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Seattle City Council, Position 8

What strategy to increase public safety will be your focus?

We are currently in a state where uniformed officers are being called upon to respond to a myriad of social conditions and emergency situations that would be more appropriately addressed by a social worker or other kind of emergency responder. Further, we know that our safest communities are well resourced communities. To improve safety, I will:

Continue and scale our investments in programs like Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, Community Passageways, and others that help restore lives, prevent violence, and end cycles of incarceration and generational harm.

Scale and coordinate our alternative response system alongside the CARE Team and Health One in service of creating a system that supports not only a quick response time, but also provides the right responder for a given public safety situation.

Work at the grassroots, city, and state level to keep guns out of the hands of our youth, dangerous individuals, and people at risk of harming themselves or loved ones.

Invest in upstream solutions that make our communities safer from housing all of our neighbors and making sure all households have their basic needs met.

Combat the overdose epidemic by increasing access to community-based treatment.

Work to implement necessary police accountability measures.

The 2018 police officers guild contract stripped out police accountability measures passed the previous year. The 2020-23 contract just ratified also walks



back accountability. What would need to be in the next police contract to earn your vote?

As someone who has stood with the community in calls for police accountability since 2015, I will continue to demand accountability and justice for all in my role as a council member.

The next contract would need to include true accountability measures such as increased civilian oversight through swapping our positions in OPA from sworn officers to civilians, and allowing the 2017 accountability ordinance to be fully implemented. Actions to change the culture of SPD are another element that needs to be included—the continued issues of racism and sexism within the department must be addressed. These persisting issues also threaten the safety of our communities. I support all forms of training from anti-bias, anti-racism, and de-escalation training as well as disciplinary actions/protocols to ensure sworn officers do not engage in discriminatory behavior or practices. Ratifying contracts without these critical accountability measures doesn't make us safer; in fact, they only continue to sow distrust.

Lastly, I support the creation and investment into an effective third department of public safety that could do alternative responses—our next police contract cannot limit the types of wellness calls that the CARE team can respond to.

How do you intend to tackle Seattle's large general fund deficit, which could reach a half billion dollars by 2025?

Our city is facing a budget crisis that puts critical funding for human services, housing, food programs, and other essential services at risk of cuts or elimination. We need to both maximize current resources, and look at realistic progressive revenue options that can help fill the gaps in our budget without increasing the burden on lower income and working Seattle residents.

I am the only candidate in this race who has consistently supported the need for progressive revenue. To keep our programs and services, I will:



Build a coalition across communities, organizations, and elected officials to explore progressive revenue options, ensuring we protect programs and corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share.

Protect and defend Jumpstart funding – designated towards affordable housing, equitable development, and Green New Deal initiatives – from long-term backfilling of the General Fund.

Explore additional revenue options – including a local capital gains tax, high payroll tax, and real estate transfer tax – that can generate revenue to fund programs that address our city's most critical issues.

Work with Seattle's state delegation to explore how the Legislature can create more revenue options for municipalities.

Do the hard work to balance our budget and represent community priorities.

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. As a renter and transit rider who chooses to not own a car, I am personally aware of the challenges we face as a city to provide carbon-free (and car-free) mobility options. To meet climate goals and improve safety and mobility no matter how you get around our city, I am committed to a safe, multi-modal transportation system that works for everyone.

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

"One of my top priorities is to create urban spaces where everyone can live, work, and play safely and equitably. I would support pedestrianizing streets (especially in areas with high levels of foot traffic, like Pike Place Market) under the circumstances that this change would improve the experience for those walking, biking, and rolling, as well as make navigating our city easier, reduce automobile crashes, lower carbon emissions and increase public safety.



However, none of this should happen without first providing opportunities for the public to weigh in. I firmly believe in the power of co-governance and in the maxim "nothing about us, without us". In all of my work, both in my career and as an organizer, I have practiced co-governance by actively engaging with community organizations, co-developing strategies, seeking input from community members, and taking the lead from communities into my policy and planning work. We must do work this way to ensure that we do not craft policies that create another legacy of harm."

What is your preferred growth strategy from the draft Comprehensive Plan and why? What amendments would you make to the mayor's plan?

To address the housing crisis, advance racial equity, and meet our climate goals, I support the following changes to the draft Comprehensive Plan:

Allow for more family-sized homes in middle housing by increasing the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for fourplexes and six-plexes.

Align Seattle's middle housing standards with the Department of Commerce model ordinance.

Create development incentives such as floor area ratio bonuses, for both stacked flats and family-sized homes.

Allow more homes near transit to give people more choices in how they get around their neighborhoods and make transit a convenient option for more people. Specifically allowing $\frac{1}{4}$ mile around bus service, and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile around light rail.

Expand the number of Neighborhood Centers to create lively, walkable community hubs throughout Seattle by reintroducing previously studied options.

Grow the proposed Neighborhood Centers from 800 ft to at least $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Promote equitable development and develop an anti-displacement strategy that focuses on community wealth building for Black, Indigenous and communities of color.



Create density, floor area, and height bonuses for affordable rental housing, social housing development, and homeownership.

Support technical assistance and land use incentives for homeowners interested in redevelopment.