



Jason Call Urbanist Questionnaire 2024

US House, Congressional District 2

What is your top priority for the upcoming term, and how will you achieve it?

Ending the genocide in Gaza, using my voice nonstop to hold our own government accountable for violating both international and domestic law, and stopping continued funding for the wholesale slaughter that I cannot believe we are still seeing day after day while the Biden administration denies a genocide is taking place. It is the only thing that matters right now. If the genocide has ended my top priority is addressing climate change through ending the use of fossil fuels, and investing in a REAL Green New Deal that will implement the many policies that the climate future is demanding of us in order to survive as a species. That is a future not dominated by corporations and driven by profit instead of real human needs.

How will you prioritize investments and policies at the federal level to support cities in the Puget Sound region in their efforts to reduce car dependence and traffic deaths and prioritize walking, biking, and public transit?

I have lived in Western Washington since 1983. Pierce County (Jr High / High School) until 1989. King County (UW '94, M.Ed '04) until 1996. Snohomish County since 1999, where I spent the majority of my high school teaching career. I have seen traffic grow from "it gets a little heavy downtown on Friday afternoon" to "I really don't want to go to Seattle ever if I can avoid it because there is no good time to be on the road." Our electeds have seen the area grow in population exponentially year after year (because folks who recognize what climate is bringing know we are one of the best places for now and also the future) but have done not even the bare minimum to



address traffic infrastructure and public transportation in Seattle and on the outlying areas and freeway. What we have is unsustainable and contributes to further climate degradation. We need to see the train coming and pull out all the stops to get cars off the road and build more rail, more in city FREE public transportation, and more public transportation options to the suburbs.

How do you plan to address the housing affordability crisis through federal policy, including increasing the supply of affordable housing near jobs and transit?

We need to severely curb (or end outright) speculation in real estate. Land is finite and the population is always going to grow. We can't have hedge funds buying up real estate and using it to squeeze rents, which are quietly the primary driver of inflation. I've seen the land values in Seattle literally triple from 2000 to 2020. And it is not slowing down. So we need do need immediate action on market real estate, which ultimately should no longer be a thing. We need a vacancy tax. We need rent control. And we need Housing First policies. As a high school teacher of 18 years, I saw the direct impacts of homelessness on children. It horrifies me that there is such vast wealth while kids are sleeping in cars. I'll add also, that we need dedicated safe public housing for women and children. Not unsafe shelters. But for all people, too. Homelessness is a symptom of a diseased political system. End the war on drugs. End the war on poverty. Institute a federal jobs guarantee. Guarantee healthcare, especially mental healthcare. And provide housing. It's not that hard if the goal of government is to help people.

How will you support urban growth that focuses on building up existing urban areas rather than sprawling out into wilderness and agricultural land?



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This is very leading question, but I am in agreement that we need lots of multi family housing options in urban areas that we currently do not have. So people will have to accept that our cities will be more crowded, and with that will be the demand for more and better public transportation, people can't all have cars in the city and we actually need that parking garage space for homes and businesses. That in city multi family housing has to be affordable and therein lies the problem. I actually inspect commercial properties for a living for safety (I work for a property insurance company). I've seen many of the new apartment and condo building in Seattle over the last five years. 800 sq ft selling for \$500k. And the 3br apartment on 7th by UW I roomed in in 1990 cost \$800 in rent then, now \$2700. We can't address better urban housing until we address rents and the real estate market (which I'm all for). We need to be about housing and not housing profits, then we can address the urban growth issue competently

How will you work to address climate change and environmental justice through federal policy?

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Climate should be our top priority, domestically, globally, with foreign policy, with international trade. I actually think the human race has written itself out of history, we've just yet to read the final page. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't fight like hell to prevent that story finish. I probably shouldn't be that honest running for office, but that should give you an idea of how much I'll make it a priority to get off fossil fuels (the only pathway that doesn't lead to our doom). I do not expect either fossil fuels and way machine owned party to do anything at all meaningful. The military budget continues to grow out of bounds, and as you know, the U.S. military is the number



one non-state polluter and emitter of greenhouse gases. As a nation, it would rank around 25th most consumptive country. Do we have the wherewithal to be honest about what addressing climate will mean, to the U.S. military (and our reckless global hegemony), to our personal transportation, to our use of plastics, and so on. There's a lot that can and should be done. I will be the sole voice urging the public to make those demands. My climate policy is listed on my website www.callforcongress.com/issues

How do you propose to improve public safety in urban areas without further contributing to mass incarceration and racialized oppression?

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We need radically different models of public safety and more cops is not it. I am a police abolitionist, which does not mean I do not want public safety. Of course I do. It simply means I recognize that our current system of largely unaccountable policing does not give us that. We should end the 1033 program which militarizes the police, turning them into an army rather a public safety force. We need to stop the construction of the nearly 70 "cop cities" nationwide, which will be training cops in militarized urban warfare. Most police response does not need to be armed or oppressive, yet it is, which is counterproductive to public safety. We need to focus on rehabilitation, mental healthcare, and we need to end poverty. 95% of crime is not violent crime, it is property crime, crimes of despair, a criminal sector that could be virtually eliminated if we simply had an economy that worked for everyone. Housing, healthcare, education, a living wage. I support justice and accountability for violent crime, which may include rehabilitation and may include incarceration but incarceration should be reserved for violent and premeditated crimes, sexual and predatory crimes, for which recidivism is a concern. This is simply not most crime. And where some form of incarceration is appropriate, if house arrest can be applied



then it should be. The current carceral system is inappropriate for most offenses and having more of it doesn't make us safer in either the short or long term. It is also classist in the extreme. If you can buy your way out of jail, then we don't have equal justice. Also, the "white collar crime" that largely doesn't get prosecuted because the legal system targets poor people does far more public damage than the petty property crimes that get sensationalized as "crime going up, be afraid!" The whole 2008 Great Recession was a criminal conspiracy that we literally ended up bailing out (and then voting back in office the people who did the bailout). Doesn't this all strike you as backwards?

The conservative movement has orchestrated a takeover of the Supreme Court and many of the lower courts, installing partisans willing to legislate from the bench, eroding reproductive rights and protections for voters, workers, and consumers. What do you aim to do about it? How can we prevent judicial overreach?

The Supreme Court is a rogue institution but I have yet to see Democrats commit to expanding the court and installing their own judges. Apparently only Republicans are willing to exercise power when they have it. Then again if the best Democrats can muster is Merrick Garland, it's time for lowered expectations. I worked the ballot initiative I-735 for Move to Amend, and of course I support repealing Citizens United. But that's only part of the problem. We have a political system entirely controlled by corporate money. That money is conservative money. It always is. So we get the best government that corporate money will buy, which means our institutions work for the ownership and investor class but not the majority of working people. We don't have judicial overreach so much as we have corporate overreach. End pay to play politics. Institute public financing of elections. Implement ranked choice voting. We don't currently have a functional democracy, if we're willing to admit it. But if those things are done, we might actually get the other things we need (aforementioned



healthcare, education, climate justice, and so on). As to the Supreme Court itself, expand the court to 15 seats and end lifetime appointments. Ten years is good enough. Anyway, I'm running against a corporate owned lifer whose biggest contributor in 2022 was AIPAC and who will never fight for the things I've identified in my answers here. Solidarity.