

Hello Olympia Indivisible,

My name is Alyssa (uh-LEE-sha) Humbert and I am running for Olympia City Council position 2. My young son is my inspiration for running for city council because I want to do my part to make sure Olympia is safe, inclusive, and sustainable for him so that he can come to love Olympia as much as I do. I currently serve on the Board of the Family Support Center of South Sound which operates the largest family shelter in Thurston County and provides services for victims of domestic violence. I also serve on the Board of my neighborhood association and volunteer with Washington Trails Association maintaining our local parks as well as maintaining trails in the broader Washington state. Previously, I worked with special education students in a public school in a predominantly Hispanic community and also managed a children's literacy non-profit organization where we taught immigrant/refugee and low-income populations how to fall in love with reading. I am endorsed by the Washington State Progressive Caucus and have pledged not to accept contributions to my campaign from the oil, gas, and coal industries.

The following are my answers to your seven areas of concern:

Houselessness

As I've been talking to neighbors, friends, and members of the community, houselessness is a big concern and as I've seen on local web forums, this issue can create a lot of heated emotions. I believe houselessness needs an empathetic and comprehensive solution including mental and medical healthcare, education and job training, living wages, protection of tenants' rights, affordable housing, and long-term substance abuse and dependency treatment. However, I believe the priority for addressing houselessness is the evidence-based Housing First approach which first gives supported housing for the houseless population. Housing First is based on the evidence that when a person first has a shelter, a place to sleep, a safe place, a bathroom and shower to use, a place to store personal items and food, then they can be successful in other parts of their life.

Environmental Stewardship

As a volunteer with Washington Trails Association, I have participated in conservation and stewardship activities here in Olympia, as well as in broader Washington public lands and spaces. We need to do everything we can to encourage alternative, renewable energy and away from using up our precious natural resources. When elected to city council, I encourage and enhance incentives for private citizens to use alternative energy sources, such as waiving local sales taxes for solar panels and fuel-efficient cars. Let's enact heavy carbon taxes on corporations who are polluting without consequence. I believe in Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which helps communities like Olympia make their own decisions about where their energy comes from and gives citizens a say in the operation of their utilities.

Public Safety

It makes me sad every time I hear a resident say that they're afraid of going downtown because I love our downtown and frequent it often with my son. One of the reasons often cited for avoiding downtown is the houseless population which resides there, which is why I believe in prioritizing Housing First and raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour to help support the number of houseless persons in our city. In regards to our police force, I believe there are some weapons that the police force does not need and should only be reserved for the military, so I would investigate how to prevent our local police from obtaining surplus military equipment (as established by the DoD's 1033 Program). We need to hold police accountable for their actions

just as we expect civilians to be held accountable for their actions. Special task forces who are specifically trained to deal with certain groups of the population should be deployed for emergency calls that are mental health related and for juveniles involved in emergency calls so they do not become escalated. I also want to enact a citizen's oversight group of our police force that would have a hotline to accept complaints without repercussion, investigate claims and complaints about police, and hold hearings to resolve claims.

Economic Development

We need to reinvigorate our downtown by supporting the small businesses there. I fear that the luxury housing currently being developed downtown will gentrify our downtown and make it inaccessible and unaffordable for residents. I would rather see commitment to develop affordable housing along with some more expensive housing units so that there is a mix of communities in downtown. As someone who supports the Green New Deal, I am excited for jobs that will be created by the renewable energy industry. I see jobs being created by installing electric charging units, retrofitting public buildings to be energy efficient, installing solar panels and renewable energy sources, and more. I also advocate for a \$15 minimum wage and prioritizing adding union jobs which are stable and include benefits. I believe in removing barriers to unionization and protecting union workers' rights.

Growth Management

As our city grows, we have a need for more housing. I want to hold the City of Olympia accountable to providing affordable housing for our city and I want to see these affordable housing units built along public transportation lines and hubs as identified in the city's Comprehensive Plan and encourage residents to use alternative means of transportation. I advocate for density rather than suburban sprawl because having housing and businesses close together with some development upwards will encourage use of public transportation.

Transportation

I get excited when I talk about density (when it includes affordable housing), because to me, density means public transportation, walkability, and bicycling, rather than sprawl. I want to uphold the city council to its Comprehensive Plan which puts housing (and I will push for affordable housing) along transportation lines and includes multi-use buildings. We can also upgrade our public transportation vehicles to fuel-efficient vehicles such as an all electric bus fleet. For public transportation to be successful, we need to ensure rider rights are protected and expanded with a rider ambassador program that will help educate the public rather than focus on enforcement. I also want to encourage residents to walk or ride their bicycles by repairing sidewalks, ensuring there are sidewalks around all schools, installing divots in sidewalks for bicycles and wheelchairs, installing illuminated crosswalks to protect pedestrians when crossing, and installing bicycle lanes. I envision an Olympia that is accessible to all.

Diversity

I am a woman, a mother, and a person of color, as well as many other identifiers. As an Asian-American woman, I am running for city council because I want our city council to represent and reflect all voices and faces in our community. My friend, Deborah Cano-Lee pushed for the need of an Office of Civil Rights in Olympia and I am proud to carry her idea on my campaign. An Office of Civil Rights would have a hotline where people can file claims without repercussion, a special team to investigate claims, and hold a hearing to come to resolution. I will also push for all government agencies to undergo diversity training to learn about different people,

different cultures, even different mental states so that they can be more empathetic in dealing with the public and each other.

Finally, I am a mother to a toddler and I participate in many mom groups around Thurston County. In talking with moms and families, I have heard many needs to further support parents, especially working parents. I want to put in place free childcare at City Hall so that families can be civically engaged. In fact, I would love to see publicly funded childcare in Olympia because childcare is an issue for mothers, fathers, employers, and everyone in our community. I support Whole Washington (Medicare for All) and want to do my part so that it includes paid family leave, postpartum care and lactation support, and paid maternity leave. To further support families, we need to enhance and enforce tenants' rights and support families with a living wage. I want to ensure families are included in the conversations at City Hall.

Thank you for your time,

Alyssa Humbert
Candidate for Olympia City Council Position 2