



Larry Springer Urbanist Questionnaire 2024

State Representative, LD45, Position 2

Do you think Washington state should have an income tax (yes/no)? If yes, what is the legislative path? If not, what forms of progressive revenue would you champion?

While an income tax is a more progressive form of taxation our constitution and the recently adopted initiative it nearly impossible to contemplate and income tax anytime soon. Rather we should continue support for the capital gains tax, working families tax credit and a wealth tax.

How would you vote on a transit-oriented development bill without an explicit affordability mandate and why?

I would advocate a bill with affordability mandates. If that is not possible politically I would support a bill that [provides significant densities around transit centers. We should not give up on increased densities in a TOD bill simply because it did not include everything we wanted. [Policy development is incremental and requires a long range view.

Do you support the rent stabilization and renter protection bill (HB 2114) that made it through the State House last year? If so, how would you approach ensuring its passage in both chambers?

Yes, I voted for the bill. The work is in the Senate so early lobbying is critical.



What are the highest priority items on your housing agenda?

Helping cities adopt land use regulations and zoning codes that significantly increase densities primarily by using incentives and revenue sharing.

What's your roadmap to fixing educational inequities in Washington state? How can Washington state comply with its constitutional duties regarding education, especially in light of several school districts including Seattle's contemplating school closures to grapple with deficits?

We should encourage the establishment of more choice schools whether within a district like Lake Washington or independently of existing districts.

The state is the funder of K-12 system. We should be increasing funding for paraeducators to address the needs of Special Ed students thereby reducing the need for districts to use levy funds for that element of basic education.

What share of the state's transportation budget should be for alternatives to cars, such as transit, biking, and pedestrian infrastructure?

Impossible to adequately arrive at a set percentage. The needs are widely variable across the state. A larger share than we allocate now particularly in urban areas.

Do you support permitting jurisdictions to choose to hold elections in even years? What other election reforms excite you?



I support giving them that option with a few safeguards such as preserving the right to revert to normal cycles if necessary. I am interested in ranked choice voting but have not made a definitive decision as yet, but I am warming to the idea.

Due to the interventions of ballot-initiative-monger Tim Eyman and a state legislature that caved to him even after a lawsuit overturned the measure in 2007, Washington State has a 1% cap on property tax increases, greatly tying the hands of local governments and forcing them to use ballot measures to fund basic services. Do you think this cap should remain? If so, what tools will you give local governments to deal with the [fiscal cliff they're facing](#)?

I guess your point of view is pretty clear! That said I agree with you, we should repeal the cap. I would entertain a number of replacement options. However this is one of the most politically charged tax policies in Olympia and has been for a very long time.