



Erika Evans Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Seattle City Attorney

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

1. Public Safety. 2. Restorative Justice. 3. Fighting Back Against Trump-Era Attacks.

As Seattle City Attorney, my top priorities are delivering real public safety, building a more restorative system, and using the legal tools of this office to push back on the kinds of rollbacks we're seeing from Trump and his allies. That means tackling the backlog in domestic violence and DUI cases, making sure property crimes that hurt small businesses are taken seriously, and bringing back a better version of Community Court—one that connects people to housing and services while still ensuring accountability.

It also means protecting workers. I've prosecuted wage theft cases and held employers accountable, and I'll bring that same focus to this office. Coming from a union family, I know how much fair pay and strong labor protections matter. I'll expand resources to enforce workers' rights and stand up for those being pushed to the margins.

Do you support adding progressive revenue sources? Which ones would you support or defend to fund city priorities?

The City Attorney doesn't set tax policy, but I strongly support fixing Washington's regressive tax code. We need bold, progressive revenue sources—like taxing extreme wealth and excess corporate profits—to fund housing, public safety, and community services.



How do you plan to defend Seattle under a Trump presidency?

Under a Trump presidency, Seattle needs a City Attorney who's not just willing—but ready—to fight back. I've seen firsthand how quickly civil rights can be rolled back, funding stripped from progressive cities, and vulnerable communities targeted. I left my role as a federal prosecutor because I couldn't serve under an administration that attacked the very principles of justice I swore to uphold.

As City Attorney, I'll strengthen the civil division to proactively defend Seattle—filing for injunctive relief, submitting amicus briefs, and taking legal action when federal overreach threatens our values. I'll work closely with the Attorney General, community leaders, and civil rights organizations to defend reproductive rights, gender-affirming care, public education, and programs that serve immigrants, LGBTQIA+ communities, and BIPOC residents.

I bring both lived experience and legal expertise to this fight, and I will ensure Seattle remains a city that protects, welcomes, and advocates for all who call it home.

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

Clear the backlog. Prosecute wage theft, DUI, domestic violence, and assault cases swiftly. Rebuild Community Court to address root causes and break cycles of instability.

As Seattle City Attorney, I'll lead with a public safety strategy rooted in accountability, prevention, and trust. This office is uniquely positioned to reimagine public safety through how we apply the law and what outcomes we prioritize. That means moving



from reactive prosecution to proactive justice—working in partnership with community organizations, health experts, and city departments to address root causes of crime.

I've spent my entire legal career working in public safety. As a federal prosecutor, I handled serious cases involving violence and trafficking, represented and advised the City on public safety matters, and investigated law enforcement officers for misconduct and excessive force. I've seen firsthand how broken trust undermines safety for everyone.

One step I'll take is expanding the role of precinct liaison attorneys. These attorneys are already embedded in police precincts, but their work can and should go further, providing training, improving communication, helping prevent harm, and reducing costly legal claims.

How do you plan to improve public safety for transit operators and riders, and boost ridership and transit accessibility? What is your approach to making our streets safer for all users, especially with pedestrian traffic deaths rising?

SDOT is a client of the Seattle City Attorney's Office. As the next City Attorney, I'll take seriously my responsibility to advise city departments, especially those involved in construction and transportation, on incorporating strong safety protections into every contract. Our office's legal guidance should reflect our commitment to building a safer, more livable city.

Everyone deserves to feel safe, whether walking, biking, driving, or taking transit. That starts with ensuring our laws support safe streets, holding dangerous drivers accountable, and supporting victims of traffic violence. As City Attorney, I'll prioritize



clearing the current backlog of traffic-related cases, including DUIs and reckless driving, so justice isn't delayed for victims and communities.

I will continue to fight for stronger protections for transit operators and workers, because no one should fear for their safety while earning a living and serving the public. I'll also advocate for stronger traffic safety laws at the state level and expand victim support services. We can't continue letting these cases languish while families wait for justice. Making our streets safer will take legal leadership, and I'm ready to bring that to the role.

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

Absolutely not. Sweeping our unhoused neighbors—many of whom are already navigating unimaginable hardship—is cruel, ineffective, and unethical. There is no excuse for forcibly removing people from the only shelter they've managed to find, only to force them to start over again with even less.

While the City Attorney can't pass legislation, the role holds real power as a legal advisor and advocate. As City Attorney, I will clarify to the Mayor and Council that I do not support sweeps and will advocate for alternatives prioritizing housing, dignity, and support.

We must fight back at the federal level. I would strongly support legislation or filing amicus briefs opposing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*, which overturned *Martin v. Boise* and opened the door for cities to criminalize homelessness, even when no adequate shelter is available. The current Republican City Attorney filed a brief in favor of this decision. That's not just a legal position—it's a moral failure.



As City Attorney, I'll stand firmly on compassion, constitutional rights, and common sense. We should invest in housing and services, not push people further into crisis.