



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

## **Council Vacancy Public Forum**

Purpose: opportunity for the community to engage with applicants and ask questions.

Date/time: Monday, 4/15, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Forum location: Bertha Knight Landes Room, Seattle City Hall (600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104)

Moderator: Brian Callanan, host of Seattle Channel City Inside/Out

Television/Online Access: the public forum will be recorded and televised by Seattle Channel and online

\*An applicant must participate in the public forum and appear before the Council at the April 17, 2019 City Council meeting to be eligible for appointment (SMC 3.93.010.F).

## **Schedule:**

- Public Forum: Monday, April 15, 5:30 p.m., Bertha Knight Landes Room – City Hall
- City Council Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2:00 p.m., Council Chambers
- Special City Council Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 p.m., Council Chambers
  - This Special City Council meeting will provide qualified applicants the opportunity to formally present a 3-minute presentation and respond to questions from City Councilmembers. The public will have the opportunity to provide comments.
- City Council Meeting: Monday, April 22, 2:00 p.m., Council Chambers

**The following community organizations have submitted questions or have expressed interest in participating at the forum (alphabetical order). The questions submitted from community organizations are provided below.**

1. 350Seattle
2. Eastlake Community Council
3. NAACP Seattle
4. Neighborhood Farmers Market Association
5. Northeast District Council
6. Northwest Marine Trade Association
7. Ravenna-Bryant Community Association
8. Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
9. Transit Riders Union
10. Transparent Seattle
11. TreePac
12. U District Advocates
13. U District Mobility Group
14. U District Small Businesses Association
15. University District Community Council
16. University Park Community Club in the U District
17. View Ridge Community Council
18. Wallingford Community Council

## **Eastlake Community Council**

1. One of Seattle's oldest and best-defined neighborhoods and with about 5,000 residents and 5,000 people who work here, Eastlake is a pleasant jumble of apartments, condominiums, single-family homes, houseboats and large and small businesses. WSDOT, Metro, and the City, however, seem to treat Eastlake primarily as a transportation corridor to move cars, buses, trucks, and bikes between areas north of the Ship Canal and downtown and South Lake Union. How can Eastlake's status as a transportation corridor be reconciled with efforts to protect and improve the livability of this historic neighborhood?
2. Almost all land in Eastlake is zoned multi-family, and much of the commercially zoned land has housing, placing our neighborhood at ground zero for impacts of the Mandatory Housing Affordability ordinance passed in March by the City Council. The upzone now allows buildings 65 feet high along Eastlake Avenue, 80 feet along Boylston Avenue East, and 40 feet adjacent to the shoreline. Do you support or oppose the MHA ordinance, and why? What changes (if any) should be made in the ordinance, and how you would go about passing them?
3. The Seattle Department of Transportation is proposing a Rapid Ride bus line and dedicated bike lanes on Eastlake Avenue, eliminating all 324 parking places—more than one fifth of on-street parking in the Eastlake neighborhood. Do you support the plan in its current form? What role would you take regarding the Rapid Ride project and any possible changes in the plan? With the prospect of losing so much on-street parking, and with SDOT selling far more residential parking permits in Eastlake than the actual on-street spaces available, would you support restoring some on-site parking requirements for new buildings in Eastlake? Eastlake's main bus line, the Metro route #70 is seriously overcrowded. What would you do to improve route #70 service, and what should be its future role (with or without Rapid Ride)?
4. In recent years the City Council has repealed most of the required yard setbacks in multi-family zoned areas. The resulting redevelopment is destroying large, mature trees with no chance of their replacement in urban villages like Eastlake that the City promised to make more livable (as in its "Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda"). Do you favor requiring large trees for new developments in low-rise and mid-rise zones and restoring setback and yard requirements to be large enough again for these trees to be sustained?

## **Neighborhood Farmers Market Association**

1. The cost of housing and basic goods, including food, has risen faster than incomes for many residents in Seattle. In Northeast Seattle and District 4, the distance people live from grocery stores, farmers markets, and food banks affects access; transportation, affordability, access to programs like Fresh Bucks and SNAP, and availability of certain food items compound this. If elected, what would you do to support community organizations such as the food bank or farmers markets, reduce barriers to access, or help them to secure permanent operating locations? Where do you think the city is doing well and what progress will we need to make to effectively feed the whole community?

### **Northeast District Council**

1. What neighborhood groups have you participated in and what was your level of involvement?
2. When did you last attend a neighborhood council meeting and which one?
3. Given the inherent challenges of your shorter term, what is your plan to meaningfully engage stakeholders and amplify the voice of your constituency at council?
4. What topics are you passionate about and how will you balance these with your communities' priorities?
5. What improvements do you most hope to bring to District 4 through your time on council?

### **Northwest Marine Trade Association**

1. Do the applicants support another north police precinct?
2. What measures would they support to address concerns about police response times?
3. How do they feel about the findings from the System Failure Report and what would they do to address those concerns about a lack of prosecution for repeated offenses including assault and property crimes?
4. Do you support illegal tent encampments in our public parks and open spaces? If not, what will you do about enforcing existing laws?

### **Ravenna-Bryant Community Association**

1. In 2021, the Roosevelt and Brooklyn light rail stations will open. Both are within a mile radius of a great many D4 residents. With several new apartment buildings being developed in the University Village area, we expect more than 1,000 new neighbors to be 1 mile from the UW light rail station within the next several years. What would you do to improve the first mile/last mile connections between homes, workplaces, and transit? Specifically, what would you do to increase pedestrian accessibility to both buses and trains?
2. During your time as councilmember, the City Council will adopt a budget for 2020. What are your top three budget priorities and why? How will these priorities benefit D4?
3. In February, the City Auditor released their assessment of the Navigation Team. The report includes numerous recommendations including increasing and maintaining hygiene and toilet facilities; increasing communication and coordination among service providers; and increasing programs meant to divert people at risk for homelessness from becoming homeless. What do you think of the auditor's report and what recommendations would you act upon?
4. Would you support the proposal that is designed both to help current homeowners age in place and to create affordable housing. A homeowner could build a new apartment within their own home, the development fees would be waived, the homeowner would receive a low interest loan in exchange for offering an affordable rent that wouldn't increase more than 7% a year, and SDCI would provide someone dedicated to helping homeowners create those units at a goal 200 units per year for 10 years (2,000 units total).

### **Seattle Neighborhood Greenways**

1. What is your vision for access to the future light rail stations in your district and how will you help bring that to reality in this critical lead up to the station openings in 2021?

2. For the future U District Station in particular, do you support the U District Mobility Plan's goals of providing bus-rail transfers on Brooklyn and pedestrianizing portions of the Ave and NE 43rd Street?
3. How will you hold the Mayor accountable to the climate, environmental, equity, and transportation goals embodied in the city council's adopted modal plans and ensure SDOT has the support it needs to carry out its mission as defined by the modal plans?
4. Do you support the City's plans to build bike lanes on Eastlake Avenue?

### **Transit Riders Union**

1. Do you think large employers should subsidize transit passes for their employees? Do you think the City should require this?
2. Do you support the City's plans for a RapidRide corridor and bike lanes on Eastlake Ave?
3. Do you think Mayor Durkan made the right choice or the wrong choice to cancel a protected bike lane on 35th Ave NE?
4. The new U.S. attorney for Western Washington has said he would not support the city opening a safe consumption site. Do you believe the City should still move forward with this?

### **Transparent Seattle**

We would like to see a lightning round of yes/no questions for candidates:

1. Do you support community ownership models like land trusts and allocating resources to support this?
2. Do you support free transit passes?
3. In 2015, City Council passed a resolution for zero-percent detention of youth, and to develop policies eliminating youth detention. With that in mind, do you support the ongoing construction of the King County's youth jail?
4. Do you support #BlockTheBunker campaign to prevent the construction of a \$180 million police precinct in North Seattle?
5. Currently half of City budget goes toward Seattle's police force and public safety budget. Should this budget be reduced?
6. Do you support safe injection sites?
7. Do you believe 35th Ave should have a bike lane?
8. It's estimated that each homeless sweep costs \$1 million. Are you supportive of sweeps?
9. Would you support a head tax?

Additional questions:

1. District 4 is a historically red-lined, wealthy, and predominantly white district. How will you use your position to amplify community-led efforts toward equity and justice?
2. In what ways will you support community ownership models like land trusts from your position?
3. In what ways will you support expanding the current tenant relocation assistance legislation to cover tenants being displaced by economic evictions?
4. We haven't done a good job supporting sustainable growth in economically and socially disenfranchised communities. Taking the CID as an example, the 2011 upzone gave away height to developers without mandatory developer fees, and MHA gave away height for a fee that may never see use in the neighborhood the development was built, i.e. the community's culture and social capital gets traded for hollow promises. We were ill-prepared for the unprecedented

growth we're seeing now, and the lives of longtime residents are being upended as economic pressures in the city displace families to the periphery of the county and beyond. How will you be accountable to communities of color who are too often bearing the brunt of poorly planned urban development?

### **TreePac**

1. The City hasn't updated the Tree Protection ordinance in 10 years. District 4 includes many neighborhoods like Wedgwood, Ravenna, and Laurelhurst which have big trees and a dense tree canopy, which are threatened by a weak enforcement of the current, weak tree ordinance. Will you actively pursue a new ordinance that reflects the wishes of protecting our beloved big trees and preserving our neighborhood's dense canopy?
2. Mayor Burgess issued a Directors Rule in 2017 saying that tree loss and replacement should be tracked by DCI. Yet tree loss and replacement has not been added to the city's new Accela database tracking system. How will you work to help get this system updated to include trees?
3. Larger trees, (especially conifers in winter months) provide tremendous ecological value to Seattle's green infrastructure, by reducing storm water runoff, cleaning pollutants from the air, and providing animal habitat. Do you support giving greater protection to Exceptional trees and conifers? How would you provide this protection, especially as incentives to developers to save trees have failed?
4. Seattle's big trees and tree canopy are being actively removed in the redevelopment of Seattle's neighborhoods, and incentives to developers to save trees have failed. With the passage of the new MHA ordinance, and the soon to be likely approved ADU legislation, our neighborhoods big trees, the heart and soul of District 4 are threatened. How will you protect these trees?
5. The current Tree Protection Ordinance passed in 2001 said that developers in all city zones must replace all exceptional trees and trees over 24" DBH. When the City Council passed the MHA legislation they also passed a resolution saying that Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance should be updated. They passed a similar resolution in 2009. Yet none of this has happened. What would you do to require the City to enforce and update its current ordinance?

### **U District Advocates**

1. As the U District becomes denser, public open space becomes more critical. Do you support revitalizing the Ave into a pedestrian-only destination and how do you think we should get there?
2. How will you support the community's priorities for development of a walkable U District, as expressed in our [Parks Plan](#), our [Mobility Plan](#), and [Alley Activation Plan](#)?
3. What is your strategy to make the U District BIA & Partnership more representative of our community?
4. What will you do to address residential and commercial displacement as the U District becomes more dense with 30 story buildings?

### **U District Mobility Group**

1. What are your plans on working with City and other agencies to advance transportation projects in the Fourth District in a way that prioritizes community input and desires?

2. For the U District Station in particular, do you support the [U District Mobility Plan](#)'s goals of providing bus-rail transfers on Brooklyn and pedestrianizing portions of the Ave and NE 43rd Street?
3. What are your priorities for funding transportation projects in the upcoming budget cycle, in general and specifically for the Fourth District?
4. How will you support the community's priorities for development of a walkable U District, as expressed in our [Parks Plan](#), our [Mobility Plan](#), and [Alley Activation Plan](#)?

#### **U District Small Businesses Association**

1. Do you support the removal of the Ave (University Way NE) from the citywide upzone?
2. What will you do to address commercial displacement as the U District becomes more dense?
3. What is your strategy to make the U District BIA & Partnership more representative of our small business community to justify their renewal?
4. Are you supportive of seeking a historic district designation for the Ave?

#### **University District Community Council**

1. What are your highest priorities to accomplish in the short six months of your tenure?
2. As our representative, how will you be open and accessible to the Fourth District community before making decisions?
3. What will you do to address residential displacement as the U District becomes more dense?
4. What is your strategy to make the U District BIA & Partnership more representative of our community to justify their renewal?
5. Do you support the increase of 6" to each lane on Brooklyn Avenue NE to accommodate the possibility of direct bus transfers to our pending U District light rail station?

#### **University Park Community Club**

1. Will you acknowledge, address, and seek solutions to the flaws in the ADU/DADU proposal as challenged in the Queen Anne appeal, especially the inability of a city-wide ordinance to address the unique concerns of specific neighborhoods? Furthermore, will you reinstate in the proposal the requirements for owner-occupancy and off-street parking, in order to mitigate other potentially negative impacts of that proposal, so as to protect family neighborhoods from invasive and aggressive development by speculators and absentee owners?
2. Will you seek to expedite the city's efforts to update the Tree Ordinance with practical, enforceable and coherent policies, which will protect the City's tree canopy, while affording developers and homeowners with meaningful solutions?
3. How do you plan to work with and through the Department of Neighborhoods to reset the City's commitment to neighborhood organizations? Will you proactively and honestly reach out to the various neighborhoods in District 4 to seek their input, in order to truly represent the issues and concerns of each community as you help shape any new legislation?

## **Wallingford Community Council**

1. Homelessness. How would the candidate address the issues of homelessness with regard to unauthorized encampments, drug use, property crimes, and public safety?
2. Neighborhood Engagement. How would the candidate involve neighborhoods with land-use planning, new projects, and City government?
3. Family-sized housing. Seattle is losing family-sized housing through redevelopment. How would the candidate change City policies to provide for a significant amount of family-sized housing units?
4. Tree canopy. Seattle is losing our tree canopy (including many exceptional and significant trees) through redevelopment. How would the candidate preserve exceptional and significant trees, and change City policies to increase the tree canopy (to meet current City goals)?