



Alex Cooley Urbanist Questionnaire 2023
Seattle City Council, District 3

What is your preferred Comprehensive Plan housing growth alternative and why?

My preferred alternative is #6. There are lots of reasons for this but it is simply because it creates appropriate density across the city at a rate that is necessary to combat our low level of housing stock in an inclusive manner.

What investments do we need to make to achieve our housing affordability goals, and what should those goals be? Do you support the Housing Levy?

I would say the most obvious investment would be in the PDA put forward by I-135. We must appropriately invest in this to allow it to be successful. In addition we must reform SDCI in a way that creates more efficiency and a better culture. Yes, I do support the Housing Levy.

Under what circumstances would you support pedestrianizing streets that are currently open to cars? *

I am a big supporter of this in many scenarios. Circumstances where this is most obviously needed are existing zones with high foot traffic such as Pike Place Market and the Pike/Pine nightlife core of Capitol Hill.

What is your approach to generating progressive revenue for the city?*

Expanding the Jumpstart Tax, instituting a real estate tax on the sale of homes over \$3m, creating a wealth tax, and working with our state electeds to create an income tax.



What is your position on impact fees?*

I'm all for them, but with all things like this we must make sure there is relief for historically marginalized communities.

What items do you view as essential to the next Seattle transportation levy due in 2024? *

Bicycle safety, arterial roadway maintenance, neighborhood greenways, and bridge maintenance.

Would you vote to approve completing the streetcar network via the Center City extension and work with the mayor to prioritize funding and building it?*

Yes, and I would push for adding a northern line connecting Capitol Hill and South Lake Union.

Under what circumstances are homeless encampment removals appropriate?*

When there are truly appropriate connections to homes — not congregate or “enhanced” shelters — that lock, allow pets, allow partners, and offer adequate supportive services. Or, if necessary and desired by the person being asked to leave, to inpatient treatment for substance use disorder or mental illness.

Hiring incentives haven't worked so far to attract additional police officers to the Seattle Police Department. How can the City promote public safety in such an environment?*

Stand up a third leg that is unarmed, similar to what we have seen with the Cahoots program in Eugene. In addition we need to create our own public safety academy,



both to move personnel more quickly into service and to ensure we have high quality, public-service-oriented people entering the public safety profession.

What is the appropriate role for the Seattle Police Department to play in creating public safety in Seattle? What would a police contract that encourages safety look like? What does the next police contract need to have in order to earn your vote of approval?*

Police should be dealing with violent and dangerous crimes as well as organized and sophisticated criminal networks. Everything else should be handled by unarmed public safety professionals. A contract that does not include qualified immunity would be one that encourages public safety and would be one that I would vote for.

How can Seattle encourage more people to ride transit?*

Make it clean, safe, abundant, and, most importantly, free.