



First Hill Improvement Association Questionnaire for Seattle Mayoral Candidates First Hill has roughly 14,000 residents and over 30,000 employees, bounded by Union Street to the north, Broadway to the east, Main Street to the south, and 15 to the west.

First Hill has hundreds of shelter beds, housing for formerly homeless individuals (with more under- construction at the 1400 Madison project), and various services that support homeless individuals.

○ **What are your plans to ensure that there are adequate shelter beds and housing options available to those who are unhoused?**

Under my administration, there will be a new urgency to getting people housed, safely off the streets, and connected with services they need. In my first year, I am pledging to commit at least \$140 million in existing city resources, state resources, philanthropic money, and the majority of federal ARPA funding to purchase and rent thousands of units of housing, with services on site, for those in need. We will embrace evidence-based solutions like housing first, personalized case management, and long-term care and treatment, along with pathways for those who have been chronically homeless to get back on their feet like access to career support, resume building, and more. Working with regional partners, we will ensure a regional approach that allows neighboring cities to do their part, demonstrates Seattle is a dependable, forward-thinking leader on this issue, and gets results.

People cannot get healthy without having a safe, permanent place to call home, which is why we must work to house every unsheltered neighbor. The homelessness crisis must be our first priority – the finger-pointing and passing the buck must end, I'll be a mayor committed to action and accountability.

○ **What is your plan to ensure that other neighborhoods throughout the city provide the services that First Hill already does?**

As we fund and implement additional services, it's critically important we ensure they are available to neighbors everywhere in our community and accessible to those in need. One of my top priorities is to create a clear dashboard where our plans – and our progress – are visible to everyone in our city. That includes what services the city and providers are offering, where they are available, and who is accessing them. That way, we can thoroughly review where our efforts are successful, what programs are working or not working, and which areas may need extra help.

○ **How will you plan to provide adequate counseling to help unhoused people transition into housing?**

Counseling and access to mental and behavioral health services will be a core part of our homelessness efforts because we know we will not be successful without giving people access to the care they need. As mentioned, we will follow a housing first strategy, ensuring that people have stable roofs over their heads,

along with services that are onsite and immediately accessible to help them recover. I am also proposing a bold universal healthcare program that would provide access to care for the most vulnerable in our city – such as those experiencing homelessness or others experiencing economic disruption – including behavioral and mental health care. From those suffering homelessness to those at risk of becoming homeless, we need to make sure everyone has access to the support they need.

Thousands of people commute to and from First Hill on any given day and workforce housing is needed to reduce traffic and commutes.

○ **What is your plan to increase workforce housing in First Hill and other downtown neighborhoods?**

It's vital that working families be able to afford to live in communities across our city, especially those that they work in. On the City Council, I had a strong record of supporting affordable housing and advocating for programs like MHA that require affordability in new buildings at the same time we are increasing development to match growth. As Mayor, I'll address the housing crisis by dedicating general-fund sources to build more affordable housing, especially on vacant or underdeveloped public land; increasing density options citywide; reducing reliance on property taxes via alternative revenues where possible; and pushing for increased investments in maintenance of existing housing, while supporting tenants at risk of displacement.

I believe our neighborhoods should be accessible to all, including First Hill and Downtown, and as Mayor, I will strive to make sure there are affordable housing units for people of all walks of life.

Over the past year, multiple small businesses, many of them owned and operated by People of Color, have experienced break-ins, assaults, thefts, and arson.

○ **What is your Road to Recovery for First Hill?**

In May, I officially kicked off my SOS: Support our Shops Tour from Pike Place Market, the heart of small business in our city. Through this tour I'm planning to visit over 20 neighborhoods before November across all seven council districts, to hear directly from small business owners and their employees about how the city can better support them. I've already met with over 120 local business leaders, many of whom have shared their excitement that someone was reaching out to hear about their concerns.

I'm inspired by stories of creativity and perseverance during the pandemic, but the most important lesson has been that in order for a recovery to work, we must keep our smallest businesses from slipping through the cracks and protect workers. We need leadership and an open door in City Hall. I've called for use of federal recovery funds to go toward small business recovery efforts, increased access to capital and resources, and new "business to business" partnerships to ensure that smaller businesses and BIPOC entrepreneurs enjoy the ancillary revenues and success of many larger businesses.

I have a long history of assisting small, local, and BIPOC-owned businesses get off the ground and turned into thriving job creators and community pillars. As mayor, I'll be a trusted partner, delivering an equitable recovery with dedicated resources to help businesses get back on their feet and expand to take advantage of opportunities ahead. I'm also committed to preserving and revitalizing arts, culture, and nightlife – some of Seattle's hardest hit businesses and creatives. I know by partnering together with local Improvement Associations and their members, we can better promote this recovery and build a better economy for the future.

○ **How do you plan to support small businesses that have seen increases in crime?**

Unlike my major opponents, I've been unequivocal – I do not support defunding the police and instead recognize reform must come from a variety of strategies, including real culture change. In tandem with the current posturing from City Hall, we've seen 911-response times increase. This is not a formula for long term public safety. Our small businesses need to know that the city is listening and working to respond with

action.

In creating a more effective police department, I'm going to make sure we don't send badges and guns into situations where they are not needed, relying on social workers and other first responders to keep police focused on the most urgent and important situations. I'll also fix the SPD's staffing and morale problems, making sure we hire quality officers and build real relationships with communities, prioritizing dignity, decency and mutual respect.

I'll advocate broader reforms that make our police department a national leader, so public safety exists for ALL Seattleites.

Our neighborhood is vastly underserved with access to open space. That is why our organization, alongside SDOT, the Parks Department, and SDC I created the First Hill Public Realm Action Plan (PRAP) in 2015 to address the lack of open spaces due to inadequate availability of land and high land values.

○ **Will you commit, before the August 3" Primary to go on a FHIA guided tour to learn how the PRAP has benefitted the neighborhood thus far?**

Given our proximity to the primary, I likely won't be able to attend a guided tour before August 3rd. However, I would gladly take a tour before the general election and would look forward to learning more about where progress has been made, and where we can continue to improve.

○ **Will you pledge to support First Hill through the continuation of policies that encourage private developers to implement the PRAP? Do you have any policy ideas that can overcome the challenges associated with new park development in First Hill?**

I believe access to parks and open spaces is critical for ensuring healthy communities. Seattle is facing twin pressures of growing more dense to maximize affordability and opportunity for young people, working people and low income families to reside in our city, and the need to protect tree cover, wetlands, open space and parks for a growing population, and to mitigate the impacts of impending climate change. Looking at maps of where parks and open spaces are available, we will prioritize delivering to those most in need, including through public-private partnerships. I will look at this issue holistically, working together with Improvement Associations, community organizations, environmental leaders and more to develop innovative plans that protect and preserve existing spaces and facilitate greater – and greener – density in an equitable and thoughtful way.