



Isabel Mata Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Lynnwood City Council Position 2

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

1. Community-Centered Public Safety: Everyone in Lynnwood deserves to feel safe, whether they're walking to school, driving to work, or caring for loved ones. I will prioritize investments in holistic public safety that are proactive, compassionate, and community-driven. That means supporting our first responders, improving street and traffic safety, and expanding mental health and crisis response services that meet people where they are. Safety shouldn't come from fear, it should come from trust, preparation, and care.

2. Affordable Housing and Essential Services: Care means building a Lynnwood where people can afford to live, work, and raise their families. I'll champion policies that expand access to affordable housing and childcare, protect programs that support working families and seniors, and ensure our city invests in services that lift everyone up like parks, public transportation, and health resources. Our economy should work for people, not the other way around.

3. Inclusion: Inclusion is not just about being welcomed, it's about being valued. I'll work to ensure that Lynnwood's growth benefits everyone by advocating for good-paying jobs, workforce development, small business support, and justice reform that opens doors instead of closing them. I believe diversity is a strength, and I'll fight for policies that reflect our shared values of fairness, equity, and belonging.



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?

Everyone deserves a safe, stable place to call home. If we want Lynnwood to thrive, we need to make sure that people can afford to live here, especially those who work, raise families, or grow old in our community. That means increasing housing options at all levels, from affordable rentals to homeownership, and making room for shelters, transitional housing, emergency housing, and permanent supportive housing too.

I believe in thoughtful growth that puts people first. That includes updating zoning and land use policies to allow for more diverse housing types, especially near transit and job centers. I also want to work closely with local nonprofits, service providers, and housing advocates who understand how to meet the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

When it comes to engaging the public, I believe in starting with trust and active listening. I'll host community conversations and listening sessions to make sure people feel heard early in the process. It's natural for concerns to come up, and I see those moments as opportunities, not roadblocks. Often, objections come from fear or a lack of information, and with the right conversations, we can find common ground.

At the end of the day, this is about making sure no one is left behind. Housing is a shared responsibility, and I believe Lynnwood is strongest when we all look out for one another.



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 sources because the people who've benefited the most from our economy should be contributing their fair share to keep our communities strong. If we want safe streets, affordable housing, and reliable services, we need to make sure our city has the resources to fund them in a fair and sustainable way. I'm also interested in working with state and regional leaders to push for more equitable funding models that don't put the burden on working families.

If federal funding becomes more strained under a second Trump administration, I believe we have to be honest and strategic about how we protect the programs that matter most like public safety, housing, and community services. I would prioritize thoughtful budgeting over harmful cuts, and avoid gutting the very systems that keep people afloat.

Ultimately, I believe that budgets are moral documents. They show what we value. I believe Lynnwood deserves leadership that puts people first and works creatively to build a local economy where everyone can thrive.

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 effective strategies we can pursue is expanding affordable housing and making it easier to build the kinds of homes people actually need. When there's not enough housing, costs go up for everyone, renters, homeowners, and small businesses alike. By updating zoning laws to allow for more housing types, like duplexes, townhomes, and apartments near transit and jobs, we can start to ease that pressure and create more options for families at all income levels.

But it's not just about building more, it's about building smarter. That means working closely with developers, community organizations, and neighbors to make sure new development prioritizes affordability, community, protects green space, and reflects the character of our neighborhoods.

I would also look at expanding rental assistance, strengthening tenant protections, and investing in public infrastructure that supports pedestrian friendly, connected communities. These efforts not only make Lynnwood more affordable but also more livable.

This work takes leadership, collaboration, and a real commitment to listening. I'll bring people together to find solutions that help us grow in a way that works for everyone, not just a few.

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?

Safety on our streets isn't just about cars, it's about creating a city where people can move freely and safely, whether they're walking, biking, or using public transit.



Prioritizing creating safer pedestrian crossings, improving lighting, and adding more protected bike lanes. But beyond infrastructure, we need to rethink how our city is designed, making it more walkable and accessible so that people don't feel like they need a car just to live, work, or get around. That means ensuring mixed-use development near transit hubs, where people can walk to schools, parks, shops, and jobs.

People should feel like they can exist in this city without relying on their car, and that starts with making walking, biking, and taking transit safer and more convenient. We also need to make sure that our policies are focused on equity, ensuring that these improvements benefit all neighborhoods, not just the most affluent ones. Safety should be for everyone, no matter how they get around.

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

My approach to public safety focuses on prevention, community support, and smart responses. Over the next five years, I'll work to expand mental health crisis services and partner with local organizations to ensure people in need receive help before emergencies arise. This includes creating mobile crisis teams and increasing support for homeless and at-risk populations.

Prevention is key to a safe community. I'll prioritize youth programs, job training, and community-building initiatives that create safe, connected neighborhoods. When people have opportunities and support, they're less likely to turn to crime.



While prevention is essential, we must also ensure our first responders are well-equipped and trained. This means supporting our police, fire, and medical teams with the resources they need to serve the community effectively and compassionately.

Ultimately, public safety is about building trust and fostering a community where everyone feels secure. By focusing on prevention, support, and thoughtful responses, we can create a safer, more connected Lynnwood.

What have you done/will you do to increase collaboration at city hall and ensure all residents are included?

Collaboration and inclusion are central to how I lead. One of my key goals is to make sure that everyone feels they have an open channel to share their thoughts and concerns. That's why I plan to introduce a "Weekly Coffee with City Councilmember" program, where residents can have informal, no-pressure conversations about their issues, without being limited by the three-minute public comment rule.

These sessions will create a space for deeper, more personal discussions, where people can express their concerns and ideas in a relaxed setting. Whether it's a quick chat over coffee or a more in-depth conversation, I want to hear from everyone, especially those who might feel overlooked or disconnected from the formal processes.

Additionally, I'll work to ensure that public meetings and advisory boards are welcoming to all voices, and that our city departments are transparent and responsive to community needs. By fostering more open, accessible avenues for



communication, we can ensure that all residents are included in shaping our city's future.

What actions should the city take to address the climate crisis?

Addressing the climate crisis starts with both individual actions and systemic change. One way we can make a meaningful impact is by encouraging residents to grow their own food. We already have a fantastic seed library at the Lynnwood Library, and I'd love to expand that by creating an urban garden program. This would offer more hands-on education, making it easier for people to produce their own food, whether at home, on a balcony, or through container gardening. Not only does this reduce food waste and carbon footprints, but it also fosters a sense of community.

At the same time, we must focus on sustainable city planning. That means ensuring new developments and building codes meet high sustainability criteria. All new construction should incorporate green building practices, energy-efficient designs, and be accessible to all income levels. We need to make sure sustainability is baked into how we grow, not just in how we live.

I also believe in the power of education. By offering resources and workshops that help residents understand how their daily choices impact the environment, we can empower them to make smarter, greener decisions. Building a resilient community starts with making sustainability part of our everyday lives.



What is your financial sustainability plan for the city?

A strong, sustainable financial plan for Lynnwood means balancing growth, investment, and careful resource management. First, we need to prioritize a diversified revenue model that doesn't rely too heavily on any one source. This could include exploring progressive revenue sources, such as taxes on luxury goods, and revisiting opportunities for public-private partnerships that align with our city's values.

At the same time, I'm committed to being fiscally responsible. This includes regularly reviewing city spending to ensure that every dollar is working for the benefit of residents, particularly in areas like public safety, education, and infrastructure. We'll also continue to advocate for state and federal funding to support key initiatives that reduce the burden on our local budget.

Financial sustainability isn't just about balancing the books, it's about investing in the future. By supporting initiatives that increase efficiency, reduce waste, and promote sustainable practices, we can help make Lynnwood a thriving, affordable place to live without burdening future generations.

What are your top transportation goals for the city, and how will you get them done? What is your plan to improve walkability, bike safety, and accessibility in your community?

With light rail now in Lynnwood and upgraded bus lines in place, we have incredible transit potential, but only if people can safely and easily access it. My top priority is



making sure walking, biking, and rolling to transit is safe, convenient, and accessible for everyone.

That means filling in sidewalk gaps, building protected bike lanes, adding better lighting, and ensuring curb cuts and crosswalks meet accessibility standards. We need to rethink how we design our streets, with people, not just traffic, in mind.

I'll work to improve coordination between city departments and transit agencies to address last-mile safety and invest in infrastructure upgrades where they're needed most. I also want to involve the community early and often to make sure solutions reflect the lived reality of residents, not just traffic engineers.

Transportation should connect us, not be a barrier. Let's make it safe to get around Lynnwood, no matter how you move.

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 bans or sweeps as a solution to unshelteredness. These policies are often temporary and do not address the root causes of being unsheltered or provide long-term solutions for our most vulnerable neighbors. Instead of sweeping people out of sight, we need to focus on providing real support and resources.

If elected, I would advocate for policies that prioritize housing-first approaches, ensuring that every person has a safe, stable place to live, with access to mental health and addiction services. We must also provide emergency shelter and transitional housing options that offer dignity and respect, giving people the opportunity to rebuild their lives.



I believe in engaging with the community, including those directly affected by unsheltered, to co-create solutions that are compassionate and effective. That means investing in affordable housing, expanding supportive services, and creating pathways to employment and stability. We need policies that are rooted in empathy and grounded in a commitment to lifting people up, not pushing them down.

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

Lynnwood's comprehensive plan lays important groundwork, but we can go further in centering people—especially those who have historically been left out of the conversation. I would push for a more robust focus on affordable housing, climate resilience, and accessible infrastructure that reflects our city's growing and diverse population.

That means setting clearer goals for deeply affordable and workforce housing, strengthening sustainability requirements for all new developments, and expanding green spaces in underserved areas. I'd also advocate for stronger community engagement throughout the planning process—beyond public hearings—so residents can shape the future of their neighborhoods in meaningful ways.

A truly inclusive comprehensive plan must reflect the lived experiences of all Lynnwood residents and prioritize equity, sustainability, and long-term wellbeing.