



Paul Charbonneau Urbanist Questionnaire 2025

Newcastle City Council, Position 6

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

1 - Expand civic engagement and participation in local government in Newcastle. 2 - Plan for a sustainable future Newcastle through new approaches to climate change, transportation, housing, economic development, and revenue. 3 - Execute on the mental health co-responders program I authored for our police force to have access to them for calls in Newcastle for now and posterity.

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 supported legislation to allow townhomes on arterial-facing streets that failed by a 4-3 vote, and am eager to bring that legislation back. I have supported us easing up on setback requirements for ADUs to give homeowners more options, and removing various height requirements. I authored legislation for protections for renters that was comprehensive and included protections for senior renters and non-US citizen renters that failed by a 4-3 vote that I am eager to bring back should I be re-elected.

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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Yes. I voted to implement an admissions tax to our Newcastle Golf Course last year that is projected to generate around \$500k in revenue to help pay for city services. I support a Transportation Benefit District in Newcastle and have publicly stated this. Our toolbox of potential revenue sources is incredibly small, and almost all of our other revenue measures would need to appear on the ballot for voters.

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?

We must work on making housing costs more affordable for residents. We must work on fleshing out our public and multimodal transportation systems to make it possible to live in Newcastle without owning a car if someone so chooses. I've actively worked on these issues and am eager to do more.

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've voted to add roundabouts, improved crosswalk visibility, additional bike lanes and more sidewalks, and voted consistently to augment safety measures. I've pushed for adding additional lights and crosswalks in unsafe areas.

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



I authored Newcastle's framework for adding mental health responders to our police force. It will require partnering with other cities to help supplement costs, but I'd like to see this goal actualized in my next term. I've worked with the Bellevue Fire Department (we contract with them for fire and rescue services in Newcastle) on CPR classes and making sure their needs are included in our city priorities locally and our state legislative agenda.

The Eastside faces unique challenges when it comes to affordability, transit connectivity, and suburban versus city identity. What are your thoughts on how we can envision the future of urbanism on the Eastside?

I'm honored to have spoken at The Urbanist's Eastside panel earlier this year. I think we should picture a more walkable, bikeable, and connected Eastside. I think we must plan for easy routes to get to Lightrail stations on the Eastside as that system is fleshed out. I think it involves more mixed-use zoning, density in Downtown areas, and infrastructure investments to make it all work!

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?

Absolutely not. I haven't supported efforts brought forward in Newcastle (that failed to come to a vote), and I won't support any future efforts for camping bans or sweeps. Our nearest services for the unhoused are in Bellevue, and while we don't have a realistic site for them in our smaller city, I have and will continue support measures that prevent people from becoming unhoused in the first place.



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

We did the bare minimum for affordable housing and must do more. As someone that lives in a multi-generational household and the first and only renter ever elected in Newcastle, I know this intimately. We need to give existing homeowners more options for Accessory Dwelling Units (attached or detached), and streamline our application process. I led a city assessment of all the land we own as Chair of our Economic & Community Development committee and have at least one lot I'd like to work with ARCH to add housing options on.