



## **Silong Chhun Urbanist Questionnaire 2025**

Tacoma City Council, Position 4

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

Champion a Workers' Bill of Rights I'll fight for living wages, predictable schedules, paid family leave and the right to organize—so every worker in Tacoma can earn a fair, stable living and have a real voice on the job. Expand Tenant Protections Housing is a human right. I'll work to strengthen and extend our Tenant Bill of Rights—capping rent hikes, preventing unfair evictions, and funding community-led affordable housing so families aren't forced out of the neighborhoods they call home. Defend Immigrant & Refugee Communities As a Cambodian refugee, I know the importance of sanctuary. I'll ensure Tacoma remains a welcoming city—protecting D4's diverse families, expanding language access, and creating pathways to citizenship, while investing in equitable climate and workforce programs so no one is left behind.

**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. Expand and Diversify Housing Supply:



- Incentivize mixed-income developments through density bonuses and funding partnerships, so families at every income level can live near their jobs.
- – Fast-track accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and modular housing pilots to add affordable units quickly, while preserving neighborhood character.

## 2. Transparent, Collaborative Engagement:

- Host “Housing Huddles” in each neighborhood—small, facilitated meetings where residents help shape plans for shelters, transitional and emergency housing, and permanent supportive units.
- Launch an interactive online portal with project maps, timelines, and a toolkit for feedback, ensuring every voice can be heard at any hour.

## 3. Balancing Concerns with Community Goals:

- Acknowledge objections by convening early “Concern Roundtables,” bringing neighbors, service providers, and impacted families together to co-design mitigation measures (traffic, safety, design).
- Frame housing expansion as a shared investment—highlighting local economic benefits, safer streets, and stronger schools—to build broad support and keep projects moving forward.

**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?**



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I support adding progressive revenue streams so those with the greatest ability to pay cover our community's needs—rather than squeezing working families.

1. Graduated Local Income Tax: A modest bracket on incomes above \$250K to fund affordable housing, childcare, and mental-health services.

2. Vacancy & Speculation Tax"Levy on unused residential properties and short-term rentals to discourage speculation and fund tenant-protection programs.

3. Business & Commercial Property Tax Equity: Ensure large corporations pay their fair share by narrowing loopholes and aligning rates with residential property, directing new revenue into workforce-training and small-business grants.

If revenues fall short under a Trump administration's budget cuts, I'd protect frontline services by:

- Eliminating Corporate Giveaways (e.g. subsidies for out-of-state developers)
- Streamlining Administration through shared services and reduced consultant contracts
- Refocusing Public Safety on community-driven alternatives rather than expanded policing budgets
- These steps balance fiscal responsibility with our values—investing in people and holding powerful interests accountable.



**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 single most powerful tool to curb cost increases is unlocking more housing supply—especially affordable and mixed-income homes—so demand pressures ease and prices stabilize.

Implementation Steps:

- Inclusive Zoning Overhaul
  - Require all new developments to include a percentage of below-market units.
  - Offer density bonuses and fee waivers in exchange for deeper affordability tiers.
- Streamlined Permitting & Design Flexibility
  - Create a “Fast-Track” review process for projects meeting affordability and green-building criteria.
  - Legalize and subsidize accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and “missing middle” housing (duplexes, triplexes) in single-family neighborhoods.
- Community Benefits & Anti-Displacement Funds
  - Negotiate community benefits agreements—local hiring, child-care space, transit vouchers—to win neighbor buy-in.
  - Establish a stabilization fund to help existing residents stay in place through rent assistance, home-repair grants, and property-tax relief.
- Data-Driven Accountability



- Launch a public dashboard tracking housing starts, affordability levels, permit timelines, and displacement hotspots.
- Host quarterly “Housing Accountability Forums” where developers, residents, and city leaders adjust policies in real time.

By coupling stronger supply-side tools with resident protections and transparent oversight, we can moderate price hikes and keep Tacoma affordable for everyone.

**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?**

Rising traffic fatalities demand a bold strategy: Safe Street Design Implement road diets, curb extensions, raised crosswalks, protected bike lanes, and automated speed cameras in high-crash corridors to slow traffic and shorten crossing distances. Data-Driven Enforcement & Analysis Use collision-data mapping to target enforcement zones, deploy speed cameras, and ensure compliance with speed and distraction laws. Publish a public dashboard tracking crashes by location and type. Community-Led Engagement Launch neighborhood safety audits where residents, advocates, and engineers co-design street-calming measures. Host pop-up events showcasing pedestrian refuges and temporary traffic-calming installations. Education & Outreach Partner with schools, employers, and transit agencies on campaigns promoting the dangers of speeding, distracted driving, and failing to yield to pedestrians. Equity & Partnerships Prioritize investments in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by traffic violence. Collaborate with Tacoma Police, Sound Transit, freight carriers, and local nonprofits to secure grant funding for safety



improvements. By combining engineering, enforcement, education, and equitable community engagement, we can make our streets safer for everyone.

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

If money wasn't a barrier, my approach to improving public safety over the next five years centers on four pillars—prevention, response, accountability, and collaboration—and each will be actualized through concrete actions and measurable goals. Prevention & Early Intervention • Expand community-based violence interruption programs and youth mentorship. • Invest in mental-health crisis teams embedded in dispatch to divert nonviolent calls away from armed response. Data-Driven Enforcement & Transparency • Build a public “Safety Scorecard” dashboard tracking response times, crime trends, use-of-force incidents, and community feedback. • Use hotspot analysis to deploy officers and resources more effectively, with quarterly reviews by a civilian oversight board. Accountability & Trust-Building • Strengthen the Police oversight Commission's powers—mandating timely investigations, community hearings, and binding policy recommendations. • Require de-escalation and anti-bias training for all first responders, tying continued certification to performance metrics. Cross-Sector Collaboration • Forge partnerships with schools, nonprofits, labor unions, and faith groups to co-design neighborhood safety plans. • Leverage state and federal grants for joint initiatives—like safe-streets infrastructure, safe-storage gun locks, and reentry support—to ensure sustained funding and shared ownership.

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



I'm not too sure or aware of the real impacts of federal funding yet but here's are some actions that we can take:

#### 1. Backfilling Core Services

I'll propose a modest local revenue package (graduated income and vacancy taxes) dedicated to affordable housing and mental-health crisis teams, so we aren't wholly reliant on shrinking federal grants.

#### 2. Aggressive Grant & Partnership Strategy

I would create a "Grant Accelerator" team to pursue every state and federal opportunity and forge public-private partnerships—leveraging philanthropic and corporate contributions to bolster after-school programs, workforce training, and reentry services.

#### 3. Targeted Budget Reallocations

I would audit existing contracts and eliminate waste (e.g., redundant consultant fees) to redirect savings toward food-security initiatives and emergency shelter expansions that federal cuts have left unfunded.

#### 4. State & Federal Advocacy



I'll join a coalition of West Coast leaders to lobby Congress for restored funding, using data and personal stories from our communities to build urgency and shift the needle back toward equitable investment.

**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 oppose camping bans and punitive sweeps—they criminalize poverty, push people into hidden, unsafe spaces, and waste resources. Instead, I'll pursue a compassionate, rights-based approach:

Sanctioned Safe Camping & Services

- I'll push for well-managed spaces, tiny homes, or other options with 24/7 access to toilets, hand-washing, storage, and case-management to connect neighbors with housing, health care, and employment supports.

Right-to-Rest Ordinance

- Amend municipal code to decriminalize sleeping in public when no shelter is available, requiring outreach teams to offer services before any enforcement action and banning property destruction without notice.

Housing-First Investments





- Shift budget from sweeps toward rapid-rehousing vouchers, permanent supportive housing, and rental assistance—so camping becomes a last resort, not a target.

### Community Engagement & Oversight

- Establish a “Homelessness Advisory Council” of unhoused residents, service providers, faith groups, and neighbors to co-design policies and monitor implementation, ensuring transparency and trust.

By focusing on dignity, shelter access, and collaboration—not bans—we’ll protect our neighbors and build lasting solutions.

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

Tacoma’s Comprehensive Plan lays a strong foundation, but I’d push it further in four key areas:

### Deepen Housing Equity

- Mandate higher inclusionary-zoning targets and dedicate land trusts for permanently affordable homes.
- Embed anti-displacement metrics—like neighborhood rent-burden thresholds—to trigger proactive renter relief and rehab grants.



## Advance Climate Resilience

- Require all new developments to meet net-zero energy standards and fund green streets (permeable paving, rain gardens) in flood-prone neighborhoods.
- Create a “Climate Equity Fund” to retrofit low-income housing and support community-driven adaptation projects.

## Expand Transit & Complete Streets

- Accelerate bus-rapid-transit corridors with guaranteed all-door boarding and real-time arrival info.
- Design every arterial as a “complete street” with protected bike lanes, wider sidewalks, and safe crossings.

## Institutionalize Community Power

- Build participatory budgeting into annual capital planning, reserving 10% of major project dollars for resident-led priorities.
- Publish a live “Plan Performance Dashboard” showing progress on goals, funding gaps, and equity outcomes.