



Nigel Herbig Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Kenmore City Council Position 4

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

Continuing to address housing affordability/availability, continuing work to make Kenmore a safer place for people to walk or bike, and seeing the Lakepointe project to a conclusion.

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?

Ensure that our middle housing, TOD, and MFTE regulations are working to create housing with regular check-ins on new construction. Continue to invest in ARCH and other affordable housing opportunities as they present themselves. We are currently working on STEP housing regulations, to ensure that future shelters/PSH/etc are handled administratively, rather than going in front of Council. At the end of the day, as a member of the King County Affordable Housing Committee, I know the need, and will do whatever I can to help us meet that 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?

Yes, of course. Unfortunately the State gives cities almost no good options to raise progressive revenue. We are being forced to raise utility taxes, and other revenues that we know hit our poor and middle class more than our wealthy residents. To offset that we will be instituting a utility tax rebate for members of our community at or below 50% of Area Median Income. Ultimately, I hope that State realizes the dire straits that cities are in, and gives us better, more progressive tools, or I predict we will see a city go bankrupt in the next decade.

If push comes to shove, and I have to pick a new revenue option for us to pass at the city level, it would be instituting a B&O tax, which we only have currently on heavy industrial uses.

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?

Allow and ensure that more housing is built, and that people are able to get around Kenmore without needing a car. These are the two biggest expenses our residents have. I'd implement this by monitoring our new housing regulations to ensure they are delivering new units, and continuing to invest in building out our sidewalk and bike lane networks.



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?

I am proud of the work I did to pass Kenmore's Target Zero resolution. This resolution changed how our engineers approach transportation projects, and we have seen a major reduction of pedestrian or bicyclist deaths or serious injuries. Unfortunately last year we had two - one was a homicide by car, and the other was someone who, for whatever reason, decided to lie down in the middle of Bothell Way. Other than those two outliers, we haven't had a death going back many years. I will continue to ensure that our Traffic and City Engineers prioritize safety above speed for drivers.

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

Kenmore helped form the Regional Crisis Response(RCR) agency, and the Connections Regional Crisis Center in Kirkland. Both projects took five suburban cities working together, and we have seen a drop in jail bookings by 67% by people who interacted with RCR.

Kenmore is a safe community - ranked #9 statewide by SafeWise.

I will continue to support our funding of RCR and the crisis center, and ensuring that the King County Sheriff's Office (who we contract with for police) continues to have progressive policies in place to protect our community.



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

I am the reason why Kenmore City Council meetings are livestreamed, and why we have continued to allow remote participation from the public, even after we returned to in-person Council meetings. Before I first ran, I saw that Kenmore had a new City Hall, but no streaming of their meetings. I started attending, and livetweeted the meetings from @kenmorepolitics. Once I was elected I fought to get a camera installed (turns out Council Chambers was already wired for audio and video where the camera would eventually go).

I view the rise of virtual and hybrid Council meetings as one of the only good things that came out of COVID. We saw more participation virtually - because not everyone can come to City Hall at 7pm on a Monday night. When we returned to in-person, I pushed back against colleagues who wanted to revert all public participation to in-person. I am proud that I won that fight, and that our public will always have the option to have their voice heard in public comment or in public hearings virtually.

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

Continue to invest in building out our sidewalk and bike infrastructure. Continue our work to make it easier for homeowners to install solar. Continue our work to install charging stations for electric vehicles. Continue our work to lower the carbon footprint of the city government.



What is your financial sustainability plan for the city?

As I mentioned earlier, our revenue options are not great, and with the 1% property tax cap still in effect, cities are facing structural deficits. Kenmore has a Financial Sustainability Plan, which relies on some savings, along with new speed cameras (which have greatly reduced speeding, btw), a public safety sales tax, and going to the ballot for either a Metropolitan Parks District, or a public safety levy lid lift next year. We are including a rebate for low income residents. I am hopeful that we will have a meaningful discussion about expanding our B&O tax, so that our businesses are also investing in our city.

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?

This has been a top priority for me during my time on Council, and I am proud that under my leadership we have built more than 6 miles of both new sidewalks and bike lanes throughout Kenmore. We need to continue these investments, as we have a lot of catch-up to do since King County was not making these investments when we were unincorporated, and the City didn't really start making meaningful investments until after I joined Council.

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



No. Sweeps are harmful, and a waste of time and resources. They don't address any underlying issues, and just move people from one place to another.

We have work to do in Kenmore to update our code - I am working to expand how long tent cities are allowed to stay at a location. Currently they are limited to 3 months, and I believe there is appetite on my Council to expand that to 6 months. I also plan to work to undo some needless background check requirements so that Kenmore can finally host a severe weather shelter.

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

We should do more to allow corner stores along our arterials in our residential neighborhoods. We should also allow more density throughout the city. One of the big pieces of push-back I've gotten on these issues are the lack of sidewalks, and I will continue to ensure that we keep building out our sidewalk network, which will help make these objections moot.