



Maren Costa Urbanist Questionnaire 2023

Seattle City Council, District 1

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

Alternative 6 is my preferred alternative to the comp plan, and the one I will vote for in 2024 if elected. I think it's the only alternative that would end the prevalence of single family zoning and provide anti-displacement framework. One of my campaign priorities is allowing for four floors and a corner store in every neighborhood to provide for the kind of density our city actually needs.

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 do support the levy but we also need progressive revenue from large corporations to fill the gaps in the levy. 3,000 homes in the next year is a good start, but not enough to meet the actual demands of the city.

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

I think that we can create plazas and super blocks in parts of the city to reduce car use and create areas for recreation, community, and commerce. I'd like one around Alaska Junction in my district, for example.

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

I am in favor of any measures that tax the wealthiest and unburden workers and the middle-class. I think to avoid budget cuts, we need to generate revenue from giant corporations that are in our city.

What is your position on impact fees?



I think that they can be structured in a way that creates predictability for developers which will be important if they are assessed in Seattle to ensure important housing development and surrounding infrastructure doesn't cool amidst our housing crisis.

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

Transit, vision zero, equity, climate resiliency.

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

Under what circumstances are homeless encampment removals appropriate?

There are issues of public safety and fires, which may necessitate removal, but removal is not an answer for solving homelessness.

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?

We need a third public safety department for alternative response as well as data-backed prevention strategies like familial counseling, and youth music and sports programs.

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?

There needs to be a third public safety department and ways to eliminate the root causes of criminal behavior through familial counseling and other programs.

How can Seattle encourage more people to ride transit?



By making it harder to drive and by making public transit in Seattle free.