



Fred Grant Urbanist Questionnaire 2024

Washington Governor

What are your policy priorities regarding the climate and decarbonization, and how does the Climate Commitment Act fit into that?

I plan to uphold the Climate Commitment Act and fulfill it. First and Foremost, encourage others to reduce carbon prints in their daily lives. Support The UN's ActNow Campaign, they have an app! TerraCycle works with government agencies and I want to see if they can help. Recycle and reuse toys, cigarette waste. Transport is ¼ of greenhouse gas emissions- invest in clean energy technologies - trains and metros. See if we can encourage homes and units to be built with energy efficient LED lights and other appliances. Reduce Soil tillage by incorporating compost practices statewide – good for corn and soybeans! See if we can encourage not leaving fields fallow without crops. Require car emissions tests once per year can help. I think this will generate money for the state and also see if it can lower car insurance if it is done.

How do you plan to leverage the governorship to reduce homelessness in the state and increase housing affordability?

First, I would like to address homelessness. Raise awareness and support for the HEN Program – Administered by WA State Department of Social and Health Services – provides housing assistance and essential needs. RV encampments are an issue and my solution is owners must prove that it can be mobile. Removing “Opt-in” for checking in at shelters, makes more accurate bed counting. Outreach, outreach, outreach!- goal to establish permanency.



As for housing affordability, Washington is facing major growing pains. I want to limit flipping time on houses, increase non-market housing significantly, Regulate investment firms and individuals from buying up properties and raising rents, maintain rent controls, and create more dense housing and zoning reform. We can expedite the application for rezoning by: keeping lawyers on retainer for these situations, making sure current system grid has environmental concerns logged and linked, and making sure pre-application meetings or information is available and updated. I also want to have AI system check application or have fields that are easy to understand. This will help make it so unfinished applications cannot be submitted.

**Would you sign into law a bill implementing or allowing for rent stabilization?
Why or why not?**

This touches on some things I mentioned in the previous question. Investment firms and individuals buying up many properties and raising prices has become a major issue. I will come up with some regulations around this and maybe even have them pay fees to help support non-market housing. I want to also make sure rent controls are implemented and upheld.

Do you plan to work to expand state taxes during your time in office and if so, where would you begin?

I eventually want to break away from this regressive tax system. Although, I do not plan to implement this immediately, I believe we are taxing people unfairly and letting the upper class and monopolistic companies get away with too much. I want to raise the capital gains tax to 9% at sale of bonds and stocks above 250,000. I want to identify and close any outdated corporate loopholes. Implement a luxury goods



tax of 1%. I really want to audit areas of waste, implement AI or automation where we can, and then reallocate the funds to places where they are needed the most.

How do you view the issue of preempting local control to allow construction of uses that have often gone unpermitted, including denser housing and emergency and transitional housing?

I think as long as local control doesn't break any laws and makes decisions for the greater good then it should be acceptable. In my experience, many individuals tend to be against this out of selfish or short-sided reasons. We are in a housing crisis and if there are opportunities to expedite processes then we need to do all that we can to meet those needs. If the purpose of these practices are to meet statewide priorities then I will support it.

Do you think Washington can build its way out of traffic congestion? If so, what does that look like to you in your role as Governor, and what steps would you take to reduce traffic congestion? If not, why not?

We need to take advantage of our technology. The pandemic proved that many jobs can be done remotely. I think as long as people keep a Washington State ID and check in once per week then they should be encouraged to work from home. This will significantly reduce congestion and allow people to live all over the state. (I can elaborate more later.)

Our past city planners made a mistake by planning everything around the automobile and it has led to our current issues. All local and statewide city planning



needs to be built around trains and metros going forward. I will ensure our metros and trains continue to expand and be built.

What policies do you plan to implement to ensure better mental health treatment availability in our communities? Please elaborate on your views of community-based treatment centers and coercive or carceral treatment, and what options you would seek to prioritize. Second, what funding mechanism would you use to build out mental health services in our communities?

I think allocation of state funds to enhance services like crisis hotlines, counseling centers, and community programs. Supporting school counselors and mental health programs can go a long way. Some students may feel too intimidated or shy to reach out and we need ways to address that upon the start of each school year. Advocate for workplace policies to prioritize mental health, stress management programs, flexible work hours, and create supportive environments. I find that companies that care retain their employees more and they are happier. Promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, LGBTQ press 3 or text "Q." Apple Health/ Medicaid make sure it stays funded and veto any legislature trying to do away with it. Raise awareness for the Washington Recovery Help Line – offers 24hr emotional support and referrals. I will advocate with the state legislature to include mental illness as part of basic health insurance coverage here in WA. This may require taxes to be raised slightly, but if we can also pass laws that require healthcare to be transparent and create competition within that industry then it will make extremely more affordable.

What is your vision for expanded rail in between Portland and Vancouver and how will you help Washington achieve it through federal funding and budget writing?



I mentioned a little of this earlier with city planning revolving around metros, trains, and walking going forward. I want to have a bullet train go from Portland to Seattle and then north to Vancouver. I believe this will increase tourism, commuting, business, and connectivity. I would like to see this funded by our federal government, but if not then I will utilize the funding through my other saving elsewhere to help get this done in an expedited manner.