



Valerie Snider Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Shoreline City Council Position 1

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

My top 3 priorities are: 1) more available and accessible affordable long-term housing units in Shoreline, 2) more available social service providers in public areas, and coordination and collaboration with emergency responders, and 3) preservation of adult, old growth trees included in urban growth development.

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?

Resolving the affordable housing issue requires research of proven programs, enacting them locally, and monitoring their effectiveness, identifying and correcting challenges. Cities like Kenmore have purchased lots and partnered with Habitat of Humanity to build a complex on it dedicated to affordable housing. Partnering with housing providers and experts is critical for success. They are the ones best suited to provide the outreach and spread awareness of available shelters, transportation, and locations that provide support. Community objections must be acknowledged and monitored throughout these programs, with mitigation plans, and platforms for the public to voice their concerns and feedback. The community should stay involved as part of the process.



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 adding progressive revenue sources like capital gains or income taxes upon the highest earners, both individual and corporate, in order to balance the regressive tax system of Washington State. Public schools must be funded, highly needed maintenance of transportation to ensure safety of travelers, and first responder resources should take priority.

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?

I think the most important strategy our jurisdiction can pursue to limit cost increases is to assign a cross-functional task team dedicated to addressing Shoreline's cost of living. The team should include public officials, government social services representatives, utility providers, and NGOs who work directly with the public. They should focus on inflation, gas tax, property taxes, sales and B&O taxes, levies, housing and utility costs to identify ways to counteract cost increases like awarding grants and rebates, researching cost effective energy alternatives, creating community gardens and local farms to grow, produce, and provide food, build child care resources, and publish work opportunities for the un- and underemployed.

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?



My approach to making streets safer is to research the high-impact areas and to work with local law enforcement, emergency services, and city planning to put programs in place that are proven to reduce pedestrian accidents. I would work with other local jurisdictions, like LFP and Kenmore, to understand how effective their traffic camera and reduced speed programs are and apply them in Shoreline, together with the involvement of affected stakeholders.

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

My approach to improving public safety is to identify the most affected areas, as well as areas that have lower issues to understand what programs are in place securing their safety. I believe in regional crisis resources being integrated into emergency response depts in order to best serve those in emotional distress, domestic violence situations, or drug related incidences because they have proven to be effective at reducing repeat crime rates significantly. Social service professionals should be made available in places like senior centers, public libraries, and schools to provide counseling and to direct people to support programs and local shelters.

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

I would increase collaboration at city hall by opening up topics and public comments in as many venues as possible so as to ensure all residents are included. Local publications like this one that reach different residents are a good way at reaching and educating the community about what City Hall is up to, and how to participate. City Hall can do more than publicizing activity, though. Members can conduct outreach in social settings like meetups, community events at the senior center, and gathering places like 3rd Place Books.



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

The city should focus be twofold; cutting back on the top offenders and promoting the preventers. The top offenders are most likely petrol-powered automobiles and the preventers are adult trees that absorb carbon and provide cooler temperatures with their shade, not to mention habitat for animals that tend to pests and rodents. The steps to discourage driving are through public transportation and accessible sidewalks, trails, and walkways that can be used by cyclists, pedestrians, and personal EV riders. The tree code that requires the preservation of adult trees on new development and even residential lots should be enforced and monitored. The tree canopy must be increased for obvious reasons.

What is your financial sustainability plan for the city?

Tax revenue can be spread across more residents as the city grows which should lower renewed levies, and the City should continue to investigate grant sources for revenue. Spending should be done in a way that benefits the most residents as early as possible. These parameters should be verified when approving spending.

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?

My transportation goals for the city are to have safe, effective, and accessible public transport and personal mobility lanes, as well as ADA accessible sidewalks along major thoroughways like 145th St. To get this done, Council must work closely with City Planning and engage the public in early design and planning phases to incorporate requirements and suggestions.



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 do not support camping bans or sweeps. People need long-term, permanent housing. Shelters must provide more than beds overnight. Shelters should accommodate partners, children, and pets that otherwise might be cause for our homeless not to relocate. As policy, people cannot be forced to leave their current camp without suitable shelter alternatives. I would lobby state congress to allow tents to camp on church properties as long as the churches condone them, instead of requiring the camps to relocate every 4 months, which is disruptive and counterproductive.

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

The city's comprehensive plan should not just be words or lip service, especially when it comes to preserving and growing the tree canopy. The plan can and should be more aggressive with its canopy timeline, as the need is dire. The tree canopy must be preserved as part of urban growth, not separately as one thing or the other.