



Krista Perez Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Tacoma City Council, Position 6

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

My vision for Tacoma centers on safety, opportunity, and affordability for all residents. Ensuring strong and safe neighborhoods means taking a comprehensive approach to public safety. Community-driven safety strategies such as neighborhood watch programs, better street lighting, and youth violence prevention are essential. Lasting safety also means addressing root causes by expanding access to affordable housing, mental health care, and living-wage jobs. Building a thriving and inclusive economy is equally urgent. With my background in workforce development and experience managing over \$64 million in state grants, I'm committed to expanding apprenticeships, vocational training, and pathways into good-paying, union jobs. I'll foster stronger partnerships between local businesses, manufacturers, and educational institutions to create real opportunity. Supporting small and family-owned businesses and investing in green job creation are central to my vision for a resilient economy. To make Tacoma truly livable, we must also tackle the housing crisis. I'll fight for zoning updates that increase affordable and diverse housing options, expand shelter and transitional housing, and invest in homeownership programs. Every Tacoma resident deserves access to stability, dignity, and a place to 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?

I believe every Tacoma resident deserves access to safe, affordable housing near where they work. That's why I fully support the Home in Tacoma initiative, which has already been passed and now needs to be implemented correctly. This initiative opens the door to more diverse housing types such as duplexes, triplexes, and mixed-income developments as well as helping to remove outdated zoning barriers that have limited our housing supply for too long. Our next challenge is making sure this policy lives up to its promise. That means ensuring new development actually benefits working families, reflects community needs, and is paired with investments in transit, schools, and infrastructure. I support thoughtful implementation that expands access to housing without displacing current residents. Tackling homelessness also requires a full spectrum of housing options, from emergency shelters to permanent supportive housing. I will work with community partners to expand shelter capacity and integrate critical services like mental health and addiction treatment. I'll prioritize public engagement throughout this process, which includes listening to neighbors, holding open forums, and grounding decisions in empathy and facts. We must lead with vision, not fear, and build inclusive, welcoming neighborhoods where everyone has the resources they need.

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 strongly support adding progressive revenue sources because I believe everyone, especially the wealthiest individuals and corporations, should pay their fair share to



fund the essential services our communities rely on. Washington has one of the most regressive tax systems in the country, and it is time we change that. I support exploring and implementing local progressive revenue tools that can help us fund priorities like affordable housing, community safety, climate resilience, and equitable education. This includes advocating for a capital gains tax at the state level, supporting tiered real estate excise taxes based on property value, and revising property taxes to include targeted exemptions that protect low-income homeowners and renters.

Locally, I would push for legislative changes to the Tacoma Business License program so that costs are assessed only on gross receipts earned within city limits. This would reduce the burden on small businesses and independent contractors. If federal funding is slashed under a future Trump administration, I would work with state and local partners to fill those gaps through progressive revenue solutions rather than cutting vital services. Budgets are moral documents, and our values must be reflected in how we fund our communities. Equity and shared responsibility should guide our fiscal policy, not austerity.

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 we can pursue to make Tacoma more affordable is expanding access to affordable housing while building a strong local economy that ensures all workers earn a living wage. These efforts must work in tandem to address the root causes of rising costs, displacement, and instability for working families. To increase housing options, I support zoning reforms that allow for diverse



housing types such as duplexes and mixed-income developments. I would also strengthen tenant protections to prevent unjust evictions and rent increases. Partnering with nonprofit and private developers is key to expanding the supply of low-income and workforce housing. Additionally, I will prioritize homeownership programs that help families build long-term stability and generational wealth. Creating economic opportunity is just as essential. I will invest in workforce development programs, apprenticeships, and vocational training to help residents access better-paying jobs. My experience managing workforce development grants at the state level gives me the tools to lead this work effectively. I support living wages, strong labor rights, and policies that encourage local job growth and a transition to a green economy.

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?

In Tacoma, the defeat of Proposition 1 was a real setback. That measure would have repaired major roads, invested in high-risk areas, slowed traffic in neighborhoods, and made our streets safer for everyone. I was disappointed by the outcome, especially given the overwhelming support from our firefighters, labor leaders, and elected officials who understood what was at stake. I will continue fighting for safe streets that serve everyone, whether you walk, bike, roll, drive, or take transit. Public safety doesn't end with policing. It includes the ability to cross the street without fear, to bike to work without risking your life, and for children to walk to school safely in their own neighborhoods. My approach will focus on securing alternative funding for critical safety upgrades and working with city leaders, planners, and community organizations to prioritize people-first infrastructure. That means traffic-calming measures, better street lighting, safer crosswalks, and dedicated space for



non-drivers. I will push for policies that prioritize safety, equity, and sustainability, even when ballot measures fall short. Safe transportation for everyone is a key part of increasing equity in Tacoma, which is why it remains a priority of mine.

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

Improving public safety is one of my top priorities because every Tacoma resident deserves to feel safe in their home and neighborhood. Over the next five years, I will take a comprehensive approach that supports first responders while simultaneously addressing the root causes of crime. I also plan to invest in alternative response teams for non-emergencies to free up police resources and reduce unnecessary confrontations. Community-led safety efforts like neighborhood watch programs are key, especially when paired with strong partnerships between residents and city services. Addressing youth gun violence is personal for me; As a mom on Tacoma's Eastside, I've seen the impacts of gun violence firsthand. I support initiatives like gun buybacks, lockbox distribution, and community-led violence prevention. Real safety requires tackling underlying issues like housing instability, lack of good jobs, and limited access to mental health care. That's why I will also push for affordable housing, workforce development, and stronger tenant protections. Transparency and accountability remain a top priority of mine, and I plan to maintain these values when addressing public safety.

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



Federal funding cuts are deeply concerning not just because they remove critical resources we depend on, but because they create widespread economic uncertainty. This uncertainty affects travel and cargo volume at the Port of Tacoma and influences how residents think about taxes and public spending. When the federal government pulls back support, it becomes harder for our city to plan for the future, invest in essential services, and maintain public confidence. These cuts do not just reduce our budget, they disrupt long-term planning and shake the foundation of our local economy. I will respond by strengthening partnerships at the state level, identifying stable local funding sources, and pursuing creative solutions that avoid placing the burden on working families. I will also push for public-private partnerships to fill critical gaps and maintain momentum on key projects. In areas where cuts threaten core values, such as efforts to defund Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in education, I will take a strong stand. I will support inclusive programs in our schools and colleges, work to secure alternative funding, and build community coalitions to push back against policies that undermine equity. My focus will remain on protecting our community's stability, opportunity, and shared future.

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

If elected, I would push for a more compassionate and effective approach to addressing homelessness that moves away from camping bans. Instead of supporting bans, I believe we must invest in expanding transitional housing and sanctioned encampments as viable alternatives to removals. Outreach teams, not law enforcement, should lead engagement with unhoused individuals to build trust and connect people to resources. I would advocate for data-driven solutions to carefully measure the long-term impact of policies and ensure they truly help people achieve housing stability. This approach aligns with a broader strategy that



addresses the root causes of homelessness, including the lack of affordable housing, job insecurity, mental health challenges, and substance abuse. To address these issues, I support expanding affordable and supportive housing options with wraparound services, increasing funding for mental health and addiction treatment, and strengthening workforce development programs to create clear pathways out of homelessness. Regional collaboration is essential to effectively distribute resources, and partnerships with nonprofit and private developers are key to increasing the supply of workforce and low-income housing. I also support investing in homeownership programs to help residents build long-term stability and wealth. This comprehensive approach balances immediate needs with sustainable solutions to create a healthier and more equitable Tacoma.

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

I believe that my plan is receptive to constant adaptation based on feedback from the community, and I plan to keep open communication with the community and other organizations to ensure a holistic plan is implemented. I would first push for stronger accountability and transparency in implementing climate goals. This means requiring regular, public reporting from city departments on emissions reductions and integrating climate impact assessments into all permitting decisions to ensure we meet our net-zero target by 2050. The land use permitting process also needs improvement. Simplifying regulations, setting clear timelines, and increasing accountability would help speed up development while maintaining safety and neighborhood character. I would also advocate for strategic infrastructure investments like water, sewer, and transportation to support increased density from housing initiatives like Home in Tacoma. Affordable housing is critical, so I'd push for stronger anti-displacement policies and permanently affordable housing options.



This must be paired with coordinated mental health and wraparound services to address root causes of homelessness. Finally, my comprehensive plan should prioritize equity more explicitly. This includes addressing racial disparities in housing and public safety and ensuring community voices, especially those historically excluded, are central to decision-making.