

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?

I believe it is important to ground our decision making with accurate information. The previous Mayor and Council appointed the Citizens Housing Commission to develop, “diverse housing policy options designed to expand the range of housing in Edmonds.” I was proud to be a liaison to the commission and see how dedicated the members were while volunteering 18 months of their time to learn, study and make recommendations to Council.

Now that the recommendations have been delivered, we owe our commissioners, our residents and the future of our city an evaluation of their recommendations. I regularly hear from residents who can't afford to live here, or don't have suitable options to downsize or find options that meet their needs. These are our essential workers, first responders, small business and nonprofit employees. With Councilmember Vivian Olson I co-led the passage of an agreement with the Housing Authority of Snohomish County to increase options for affordable housing in Edmonds, which was a recommendation from the Commission. I hope Council and the Planning Board will evaluate, engage with residents, and help find solutions that are appropriate for our city and meet our residents' needs.

I am also supportive of a Southwest Snohomish County Housing Consortium with Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood, so we can better collaborate and combine resources when appropriate.

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?

Council is the legislative body, and city staff implements what Council approves. I have collaborated with staff and the city attorney, when appropriate, however Council maintains all of its authority, even rejecting the Mayor's request for emergency powers in 2020.

In order to receive the best services, the city hires staff regardless of residence. This ensures we get the most qualified staff from a regional pool to meet our residents' needs. We do the same for police officers, emergency first responders, teachers, and other critical community positions. Meeting the needs of our community must always be at the top of mind for our policy and budgetary considerations.

While serving on Council, I'm proud to have brought a professional, respectful, and collaborative approach to serving our residents. Legislation and projects I have led or co-led, have all passed unanimously or at least with a super majority. Being a collaborative leader produces stronger

results. There are times when councilmembers will have differing priorities or policy visions, but these can be handled in a respectful manner.

I also partnered with Councilmembers Laura Johnson and Vivian Olson on the updated Council Code of Conduct. In our subcommittee we reviewed, updated, and brought a more comprehensive Code of Conduct to Council that was ultimately passed. Ensuring we respect each other, and the conduct principals we established, will contribute to more efficient and policy-focused decision making on Council.

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?

My day job in the public transportation sector focuses on community outreach and public engagement, and I brought this up at our recent Council budget retreat to ensure that we create equitable ways for our residents to be part of the decision-making process. I will continue to advocate for my city staff so the administration has the available resources to conduct equitable public engagement. I have started research on a public engagement policy, very popular in Canadian cities and some US, and hope to continue work on that in the future.

Last year I was the Council Member who created the email option for public comment, drastically improving options for people to provide comment on the official record from any location, at any time. These comments are recorded in our meeting minutes and delivered to all Council Members in real time.

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.

Councilmembers need to deal with these issues on a weekly basis, so it is very difficult to rank these issues as they are all incredibly important. I feel it is my duty as a member of City Council to address these issues concurrently; in fact, they intersect on a number of levels and therefore should be addressed holistically.

1 Affordable Housing

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downsize or find options that meet their needs. These are our essential workers, first responders, small business and nonprofit employees. With Councilmember Vivian Olson I co- led the passage of an agreement with the Housing Authority of Snohomish County to increase options for affordable housing in Edmonds, which was a recommendation from the Commission. I hope Council and the Planning Board will evaluate, engage with residents, and help find solutions that are appropriate for our city and meet our residents' needs.

_2_Equity and Inclusion

Addressing equity and inclusion needs to happen both internally in terms of the city's processes for hiring, promotion and contracting, for example, as well as where the city deploys its resources throughout the city limits. Where are we putting new green or open spaces, where are safety and transportation projects being implemented? We must have a great equity evaluation in our policy and budgetary decisions, and address systemic inequities where they exist.

_3_Protection of the Environment

Edmonds has been very forward on setting targets and passing resolutions and we don't have time to waste on implementing action items. With our updated tree code, possible land-use decisions and the upgrades we are going to see for regional transportation as light rail comes to Snohomish County, I want to make sure we take a really holistic approach to the environment that looks at all of these factors and asks, is this going to help or hurt us with our goals to address the climate crisis?

Council recently passed a code update that provides low-impact principles during certain building processes. And that means that when a lot may be subdivided for new construction, it provides flexibility on the guidelines to allow for better green space and environmental retention, instead of being pegged into overly prescriptive requirements that have a negative environmental impact. It's brand new for the city and will be interesting to see how it may be used.

Of course, we do have critical watersheds in the Edmonds Marsh and Perrinville and Shell Creeks, where the city can continue to collaborate with local and regional partners for restoration and salmon habitat support.

Edmonds does have a Complete Streets policy to help balance all users, and there are opportunities to help improve the safety and experiences, especially for users who are not in vehicles. Sidewalks, ADA accessible ramps, bike lanes - these all increase mobility and where people can go, while also fulfilling goals in our Climate Action Plan to help reduce emissions and pollution that can harm salmon recovery efforts.

I'm also very interested in continuing to advocate for solutions at the state level and partnering with our PUD to help incentivize and prioritize infrastructure for hybrid electric and electric vehicles as well, and removing fracked gas from our buildings (second largest GHG emitter after transportation).

_5_Economic Development

_4_Public Safety