Equality Under the Law



Key: ● Distinctly Committed (Score >=35) ● Committed (Score >= 20, < 35) ● Not Actively Committed (Score <=0, < 20) ● Substantial Issues with Human Rights Platform (Score<0)

Figure 2: Human Rights Scorecard Summary of 2021 Seattle Mayoral Race



	Houston	Langlie	Harrell	Sixkiller	Echohawk	Bliss	Rivers	Dennison	Donaldson	Farrell	Randall	Gonzalez	Tahir-Garrett	Tucker	Lippmann
Gender Equity	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Reproductive Rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Racial Equity	2	0	2	3	2	1	2	1	0	1	2	3	3	0	0
Homelessness	1	2	1	0	4	-1	0	0	-1	1	1	2	1	0	0
Right to Adequate Housing	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
Corporate Accountability	2	-1	-1	-1	-1	3	0	2	-2	2	-2	3	0	0	-2
Income Equality	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	2	-1	4	0	0	0
Immigrant & Refugee Rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0
Right to Free Speech	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Freedom of Assembly/Redress	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Freedom of Religion/Cultural Expression	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Human Trafficking	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Right to Mental Health	1	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	0
Right to Physical Health	0	2	1	0	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	-2
Right to Education	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	2
LGBTQIA+ Rights	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rights of the Disabled	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rights of the Incarcerated	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to Privacy	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Due Process/Equality under the Law	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Total Score	14	9	12	7	24	10	10	11	1	17	6	22	9	4	-2

Figure 3: Human Rights Scorecard Breakdown of 2021 Seattle Mayoral Race

The detailed analysis can be found [here](#).



DISCUSSION

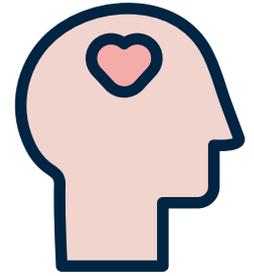
Our experience implementing the scoring framework was illuminating. The definitions and examples of human rights dimensions were extremely helpful in score assignment for each evidence source. We quickly recognized some dimensions were more fluid than others, i.e. open to more subjectivity than we would like.



A dimension that was particularly difficult to score was **corporate accountability**. We defined corporate accountability as “holding corporations accountable for their actions that impact their employees and their communities”. Determining if a candidate should earn a positive score was fairly simple. However, we ran into many candidates wanting to “help small businesses”, or “stop the exodus of businesses”, or “create a thriving business community”. While this does seem positive, language such as this is often coded language for tax cuts or additional funding to enterprises.

In our retroactive analysis of several scoring rounds, we found that of the candidates that were receiving funding, nearly all of those that mentioned helping (small) businesses were receiving a fair amount of funding from large corporations, such as oil companies with bad human rights records. Thus, we determined that having these economic policies in one’s platform demonstrates that they are not committed to upholding corporate accountability. This is true for our context. We implore others seeking to use this work, to examine this and similar phenomena for their own context.

Regarding the right to **mental and physical health dimensions**, there are many tangential policy areas that certainly have tangible effects on mental and physical health, but do not necessarily emphasize the right to health.



Policies related to incarceration, the environment, and reaffirming and accepting identities, all likely relate to one's mental health. However, including policies and actions related to mental and physical health in the broadest sense defeats the purpose on including these dimensions, while generally diluting the dimensions of the rights to mental and physical health. Thus, in working with these dimensions, a candidate had to clearly demonstrate or emphasize their actions and policies for the right to mental and physical health. Tangential policy areas, unless there is a clear and present emphasis, does not necessarily demonstrate a commitment, in of itself.

It also came to our attention that in order to receive high scores, an individual would have to invest a lot of time into advocating and moving forward human rights on several fronts. This means that our method will have a bias towards individuals with higher volumes of experience and or actions, versus those who do not. We also appreciate that in some cases this may skew scorecard results toward more established candidates who have longer records.

Information is not static. Information on candidates is not evenly available nor accessible. Thus, our, or any, methodology of this nature would be skewed or imperfect in some fashion. A dialectical argument presented on any dimension, candidate, or policy, could reach a different

conclusion than we did, with (partial) truths certainly existing in each argument. That is not to say that our methodology is not defensible, but rather that **we recognize that nuance and reasoning is involved in the process and that there might not be a “clear” or “right” answer.** We feel that this awareness is necessary in order to understand this project.

Regarding our research on funding, most information was drawn from city and state public sources regarding reported funding. For candidate employment and volunteer history, multiple sources, including public releases, LinkedIn profiles, and campaign websites were employed in finding information. Information on endorsements was almost exclusively found on candidates' campaign websites. The aforementioned sources and resources act as good starting points for any interested party to do further research, or observations of their own.

We are also aware that knowing this methodology may lead to a scenario where candidates try to game the system to ensure that their platform's are human rights friendly. We also firmly believe that a candidate's record and diligent evaluators will uncover insight that negates any gaming that takes place.

We are cognizant of the fact, and acknowledge, that this project is a demonstration of potential of the concept of a Human Rights Scorecard for candidates. **We look forward to what others are able to improve upon and build from this effort.**

CONCLUSION

This is our initial attempt at externalizing the human rights positions of current and future office holders. This is meant to be instructive and useful for Seattle voters. We make no claims about the authoritativeness of the produced human rights scorecard. We should also make it clear that the scorecards are not endorsements from the Commission of any of the candidates evaluated.

These scorecards are produced as a service; a service that we hope is useful. **As a human rights city, Seattle, and its elected leaders, have a responsibility to ensure that every Seattle resident has the ability to fully exercise their rights** (as stipulated in the 30 Articles of the UDHR), and that policymaking and decision-making always utilizes a human rights lens; ensuring the protection of everyone's human rights. This tool is the start of one of the critical components in the City's toolbox for making that possible.

We hope that other researchers, human rights activists, advocates, and allies will 1) utilize the mechanisms, assumptions, and details of our framework to conduct human rights evaluations for other electoral races and for other current and future office holders, and 2) leverage and improve upon our humble beginnings to create more robust and customized scorecards for their environment.