



Hugo Garcia Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Burien City Council, Position 1

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

1) as the only immigrant with privilege to serve on Council I prioritize: Protect communities targeted by ICE and ensuring our police continue to NOT COOPERATE with federal immigration over reach and their zealous attacks separating families. 2) Continue to aggressively address our housing crisis on all fronts and re-activate our affordable housing demonstration project which was successful in bring in 3 projects of diverse income levels (DESC \$0-35 ami, Habitat for Humanity ownership 35-80AMI and EcoThrive a 27 unit cottage village project) with this updated project aimed at middle housing types state mandate has passed. 3) secure the funding and location for our city's own Pubic Works Facility this huge project will save our city millions in lease costs to the port of seattle on the many properties we now rent and provide us a city owned asset that can improve our budget challenges. All three center the foundation of having a safe, resilient, and vibrant city for all in our community.

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 ground my housing approach in lived experience. For 18 years I have lived in a duplex in Burien—my family on one side, my brother's family on the other. We chose this home to stay within two miles of our elderly parents, close to where we grew up



and to our jobs. Having access to modest multifamily housing kept us from being displaced and allowed us to invest in and serve the same community that raised us.

That is why I support re-launching the Housing Demonstration Pilot Project 2.0, focused on 4–12 unit buildings and aligned with new state housing laws on missing middle housing. By expanding duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes, we can give families of all incomes the chance to live near work and community, just as my family did.

During the pandemic, neighbors came together to share food and childcare. That same spirit should guide public engagement on shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing. Instead of top-down decisions, we need listening sessions in multiple languages, outreach in schools, elder communities, and partnerships with trusted faith-based groups.

When objections arise, I'll listen with empathy but decide with fairness. Housing is not just policy.....it's people.

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,
Higher taxes on bigger businesses
any state mandate to reverse our regressive tax system.

as little cuts as possible but pushing for cuts to human and social services as a last resort not first.

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?



MORE HOUSING at all income levels. - continue and expand our housing plan which is already proactive with dual ADUs (before the state mandate) allowing for small micro neighborhood home based home businesses in residential neighborhoods to address food and service affordability. previously shared plan on re-launching our affordable housing pilot program but updating it to modest multi-family housing types (duplex, triplex, Quads, cottages) and moving the projects with lowest AMIs to be prioritized in permitting pipelines.

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 goal to having our own city owned public works facility will improve our budge and capacity to improve and expand traffic calming resources across all our smaller residential neighborhoods and improve bike, transit, and signage infrastructure prioritizing node connecting homes, to schools and parks.

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

I'm doubling down in our 28 small city owned managed parks. Investing in street infrastructure with updated lighting connecting our parks to homes, business districts, and schools will be my approach. the better our roads and sidewalks are in lighting and signage the safer our families are interacting with our parks, businesses, and schools, THIS is PUBLIC SAFETY and in order for us to have a remote chance at having funds for these improvements an investment in a city owned public works facility is the approach to actualize it.

South King



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

majority of impacts is on grant funding for projects across parks and public works. we currently have a levy lift lid to provide temporary relief on an already challenged budget with restructuring city priorities until state or philanthropic grant funding can be secured.

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 have already lived close enough to the flight path having lived in same burien community for 35 years which will result in a shorter life span than others like me who don't live adjacent to an airport.

unfortunately the airport is actively growing and it is and will continue to negatively impact our jurisdiction. Plan on being more informed and informing neighbors to collectively ask the port, county, and state to invest in our jurisdiction with neighborhoods under flight path and adjacent receiving more mitigation and housing improvement investments cause frankly what we have received has not been enough.

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?



we can't directly invest in county code enforcement from our city budget. however we can invest in our own and we have (actually increased staff by one this year) and have that role within our urban forest and tree canopy policies. so continuing to invest in code enforcement will be a way for us to supplement what king county needs todo in rural lands even though we don't have any rural land.

City 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 - I would work to reverse recent policies our majority moderate conservative council has implemented the last 4 years and I'm actively campaigning with others to flip our council and make changes.

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

we recently updated our comprehensive plan and went further by not settling on the state minimums and actually incentivizing for added density throughout the majority of the city. I would continue to make that a standard of not defaulting to state minimums. and establishing a proactive culture around educating our residents on zoning and permitting processes so they can better understand future changes.