



Mary Clymer Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Renton City Council, Position 2

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

Reimagining Public Safety I believe safety starts with connection. I support a public safety model that includes mental health resources, community-based programs, and accessible crisis response—so everyone feels safe, seen, and supported.

Walkability + Trail Connectivity I want Renton to be easier to navigate without a car.

That means more sidewalks, safer crossings, and an expanded, connected trail system—linking neighborhoods, parks, and transit hubs. **Eco-Forward Planning** We need to invest in green infrastructure—think more trees, clean air initiatives, better stormwater systems, and sustainable city planning. Renton's future should be breathable, livable, and resilient.

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?

1. How will you boost housing options, particularly for families of all incomes to live where they work?

I support increasing housing density near transit, trails, and walkable areas. We need more affordable and mixed-income developments, especially family-sized units,



close to jobs and schools. I'd work to streamline permitting and partner with nonprofit developers to create sustainable, affordable housing options that support Renton's diverse workforce.

2. How will you engage the public for new shelters, transitional housing, emergency housing, permanent supportive housing?

I'd push for early, consistent outreach—meeting people where they are, whether that's through neighborhood groups, school events, or local orgs. Framing housing as a public safety and wellness issue helps shift the narrative from fear to compassion. When we involve people in shaping the solutions, they're more likely to support them.

3. How do you weigh community objections with the housing goals for your jurisdiction, while encouraging engagement from neighbors?

Transparency, listening to understand, and leading with facts. By showing how well-designed housing and supportive services strengthen neighborhoods we can help the community move away from fear. Objections should be responded to by providing a clear vision that ties housing to a healthier, safer, and more connected Renton for everyone.

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. To fund community safety, walkable infrastructure, and climate resilience, we need to shift the burden off working families. I'd support:

- Luxury real estate transfer fees
- Vacancy taxes on empty homes
- Closing corporate tax loopholes

If budget cuts are needed, I'd prioritize keeping frontline services intact—cutting bloated contracts, and redirecting funds toward public health, housing, and community programs.

This is about values: investing in what makes Renton safe, connected, and livable for everyone.

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 building more affordable, family-friendly housing near transit and walkable areas. That means zoning reform to allow duplexes, triplexes, and mid-size apartments, especially near schools, trails, and transit lines.

I'd work with regional partners, nonprofits, and community land trusts to build permanently affordable homes.



Affordability isn't just about rent—it's about access to services, safe streets, and reliable transit. We need a holistic, community-first approach to keep Renton livable for all.

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?

Traffic deaths have been a huge concern for Renton families. We need to design streets for people, not just cars. That means adding protected bike lanes, safer crosswalks, and better lighting, especially in neighborhoods with schools, parks, and transit stops. Everyone deserves to get home safely, no matter how they move through the city, we need to make our streets safe and accessible for kids, elders, and people with disabilities. By investing in street designs that share the road and slow down the cars, especially near our parks and schools.

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

My approach to public safety is community-first and prevention-focused. Over the course of my term on council, I want to invest in the root causes of safety, like mental health services, stable housing, safe streets, and youth programs. I'd push for: Expanding crisis response teams that aren't police Partnering with schools and nonprofits for youth engagement Designing neighborhoods to be walkable, well-lit, and connected Funding restorative justice and violence prevention programs



Actualizing it means shifting the budget to match our values—less reactive spending, more proactive care.

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

Federal funding cuts strain the very systems that keep people safe and stable—housing, transit, food access, and mental health services. In Renton, we feel it in slower project timelines, limited shelter space, and stretched nonprofit partners.

To address this, I'd push for stronger regional partnerships to compete for grants, prioritize city spending on essential services, and advocate at the state and federal levels for restored funding.

What are your views on the SeaTac Sustainable Airport Master Plan and how will it impact your jurisdiction? What plans do you have to address the impacts of the airport on your community?

I need to study this further before answering honestly. Having lived next to the Renton Airport for years, I understand the impacts like increased noise and air pollution. Sea-Tac is a major airport and I would need to look at the sustainability goals that affect the community.

I would advocate for our community's health and well-being by...



- Ensuring the FAA and Port of Seattle fully assess health and environmental impacts.
- Advocate for noise abatement, air quality monitoring, and community investments.
- Collaborate with neighboring cities to present a united front in negotiations.

Our community deserves to benefit from regional growth without compromising health and quality of life.

King County has good policies and codes designed to protect agricultural, forest and rural lands, including our natural areas, waterways, and small rural communities. However, these policies and codes are too often not upheld and enforced. How will you ensure that rural lands are protected, and that violators are subject to enforcement?

Protecting rural lands and natural areas is crucial for our environment and community health. I'd work closely with King County to ensure their policies are fully enforced. That means supporting stronger monitoring, clear penalties for violators, and transparent reporting back to the public. I'd also push for community involvement in protecting these areas, because people who live near these lands care deeply and want to be part of the solution. Keeping these lands safe isn't just about rules—it's about honoring our responsibility to future generations.

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 don't think allowing people to sleep on our streets and in our parks is compassionate—it's unsafe for everyone involved. True compassion means offering real services and partnerships that support people's needs: emergency housing, mental health care, and job programs.

Sweeping is not a solution, and we need to focus on the root causes. By shifting policies towards providing safe, dignified alternatives paired with supportive services, we meet people where they are rather than criminalizing a need to survive.

If elected, I'd focus on those safe alternatives. We need policies that protect our neighbors' rights and dignity while keeping public spaces safe and welcoming for everyone.

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

Renton's comprehensive plan sets a solid foundation, but it could go further on climate action, equitable housing, and multi-modal transportation.

During my tenure, I'd push to:

- Set stronger greenhouse gas reduction targets and invest more in green infrastructure
- Prioritize affordable, family-friendly housing near transit and trails



- Expand safe walking, biking, and transit options citywide, with a focus on underserved neighborhoods

Making the plan more ambitious and community-driven will help Renton grow smarter, greener, and fairer for everyone.