



Victoria Hunt Urbanist Questionnaire 2024

State Representative LD5, Position 1

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?

Yes, I support implementing a progressive income tax in Washington state. The legislative path would involve significant momentum around tax reform, building bipartisan support, and educating the public on its benefits. If an income tax is not feasible, I would champion alternative forms of progressive revenue such as protecting our capital gains tax and closing loopholes for large corporations. These measures ensure that the burden of funding essential services is shared equitably, promoting economic justice and stability for all Washingtonians.

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

As someone with a long history of advocacy for Transit Oriented Development (TOD), I understand its potential for creating sustainable communities. I would approach a TOD bill lacking an explicit affordability mandate with caution. Affordability is crucial for ensuring equitable access to housing. Without a mandate (and supportive funding and incentives) there's a risk of exacerbating housing affordability challenges and contributing to gentrification, potentially displacing vulnerable communities. Therefore, I would advocate for amendments to include affordability in the bill, and would advocate for supportive funding and incentives for developers for TODs to be built.

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 support HB 2114 for rent stabilization and renter protection! To ensure its passage in both chambers, I'll focus on education, coalition-building, and bipartisan collaboration, addressing concerns and negotiating amendments as needed.

What are the highest priority items on your housing agenda?

As a former Affiliate Faculty member of UW Urban Design and Planning, addressing the state's housing crisis is one of my top priorities and one of my main motivators for running for office in the first place. My priorities revolve around housing justice, focusing on affordability and promoting diverse housing options. I'm committed to collaborating with cities to introduce 'missing middle' housing types and smaller units, crucial for meeting our region's housing needs. I understand the challenges faced by both homeless families and working families struggling with rising costs, which is why I strongly advocate for tenant protections and support initiatives like those proposed by ARCH. My track record on the Issaquah City Council speaks to my dedication to tenant rights and affordable housing, earning support from organizations like FUSE in my prior campaigns. Additionally, I push for state-level actions such as direct investments in the Housing Trust Fund and land use regulations that encourage housing diversity and affordability. It's essential to update our land use laws to diversify housing stock beyond only allowing single-family homes, acknowledging the adverse effects of such zoning on equity, opportunity, and the environment.

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?

As a scientist and as a mom, I will fight for the ability of educators to teach fact-based curriculum. As a mom to two young children, both of which are in the Spanish dual language program in our local public school, I will be a champion for a public school system that meets the needs of parents, educators, and students. As a City Councilmember, I'm familiar with the



needs of students and educators in my city, and I will also be well served by my habit of regularly and proactively reaching out to educational professionals to hear directly from them about what solutions will best address their needs. I understand that those closest to the problem are closest to the solution. I am also mindful and intentional in considering who will be most impacted by the decisions I make, who will potentially be harmed, and how the context around prior interactions with the government might impact the situation and the ability to engage in different mediums.

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

I advocate for budgeting towards multi-modal transportation and alternatives to cars, such as transit, biking, and pedestrian infrastructure. Allocating resources to such infrastructure reflects my commitment to promoting sustainable and accessible transportation options that reduce congestion, improve air quality, and enhance mobility for all residents. While specific percentages may vary depending on evolving needs and priorities, I prioritize investments in transit expansion, bike lanes, sidewalks, and other non-motorized infrastructure to create safer and more connected communities, and have done this previously as a city councilmember through my city's Master Mobility Plan.

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

Yes, I support permitting jurisdictions to choose to hold elections in even years. Consolidating elections can increase voter turnout and reduce costs for local governments. This seems to me to be a win-win. Other election reforms that excite me include expanding early voting opportunities, improving access to voter registration, and ranked-choice voting. Lastly, as a former member of the King Conservation District Advisory Board, I fully recommend moving these elected positions in King County to a regular ballot rather than its current online-only



ballot system that occurs at a unusual time which is unlike every other election in the county and state.

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 believe the 1% cap on property tax increases in Washington State should be rescinded. This cap severely restricts local governments' ability to adequately fund essential services, forcing them to rely on ballot measures for funding. I support granting local governments greater flexibility in obtaining the revenue needed to meet community's needs, implementing and expanding progressive revenue measures, or exploring innovative financing mechanisms.