



Sarah Moore Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Burien City Council, Position 5

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

Affordability (rent, minimum wage), livability (walkability, food access, climate mitigation), government transparency

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 the biggest challenge Burien - and probably all cities regionally - face is the belief that we are taking on more than our fair share of the "burden" for providing affordable housing and STEP housing. I have been working to promote regional dialogue because I believe that every municipality can point to its housing accomplishments, and as a region we can identify gaps. This won't calm all community concerns, but it will help daylight successes and contextualize that every city is struggling to meet the same human needs.



We need to start informing people about the value and importance of these types of housing before they are being proposed so that we don't have to both convince them that the housing is good and also convince them that the housing is ok near them.

There will always be some people who object, no matter how well informed they are.

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. Few progressive revenue sources are available at the city level and although I would support exploring a raise of our B&O tax, it would not meet our expense growth. Burien also needs to keep an eye on its non-progressive revenue and provide pressure relief for utility rates assessed to people with lower incomes or fixed incomes.

I would support the state exploring all options from a state income tax, to increases to capital gains tax about a threshold, to wealth taxes or payroll taxes. Working people are paying through sales and utility taxes, and directly or indirectly on property taxes, and footing a disproportional share of the state and local expenditures.



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?

Burien has two areas I can immediately see for cost savings - our legal entanglements, and our public service storage site. The legal issues have arisen over our stance on trespassing unhoused people out of the city in a variety of ways, and differences between the city's minimum wage ordinance and that passed by the citizen's initiative process. I believe that Burien should seek a resolution to the minimum wage initiative that honors the will of the voters. Our public works facility is a more lengthy issue - we do not have a space for our vehicles and equipment, and are using spaces belonging to the school district. Building our own will be an investment that will begin to pay off immediately, and we should allocate any available resources to reaching that goal.

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?

It will be years or decades before Burien has a robust sidewalk system. In the interim, several current and former planning commissioners have suggested closing a handful of neighborhood streets for bike and pedestrian traffic. I support this.

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



Yesterday I watched a presentation on community responses to a survey about public safety, in preparation for a Public Safety Levy that Burien is considering. The three things most identified were closer connections with neighbors, a co-responder emergency response in which mental healthcare providers accompany 911 calls, and better street safety including lighting and marked crossings. Burien can do much to encourage neighborhood interactions - from zoning to allow small shops and cafes in neighborhoods, to giving small grants for projects, to supporting block parties. I will advocate for Burien's co-response model to remain after its ARPA funding ends. Before spending \$ on street safety, I want a very thorough understanding of priority intersections for lighting and crossings, because it will be a long term project and key locations have the most urgent need. we need to invest in healthy connected communities and have ready solutions other than police to respond to a variety of issues. so co-response, yes, but also alternative response so that police aren't being called to deal with issues they are not needed or trained to deal with.

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

They have. Burien's parks and green spaces are much enhanced by work provided through the Green Cities Partnership, which used federal grants to fund youth in environmental learning positions. These paid internships have been cut, with the triple impact of fewer youth jobs, less environmental justice, and a reduction to out future tree canopy. Environmental justice and supporting at-risk youth are the first casualties but we expect to see more. Our Human Services, Parks and Public works budgets each use federal grants for certain projects. Human Services in particular is used to support a variety of nonprofits who serve communities in Burien, and as



those organizations lose federal funding, we will likely see impacts on the services they can provide as well.

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 am the current chair of Burien's Airport Committee, and deeply interested in the SAMP. By the usual definition of sustainable which includes environmental impacts, I would call it sustainable in name only. My belief is that it defines the harm caused by airport expansion by such a narrow scope that it is impossible to demonstrate the actual damage cause by noise and particle pollution from the anticipate increase in airport activity we will see with the increased flights the SAMP will bring.

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?

To the extent that this intersects with my role on city council, I will do so. I serve on the WRIA-9 watershed committee, which regionally protects costal and riparian salmon habitat - this is one area in which I can advocate for policies that restore or preserve the unique conditions in which young salmon can grow and thrive.



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, I do not. I have fought hard for my entire time on council to establish safe places where outdoor encampments can be allowed, supported and where city resources can be focused. I was a voice to accept a \$1 million offer from King County for a temporary camp, and a voice against banishing unhoused folks. I would identify and frame out a STEP housing alternative before even discussing any kind of sweep, and would then be a no vote.

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

Burien's comprehensive plan has focused growth in a few areas that have transit, and a few areas that have low community interest in fighting back. The next steps will involve engaging the community in ways that challenge them to think about what new corridors of growth we want, and how to make sure that access to jobs, resources and services follow those corridors.