



Yasmin Trudeau Urbanist Questionnaire 2024

State Senate, LD27

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 and I believe that it should be a progressive tax, starting with higher income earners. I also believe this is a fair share issue and should also be coupled with decreasing more regressive taxes that continue to burden those with the least, like sales tax.

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

I introduced a TOD bill that mandated affordability in 2024. I also voted for a bill in the 2023 session that did not have an affordability mandate. I think there are pros and cons to each but I believe that every day people want to ensure that we incorporate affordability into our housing supply efforts so it is imperative that we proceed with that intention in mind. I am a part of these ongoing policy discussions because we have a lot of development potential around transit but I also need to be sure, based on the experiences of communities like mine, that we are not adding to the displacement of current lower income residents. I also have supported TOD investments in the Capital Budget and those were unrestricted dollars that have already started to be put to use.



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 introduced the companion Senate bill and worked my tail off to get it through the Senate last session but we couldn't get there. I will stay at the table this year and until it is passed.

What are the highest priority items on your housing agenda?

I plan to pursue the Chair of the Capital Budget and continue to invest in affordable housing supply through the Housing Trust fund. I also plan to reintroduce rent stabilization in the senate and see that across the finish line.

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?

I don't represent Seattle so I am not sure I should speak to their challenges but I am all in on supporting the correction of the inequities of our educational system. I, myself, barely graduated due to adverse life experiences that impacted my attendance. These experiences have informed my approach and why I work to mentor and support youth in my district.



As far as the constitutional duties more broadly as schools across the state face enrollment issues and closures, I think there is a lot we can do to support families and educators in coming up with creative opportunities to close the gaps and keep our focus on how to reach kids and keep them engaged and working toward graduation. But this is where I believe that policy makers should be listening to educators and families about where the gaps are and what types of things we can be doing to support them. This may look different depending on the school district, region of the state and the unique supports that families in those areas might need.

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

As much as possible. We have to move away from our reliance on cars and provide the infrastructure for people to have alternatives. I recognize that we have a system built on cars, but I support moving away from that for the health of our state and the people living in it.

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

Yes. I believe that if we can streamline election years, we can support better voter turnout. Having been elected first in an odd year, it was shocking to see the turnout numbers and I think generally jurisdictions should be allowed to explore voting/election options that work for them.

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 signed on to the bill to lift this cap and I will keep my support for lifting it. This is an arbitrary cap that has hamstrung local governments and made them unable to keep up with and provide adequate services they are obligated to provide. We need to support our local governments and I believe this is one way we can do that.