



## **Sarah Reyneveld Urbanist Questionnaire 2023**

King County Council, District 4

### **Would you vote to put a countywide transportation benefit district geared at boosting Metro transit service on the ballot, as had been proposed in 2020?**

Yes, absolutely. I will not only vote to put a countywide transportation benefit district on the ballot, but will: 1) work directly with my colleagues to gain the votes necessary to do so, and 2) use my position as a King County Councilmember to help build a coalition and successful campaign to pass a countywide TBD. As a transit rider, union member, and the only candidate to be endorsed by ATU 587, I am frustrated that transit service has languished since the pandemic, and Metro just announced 4% cuts. I am running to be a transit leader and will work directly with the Urbanist to make a countywide TBD a reality. I have already started working with a growing coalition of members of the Urbanist, Transit Riders Union, and Seattle Subway to help organize a Boost transit event, authored a successful resolution at the 36th District Democrats to bring a countywide TBD to the voters, and talked with Councilmembers about the need for a countywide TBD. A TBD is essential to: 1) restore and expand Metro Transit frequent, fast, reliable, safe, and convenient service; 2) help recruit operators; and 3) fund capital improvements.

### **As a King County Councilmember, there's a chance you'd be tapped to be on the Sound Transit Board of Directors. Would you seek such an assignment and how would you use such authority to improve outcomes?**

As a transit rider and advocate, I am running to be a transit leader on the King County Council and will affirmatively seek the assignment of Sound Transit Board member. I will use my authority to improve outcomes by: 1) improving rider experience. I will work directly with riders to seek their input directly at meetings, and advocate to bring a rider advocate to the Board as a non-voting member; 2) ensuring West Seattle and Ballard Link Expansions are expedited and/or delivered on-time, center rider experience, maximize ridership, and unlock opportunities for Transit Oriented Development. I will look for opportunities to expedite the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions and other parts of the Sound Transit expansion, and help to center riders in the design to maximize rider experience, increase



ridership, and unlock opportunities for TOD. I will also help advocate for a station West of 15th to connect the link to the heart of Ballard and prioritize pedestrian and bike access; and 3) increasing efficiencies and decreasing rider delays both in the day to day operation of Sound Transit and in consideration of the design of the expansion of the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions.

**What do you view as the top priorities for King County Metro over the next five years? How would you work to solve Metro's bus operator shortage?**

My top priorities for King County Metro and how I would work to fix them are as follows: 1) recruiting and retaining Metro bus operators and maintenance workers and addressing supply chain issues. I will work directly with ATU members to solve the Metro bus operator shortage by helping to negotiate a competitive union contract and ensure funding for pay increases and bonuses, and expand operator flexibility, including starting operators out at full-time if desired; 2) expanding frequency and reliability of service to include off peak hours to ensure that Metro services is quick, reliable, and convenient for all; 3) increasing routes and delivering on the vision of Metro Connects to bring more service to communities throughout King County, and address First and Last mile issues, and bus deserts. I will work with those disproportionately impacted by lack of access to transit options to further mobility access and justice; and 4) improving safety for bus operators and transit riders. I will work directly with those with lived experience including metro operators and riders to fully implement the metro ambassador program, develop a transit QR code system, and work to invest in upstream solutions to connect riders in crisis with resources.

**Do you support redeveloping King County's campus in Downtown Seattle as proposed by County Executive Dow Constantine? What would be your primary goals in such a redevelopment?**

Generally, I am supportive of the concept of redeveloping King County's campus in Downtown Seattle to advance sustainable and affordable residential and commercial development, but do not support the redevelopment as proposed. Specifically, I have concerns with eliminating the light rail station at 4th and Jackson and replacing it with the proposed station at the Administration Building because of the opposition of transit riders and community members who support the station at 4th and Jackson. I agree that the proposed Administration Building station could



have a negative impact on riders and the community, particularly seniors and people with disabilities that might be forced to transfer multiple times, and result in more difficult access to Amtrak and our sports arenas.

I do support redeveloping and revitalizing King County's downtown campus. My primary goals for such a redevelopment would be to create sustainable communities and neighborhoods with affordable housing, connectivity to transit, services, and amenities. King County needs to build at least 17,000 new homes per year and the county should leverage this opportunity to create multi-family affordable homes. I agree that as part of this plan King County should shutter and close the Courthouse and downtown jail which is obsolete.

**Recent state legislation will substantially impact residential zoning in much of King County. What role if any should the county have in supporting and shaping equitable development?**

King County has a critical role in supporting and shaping equitable development. As a King County Councilmember, I will work to center the voices of those disproportionately impacted to invest in equitable development to create vibrant and sustainable communities that promote equity and reduce racial disparities by working to: 1) proactively construct, acquire, and preserve affordable housing, missing-middle housing, and workforce housing and identify obstacles and strategies to construct more housing through vehicles such as Councilmember Zbahilay's missing middle housing resolution; 2) expand access to quality child care, job training, educational opportunities, and living wage-union jobs to advance economic opportunity and mobility; 3) promote transportation access, mobility justice, and Transit Oriented Development; 4) increase access to food safety and security through urban farming development; and 5) implement and build on legislation such as the Equitable Development Initiative to empower communities to prevent residential, commercial and cultural displacement, and advance economic opportunity and equitable housing access for all communities. I am proud to be endorsed by Councilmembers Zbahilay, Kohl-Welles, and Dembowski and am committed to continuing and expanding the Equitable Development Initiative grant's program which allocates capital funds and capacity building to prevent at risk communities from displacement.



**Historically, King County has often opted to contract with community-based organizations to provide social services (such as rental assistance, diversion services, etc). What do you think of this approach?**

As a member and rotating Chair of the King County Women's Advisory Board, I have engaged directly with and advocated for increased funding for community-based organizations that are providing services for communities throughout King County, including, but not limited to services for survivors of gender-based violence. I have seen the positive and transformative impact community-based organizations have on communities. I agree with the King County's approach to invest in community-based organizations because to paraphrase Councilmember Zahilay, disproportionately impacted community members are often "closest to the pain" and should be empowered to create and effectuate community-based solutions. To dismantle systems of racism and injustice and drive transformative change, government at all levels should invest in and empower community-based organizations to advance community solutions that center community needs. That requires investing in community based-organizations that can co-create systematic change and drive positive and transformative outcomes for communities. King County has more work to do to assist with evaluating outcomes and capacity building and infrastructure for community-based organizations to help to ensure they are best meeting community needs. If elected, I am committed to working to ensure that King County is expanding support for community-based organizations through capacity building and technical assistance.

**Seattle remains the primary funder of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) while other cities in the region do not contribute directly. Do you support increasing funding to the KCRHA and, if so, how?**

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority has embarked on transformative work to facilitate a regional approach to end homelessness by centering the experiences of those living with homelessness, investing in physical and behavioral health, and increasing access to deeply affordable housing. I am supportive of KCRHA's ambitious five year plan, but know it will take dramatic investment to scale up both temporary shelter and permanent housing units to house the estimated 62,000 people that were homeless in 2022. KCRHA has demonstrated some initially successful outcomes by moving 4,500 individuals, couples, youth, and families into housing, but it will take significant investment of additional resources to dramatically



scale up temporary shelter, permanent housing, and behavioral health care to meet King County's housing needs. I support increasing funding to KCRHA to help better achieve its five year plan, but believe that in addition to Seattle, King County and some of the County's northern cities, that other cities in the region should contribute directly to fund this regional plan to help end homelessness. It will take a coordinated and equitable regional approach from all King County cities to invest in and scale up transformative solutions to end homelessness in our region.

**In 2018, the King County Affordable Housing Task Force [reported](#) that the County needs about a quarter million net new affordable homes by 2040 to address the housing affordability crisis. Since then we're nowhere near that trajectory. How can the County boost affordable housing production?**

If elected to King County Council, I want to work with my fellow Councilmember and those with lived experience to implement urgent solutions to boost affordable housing production consistent with the recommendations of the King County County Affordable Housing Task by: 1) constructing, preserving, acquiring and subsidizing deeply affordable and workforce housing at or below 50% AMI; 2) expanding missing-middle housing, maximizing transit oriented development, and providing technical assistance to design inclusionary housing programs; 3) preserving access to affordable homes for renters and fighting against displacement by building on King County's Equitable Development Initiative and increasing renter protections; 4) decreasing costs and barriers to build and operate affordable housing, including streamlining the permitting process; and 5) expanding and preserving homeownership opportunities for BIPOC and low-income households. I will work with my colleagues across King County to advocate to maintain and increase federal and state resources and leverage private funding options to construct and support the creation and preservation of housing in King County. I will also advocate for a dedicated Countywide funding source to ensure that all cities are helping to create and preserve affordable housing to meet the goals of the Regional Affordable Housing Taskforce.

**What are your top public health priorities for your potential term?**

King County is in a public health crisis resulting from the pandemic, climate crisis, and racism that is disproportionately impacting Black, Indigenous, and communities of color, youth, seniors, immigrants, those with disabilities, and other marginalized



communities. If elected, I am very interested in serving on the Board of Health. My top public health priorities are as follows: 1) increasing food security and empowering local communities to create opportunities to become food producers, including increasing access to urban and rural farmland and ensuring tribes have access to traditional food sources. As a member of the King Conservation District Advisory Board, I want to work with the KCD to continue to empower local and urban farmers; 2) protecting clean water and preventing pollution from our wastewater and stormwater; 3) improving youth health through investments in Best Starts for Kids, quality child care, child dentistry, and child care health programs; 4) increasing community and climate resilience; 5) dismantling racism as a public health crisis through upstream community-based investments such as the community fund; and 6) urgently addressing the behavioral and public health crisis by working with the community to ensure equitable implementation of the crisis care centers levy and investing in treatment.

### **How would you work to eliminate jail deaths in King County facilities?**

The deaths and conditions at the King County Correctional Center downtown are unconscionable, and show that the King County Council is not providing sufficient oversight, staffing, and adequately investing in upstream solutions and effective diversion programs to limit the population of the King County jail facilities. I am committed to investing in immediate solutions to address the overcrowding, understaffing, use of solitary confinement - which should be banned, and delays in medical treatment and eventually to achieve Executive Constantine's vision of closing the downtown King County Correctional Facility. If elected, I will work with urgency to eliminate deaths at the jail by providing incentives and supports to address the staffing crisis to stop the use of solitary confinement, facilitate access to court and medical appointments, invest in behavioral health and substance use disorder services, and harm reduction programs such as the peacekeeper program. I will also increase investments in preventing and reducing incarceration through upstream investments in housing, behavioral health and treatment, and the expansion of effective diversion programs such as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion and CO-LEAD. The downtown King County Correctional facility is obsolete, outdated, and failing our most vulnerable individuals, and I will work towards closing the downtown jail.