



## **Chris Reichley Urbanist Questionnaire 2025**

Issaquah City Council, Position 1

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

Affordable Housing, Public Safety, and Improving transit

**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?**

In order to boost housing options in Issaquah and encourage community engagement will take many different ways to address the community's concerns while prioritizing housing goals. I would be clear and transparent in my communication, connect with the community where they are, some examples going to various community events, communality club meetings, anywhere I can engage with the different groups within the community including the business community. When I weigh the community objections with the housing goals, I seek solutions that address the objections, use my collected data and research about housing initiatives, and make a decision that looks to balance community needs with individual rights in mind.

**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?**

I support progressive revenue sources that would align with the needs of the community and budget but ensure the revenue is being placed towards the specific need such as affordable housing, needed city infrastructure projects, and other public services. This can help lead to increased housing options, enhanced infrastructure, and a more sustainable future. If budget cuts are needed to balance the budget as a city we must first look to our strategic plan that establishes our priorities and prioritize our needs that are essential and necessary for the City to



function and then evaluate other wants within the budget and consider their value to the community. By carefully evaluating and prioritizing expenses can help make informed decisions on what needs to be cut back and where to allocate resources to achieve a balanced budget.

**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?**

Specifically, to Issaquah I feel increasing more affordable housing options/units and preserving what affordable housing we already have. As a city we have opportunity to remove zoning restrictions, provide development incentives such as fee waivers, and expedited permit processing, for developers who include affordable housing in the development projects.

**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?**

Increase and enhance crosswalk visibility by installation of brighter street lights, crosswalk signage/light system, higher another one or two traffic enforcement officers to better enforce traffic/speeding laws in neighborhoods and throughout the community.

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

My approach for improving public safety in Issaquah over the next five years is to ensure we continue to prioritize public safety in our budget allocation specifically police, fire, and emergency management. Continue to connect and engage with the community seeking what they feel is a priority within public safety, and ensure as a council we look to improve or implement laws/ordinances prioritizing traffic regulations and crime prevention. I would also continue to advocate for increased resources for emergency preparedness and awareness.



**The Eastside faces unique challenges when it comes to affordability, transit connectivity, and suburban versus city identity. What are your thoughts on how we can envision the future of urbanism on the Eastside?**

To be able to provide the ability to live, work, and engage in the city you call home is a vision I feel every city should have. To accomplish this on the eastside we must look for ways to increase affordable housing, make it easy for businesses to do business within the city, developers don't feel restricted to build, and encourage and support community engagement. Everyone wants what's best for their city.

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

I strongly support policies that prioritize public safety, including removal of camping bans and sweeps to ensure our public spaces are safe and accessible to everyone. If elected I would support looking into alternative solutions to address the cause for homelessness and look for a budget friendly way to provide alternative housing options and services similar to what Issaquah had in the past partnering with motel 6. Also finding community partners who could provide financial literacy, mental health support, and potential work/additional income options.

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

Having worked on the city's most recent comprehensive plan updates I would continue to push and improve our Regional Growth Center. Focusing and promote growth in the urban core regional growth center and the other areas designated for compact mixed-use development served by a full range of transportation options.