

**1. Do you favor a regional or a local approach to addressing issues such as housing and homelessness? If your answer is “a regional approach”, do you hold fast to that answer even where regional solutions such as a push for a massive increase in urbanized density, incentives and tax breaks to developers shift the tax burden to residents, including seniors and those on fixed incomes? How would you intend to listen to citizens and protect the character and fragile environment of our city from competing regional interests?**

**If you favor a local approach, how will you “protect the character and fragile environment of our city” and counter the shifting of tax burden from developers to Edmonds citizens while ensuring a policy that reasonably increases housing availability?**

While housing and homelessness is a regional problem, working towards solutions must start with a local approach. Every city/community has a different makeup and trying to apply a blanket solution will do more harm than good. I do not believe in density for density's sake. I have witnessed what happens when adding density to an area that visually did not make sense, and it was too late to do something about it. Each issue/project needs to be addressed and vetted before proposing a solution. In addition, protecting the character and fragile environment of our city is not just about buildings and land, but the people that are a part of it. There is a tax shift with the MFTE properties, relatively small but unfair all the same. One of the things we could do to address this is require a mixed use / commercial space element where those taxes can recover some of the lost revenue. It would be nice to have the MFTE replaces with a tax exemption code that provides below market rate housing in a well managed setting.

**2. Edmonds’ government seems to have devolved into an unelected staff and City Attorney more frequently proposing and even advocating for legislation. Few even reside in the City by which they are employed. Should unelected staff have a heightened level of influence and power in creating legislation? How should that be managed and where should Edmonds’ citizens fit into that legislative process?**

While city staff are usually hired because of their experience in a certain area, they should not have heightened influence and power in creating legislation. That responsibility lives with the council members, and it is imperative that council members allot the necessary time to read through what is being proposed, do the homework and research, ask the necessary follow up questions, then have a healthy discussion on the pros and cons of that legislation. Citizens fit into the process in several ways, including electing those they trust will represent the community as a whole as well as council members keeping open lines of communication with ALL of their constituents.

**3. RCW 36.70A.140 requires a city with a Comprehensive Plan to ensure “continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations...” In contravention of**

**this law Edmonds government has been lacking in how citizens are engaged in its “consideration and response to public comments”. (RCW 36.70.140) Examples include Citizen Housing Commission polls written with predetermined outcomes, poll outcomes being discounted when the results did not conform to a certain agenda and a refusal to read aloud public comments submitted in writing to Council meetings against the spirit and intent of the Governor’s Proclamation 20-28 which states that any virtual public meeting “(b) provides the ability for all persons attending the meeting to hear each other at the same time.” What will you do as a Council member to ensure continuous public participation in a genuine and transparent manner?**

It has been troubling that polls have been presented were not written in an open-ended way. Having poll questions written with a slant not only creates distrust with the entire process, but also against and among our elected leaders. The spirit and intent of the Governor’s proclamation is great, but also creates logistical issues, including the amount of time a meeting would last if all comments were read aloud. I would have liked to see the city’s administration create ways to honor this proclamation, possibly by recording the reading of those written public comments ahead of time and making it available ahead of the meeting and/or ensuring those comments were included as part of the agenda packet. As we move more into digital engagement and participation (especially where in-person engagement is not an option for many in our community), I would craft opportunities for virtual forums that would be available to all, in the way I have done over the past year.

**4. Rank the following issues in order of your priority for Edmonds. Detail your ideas about how to address each of the top three. Please be specific.**

- 2   Affordable Housing**
- 1   Equity and Inclusion**
- 4   Protection of the Environment**
- 3   Economic Development**
- 5   Public Safety**

**Equity and Inclusion:** This is really the foundation for all the issues listed above. Each issue that comes before council should have this as part of the discussion and decision-making process. It is also important to note that equity and inclusion is not just about race but is much broader than that. It is about considering as many groups as possible: young adults to seniors, working class to affluent, abled to disabled, renter to owner.

**Housing Affordability:** Affordability is different for every person. I view housing affordability as creating various entry points for renter and ownership opportunities. As we try to address missing middle opportunities on a project basis, it is important to prioritize current community members. If we move ahead with creating more MFTE housing, as I stated at the recent Primary Candidates’ Debate, I would want to create an

ordinance that prioritizes current residents and stakeholders (those who work for businesses in Edmonds) in the application process. For example, this would create an opportunity for seniors looking to downsize a way to stay in the community they have called home instead of having to move to a different city. Due to supply and demand, this would help negate the argument of new people moving in, but instead show how we value keeping our current residents here.

**Economic Development:** If anything positive came from having to quarantine at home, we learned more about our immediate neighborhoods and the businesses that are there. We began supporting those businesses a lot more and discovered dining and retail gems beyond the Bowl. I would work to create more visibility of our various retail hubs throughout Edmonds and help build a portal that showcased businesses by geographic areas. I would also like to see a business roundtable created where reps from across the city could convene and discuss what is happening in their areas and share ideas on how to support and build upwards.