



Claire Sumadiwiryra Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Bellevue City Council, Position 5

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

Inclusive Housing Solutions: As someone who understands both business realities and community needs, I'll advance housing policies that create opportunities across the income spectrum. This means implementing middle housing strategies that increase supply while ensuring construction workers earn fair wages and can afford to live in the communities they build. I'll champion transit-oriented development that connects housing to jobs and services. Economic Opportunity for All: Through my social enterprise experience creating pathways for marginalized communities, I've seen how intentional workforce development transforms lives. I'll expand programs connecting residents to family-wage careers in construction, healthcare, and technology while supporting small businesses that anchor our neighborhoods and provide local employment. Community-Centered Public Safety: True safety comes from strong, connected communities. I'll prioritize investments in mental health resources, youth development programs, and community-based safety initiatives that address root causes rather than just symptoms. My experience working across diverse populations has shown me that equitable approaches build trust and create lasting safety. These priorities reflect my commitment to building a Bellevue where prosperity is shared, neighborhoods are vibrant and affordable, and every resident has opportunities to thrive in a community they can call home.

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?

Housing is a foundation for community stability, not a luxury. As housing costs push out teachers, nurses, and service workers, we must act decisively to create options for all income levels.

Boosting Housing Options: I'll advance middle housing strategies—duplexes, triplexes, and courtyard housing—near transit and job centers. Through my business experience, I understand how to structure incentives that make affordable units financially viable for developers while creating pathways for essential workers to live where they work. I'll champion anti-displacement protections and strengthen renter resources in multiple languages.

Community Engagement for Supportive Housing: Drawing from my work with marginalized communities, I'll lead transparent, culturally responsive engagement that centers affected residents' voices. I'll host community forums in multiple languages, partner with neighborhood leaders, and ensure that those most impacted by housing insecurity help design solutions.

Balancing Concerns with Goals: I approach community objections as opportunities for better design and stronger partnerships. Through inclusive dialogue, I help neighbors understand how thoughtful, supportive housing can enhance community safety and services. My collaborative approach transforms resistance into partnership by addressing legitimate concerns while maintaining our commitment to housing equity.



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 progressive revenue solutions. Washington's regressive tax code unfairly burdens working families while our wealthiest residents pay proportionally less. As a business owner, I understand how thoughtful revenue policy can strengthen rather than harm economic vitality.

I Support:

Development impact fees that help growth pay for the infrastructure it requires, while maintaining predictable costs for housing developers

Transportation benefit districts that create user-based funding for transit and mobility improvements

Progressive business licensing that scales fees based on company size and revenue

Regional approaches like potential capital gains taxes that wealthy residents can't easily avoid through jurisdiction shopping

Before New Revenue, Strategic Efficiency: I'll first pursue operational improvements: streamlining overlapping programs, expanding successful public-private



partnerships, and eliminating inefficiencies. I'll ensure transparent accountability with performance metrics and sunset clauses when new revenue is necessary.

Protecting Essential Services: Rather than cuts that harm vulnerable residents, I'll prioritize maintaining investments in housing, mental health services, and workforce development—services that generate long-term savings by addressing root causes rather than just symptoms.

My approach balances fiscal responsibility with community investment, ensuring Bellevue remains economically competitive while serving all residents equitably.

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?

The most important strategy is dramatically increasing housing supply through strategic middle housing implementation and streamlined development processes. As someone who understands both business realities and community needs, I know that shortages drive up costs, and sustainable affordability requires abundant options across all income levels.

Implementation Strategy: I'll advance middle housing policies that enable duplexes, triplexes, and small apartment buildings throughout Bellevue, particularly near transit and job centers. This creates the "missing middle" housing that working families, young professionals, and seniors need but can't currently find.



Streamlined Development Process: I'll champion permitting reforms that reduce timeline uncertainty and regulatory barriers while maintaining quality standards. Faster, predictable approvals lower development costs and savings to renters and buyers.

Balanced Tenant Protections: I'll support reasonable notice requirements for rent increases and relocation assistance for displaced residents, while avoiding policies that discourage new rental housing construction.

Regional Collaboration: I'll work with neighboring jurisdictions on coordinated zoning reforms and infrastructure investments that multiply our impact beyond city boundaries.

My social enterprise experience taught me that sustainable solutions address root causes rather than just symptoms.

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?

We need to invest in our transportation, including in our pedestrian safety. As we move towards a greener economy, there needs to be more emphasis on how our infrastructure supports our pedestrians, bikers, and everyone. I will champion legislation and planning efforts to increase pedestrian safety in walking areas. Additionally, I will work with our State Legislature and county officials to ensure our state laws hold people accountable for accidents involving pedestrians. We must



work together to align our policies, infrastructure, and legislation to ensure everyone's safety.

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

My approach combines strengthening our police department with addressing root causes that create unsafe conditions. Immediate Actions: Expand crisis response teams, pairing mental health professionals with police for non-violent calls, reducing inappropriate arrests while connecting people to services Implement traffic safety improvements, including protected bike lanes, pedestrian signals, and speed management in neighborhoods with high accident rates Strengthen community policing through regular officer presence at community events and multilingual outreach to immigrant communities Long-term Investments: Youth engagement programs provide mentorship, job training, and recreational opportunities that prevent crime before it occurs Environmental design standards require new developments to incorporate safety features such as improved lighting, clear sightlines, and active street frontages. Coordinated human services connecting housing assistance, mental health support, and substance abuse treatment to address underlying factors I'll create cross-sector partnerships between police, nonprofits, schools, and businesses, and establish quarterly community safety forums where residents can directly shape priorities and track progress on measurable outcomes. This comprehensive approach ensures Bellevue remains safe while building the connected, inclusive community that strengthens long-term safety for everyone.



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?

The Eastside's urban future must honor our "global city with a local heart" identity while creating opportunities for all residents. Our challenge is growing thoughtfully without losing the community connections that make us special. Transit-Oriented Communities: I envision vibrant mixed-use neighborhoods around light rail stations—places where residents can walk to coffee shops, transit, and services. This reduces car dependency while creating the economic activity that supports local businesses like mine. Inclusive Growth: Our urbanism must serve teachers, nurses, and service workers, not just tech executives. I'll champion middle housing near transit and job centers, ensuring the people who build and serve our communities can afford to live here. Eastside Identity: We can maintain our suburban character through design standards that prioritize human-scale development, abundant green space, and community gathering places. My experience creating inclusive spaces at Bellden Cafe shows how thoughtful development can strengthen rather than fragment communities. Community-Led Planning: True urbanism emerges from resident voices, not top-down mandates. I'll ensure those most impacted by growth—including immigrant families and longtime residents—help shape our urban future through accessible, multilingual engagement processes.

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 do not support camping sweeps. Sweeps are dehumanizing, immoral, and ineffective. We must move past the idea that simply displacing people is helping,



when it makes the problem worse. As a business owner, I understand the need for public safety, but as a person, I know compassion even more, and that's what we need.

Maintaining vibrant, safe public spaces while addressing homelessness requires compassion and practical accountability. As a business owner who has created inclusive community spaces, I understand that thriving public areas are essential for economic vitality and quality of life. I support a balanced approach where outreach teams connect individuals to appropriate services while maintaining clear community standards.

I would implement coordinated partnerships between law enforcement, social services, and business districts to ensure consistent, fair enforcement paired with genuine pathways to assistance. This includes alternative response teams for non-violent situations and targeted interventions for individuals with repeated violations who need specialized support. Focusing on practical solutions rather than ideological positions can reduce visible homelessness by respecting individual dignity while ensuring our parks, business districts, and neighborhoods remain safe and accessible for all community members. This approach delivers improved outcomes for vulnerable individuals and the well-maintained public spaces.

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



Our comprehensive plan needs stronger anti-displacement protections and clearer community engagement frameworks as Bellevue transitions into a denser, more urban city.

I'll push for specific policies including tenant relocation assistance requirements, affordable housing preservation tools, and "right to return" programs that prioritize displaced residents for new affordable units. We need measurable targets—not just aspirational language—for preventing displacement in neighborhoods experiencing rapid change.

The plan should mandate meaningful engagement with affected communities before development begins, not after decisions are made. I'll advocate for requirements that developers demonstrate how projects benefit existing residents through job opportunities, improved services, or community amenities.

I'll champion provisions requiring Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and Community Workforce Agreements (CWAs) on publicly funded projects, ensuring residents access family-wage work opportunities. Additionally, I'll push for inclusionary housing requirements that create affordable units within market-rate developments.

The plan needs enforcement mechanisms with regular reporting on displacement metrics, housing production targets, and community benefit outcomes. Without accountability measures, comprehensive plans become aspirational documents rather than actionable policy frameworks.



These changes ensure our growth strengthens existing communities rather than displacing them.