



Andy Song Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Kent City Council, Position 6

What are your top three priorities to achieve in your term?

uplift local and small business, improve mental/physical health, urban planning for the future of kent

How will you boost housing options, particularly for families of all incomes to live where they work? How will you engage the public for new shelters, transitional housing, emergency housing, permanent supportive housing? How do you weigh community objections with the housing goals for your jurisdiction, while encouraging engagement from neighbors?

I believe every family deserves access to safe, stable, and affordable housing near where they work, learn, and access services. In my early career, I worked in low income housing and served as a street outreach case manager, supporting unhoused individuals and families. That experience showed me how critical it is to invest in a full continuum of housing, from emergency shelter to permanent supportive housing.

To expand housing options for all income levels, I support zoning reforms that allow greater density near transit, partnerships with nonprofit developers, and increased investment in affordable housing that prevents displacement. I will also champion public and private collaborations that prioritize long term affordability and community stability.



When it comes to shelters and transitional housing, I believe in transparent and early community engagement. This includes culturally responsive outreach and town halls that bring residents into the conversation. I take community concerns seriously but will center housing justice and the needs of vulnerable residents in policy decisions.

We cannot address public health, safety, or economic mobility without addressing housing. I will lead with compassion, evidence, and the belief that housing is a shared responsibility that benefits everyone.

Do you support adding progressive revenue sources? Which ones would you support to fund your priorities? Or what cuts would you make to balance budgets facing increasing strain under Trump?

Yes, I support adding progressive revenue sources. We cannot expect to build safe, equitable, and thriving communities while continuing to rely on regressive systems that disproportionately burden working families. As a city council candidate and someone who has worked in public health, education, and direct social services, I understand the importance of long-term investments in housing, behavioral health, and youth opportunity. These priorities require sustainable funding.

I would support exploring progressive revenue options such as a high earners income tax, excise taxes on luxury real estate transactions, and a payroll expense tax on large corporations with high-paid executives. We must ensure that those with the greatest capacity contribute their fair share to the collective well-being of our city.



At the same time, I believe we must protect essential services from cuts. Reducing investments in housing, public safety alternatives, education, or climate infrastructure would further harm the communities already hit hardest by federal disinvestment. Under increased strain due to national policies, local leadership must act with urgency, creativity, and equity.

What do you think is the most important strategy your jurisdiction can pursue to limit cost increases and make the region affordable to live in? How would you go about implementing that strategy?

One of the most important strategies our region can pursue to limit cost increases and improve affordability is to significantly expand access to affordable housing near jobs, transit, and schools. Housing costs are the single largest expense for most families, and when people are pushed farther from where they work and learn, it increases transportation costs and reduces quality of life.

As someone who has worked in low-income housing and provided direct services to unhoused individuals, I know we need to prioritize building deeply affordable housing, preserving existing units, and supporting rent stabilization policies. We can do this by reforming exclusionary zoning, streamlining permitting for affordable developments, and investing in land trusts and community-driven housing solutions.

Implementation requires political will, transparency, and community partnership. I would bring together city planners, nonprofit developers, neighborhood groups, and residents most affected by the affordability crisis to guide solutions. We must also



align our city budget with these goals, securing both public and private resources to build and preserve affordable housing long term.

Traffic deaths are rising across Washington state, with pedestrians composing an increasing share statewide. What is your approach to making our streets safer for all users?

Traffic violence is a growing public health crisis in Washington, especially for pedestrians and cyclists. My approach focuses on prevention through safer street design, equity, and community input. We must invest in infrastructure that slows traffic, improves visibility at crosswalks, expands protected bike lanes, and ensures sidewalks are accessible to people of all abilities. I support adopting a Vision Zero model that treats every death and serious injury as preventable. That includes prioritizing high-injury corridors for redesign and improving safe routes to schools, transit, and essential services. Education and community engagement must also be part of this effort, especially in neighborhoods historically overlooked in planning decisions. With my background in public health and community work, I will advocate for policies that protect our most vulnerable road users. Everyone deserves to feel safe moving through our city, whether they are walking, biking, using mobility devices, or riding transit.

What is your approach to improving public safety over the next five years? How will you actualize it?

My approach to improving public safety is grounded in prevention, trust, and community investment. As a former co-responder working alongside law



enforcement, I have seen firsthand how effective community-based crisis response can be. Co-responder models reduce unnecessary incarceration, improve outcomes for people in crisis, and strengthen trust between the public and law enforcement. Over the next five years, I will advocate for expanded crisis response teams that include mental health professionals and outreach workers. I will prioritize investment in youth programs, housing stability, and violence prevention strategies that address the root causes of harm. Public safety must include access to behavioral health care, trauma recovery, and economic opportunity. I will also support data transparency, accountability, and culturally responsive engagement to build public trust. My experience in public health, education, and direct service has taught me that safety comes from connection and care, not just enforcement.

How have federal funding cuts impacted your jurisdiction and how do you plan to address those impacts?

Federal funding cuts have deeply impacted South King County, particularly in housing, education, behavioral health, and transportation. Our region is home to many working-class families, immigrants, and communities of color who rely on federally supported programs for stability and opportunity. Cuts to housing assistance, public health grants, and school funding have strained local resources and widened existing disparities.

As a leader in public health and education, I have seen how these cuts force cities and counties to stretch limited budgets and delay critical services. To address this, I will advocate for stronger local investment in affordable housing, youth mental health, and public infrastructure. I will also work to secure state and private



partnerships to fill funding gaps, while building coalitions to push for federal reinvestment.

What are your views on the SeaTac Sustainable Airport Master Plan and how will it impact your jurisdiction? What plans do you have to address the impacts of the airport on your community?

The SeaTac Sustainable Airport Master Plan has significant implications for South King County. While I support efforts to modernize infrastructure and improve environmental efficiency, the expansion must not come at the expense of the health and well-being of surrounding communities. Residents in South King County, many of whom are low income and from communities of color, already face disproportionate impacts from airport noise, air pollution, and traffic congestion.

I will advocate for stronger mitigation strategies, including expanded soundproofing programs, air quality monitoring, and community health investments. It is critical that the Port of Seattle meaningfully engage with residents and local leaders to ensure the plan reflects community priorities.

King County has good policies and codes designed to protect agricultural, forest and rural lands, including our natural areas, waterways, and small rural communities. However, these policies and codes are too often not upheld and enforced. How will you ensure that rural lands are protected, and that violators are subject to enforcement?



Protecting agricultural, forest, and rural lands is essential to preserving the environmental health, food systems, and cultural heritage of King County. While the county has strong policies on paper, inconsistent enforcement undermines their effectiveness and damages community trust. As a city councilmember, I will advocate for greater transparency, accountability, and funding for enforcement agencies to ensure that environmental codes are upheld consistently. I will work to strengthen coordination between local jurisdictions and the county to identify and respond to violations more efficiently. I

Do you support camping bans or sweeps? If elected, how would you adapt or change current law/policies to protect and support our neighbors?

No, I do not support camping bans or sweeps. As a former housing street outreach social worker, I have seen firsthand the harm these actions cause. Sweeps displace people without offering meaningful alternatives, destroy their belongings, sever connections to services, and prolong the very crises we are trying to solve. They create instability and deepen trauma for individuals already navigating poverty, mental health challenges, and systemic barriers.

If elected, I will advocate for compassionate, housing-first policies that prioritize long-term solutions over punishment. This includes expanding access to transitional housing, low-barrier shelters, and culturally responsive services, as well as increasing funding for non-police crisis response teams and outreach programs that build trust over time.



We must invest in care, not criminalization. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and have access to safe, stable housing. I will fight for policies that reflect our shared humanity and build real pathways out of homelessness.

In what ways could your city's comprehensive plan go further, and what would you push for to improve it during your tenure?

Our city's comprehensive plan is a critical tool for shaping equity, growth, and sustainability, but it must go further in addressing the urgent needs of working families, renters, and youth. I would push for a stronger focus on deeply affordable housing, climate resilience, and community driven development that centers historically marginalized residents.

We need more aggressive strategies to expand housing options near transit and job centers, protect tenants from displacement, and preserve green space. I would also advocate for integrating mental and behavioral health infrastructure into long term planning, including access to services in schools, neighborhoods, and housing developments.

Community engagement must be more inclusive, accessible, and culturally responsive. Residents most affected by land use decisions, especially communities of color, low income families, and immigrants, deserve a real voice in shaping the future of their city. I will work to make our comprehensive plan a tool for justice, not just growth.