

Homelessness

The city has been actively pursuing steps to address the homelessness crisis. By contracting with the Low-Income Housing Institute to manage a tiny house village, designating a mitigation site downtown, expanding access to shelter services, and partnering with the faith community to promote additional tiny houses, we've taken major steps to find housing for our most vulnerable neighbors, address the public health costs of widespread homelessness, and assist downtown businesses. I was proud to lead the effort to pass the Home Fund, a campaign to provide permanent supportive housing and services for chronically houseless individuals.

As a result of our growing unhoused population and the impact on our public resources, in my first term, I co-chaired and led the Home Fund campaign, a historical affordable housing measure in the South Puget Sound region that will provide permanent supportive housing for chronically houseless individuals. Based on a housing first model it is low barrier, providing housing with supportive services. The Home Fund passed in February of 2018, generates \$2.3 million annually and we hope to begin construction on our first project in early 2020 with 60 units of supportive housing.

Despite this progress, we need to do more – and Olympia can't do it alone. As your councilmember, I will work to organize support from our neighboring communities to address this crisis. As a member of the Association of Washington Cities Housing & Social Services Legislative Committee, I testified to the legislature for increased funding options for local governments to address the homelessness public health crisis. The bill passed and we will now receive an additional \$330,000 per year for affordable housing. I'll continue to work with other local elected leaders to advocate for support from the state government and craft solutions to this statewide problem. In my role on city council, I will seek sustainable solutions to address homelessness & building broader coalitions as a priority.

Environmental stewardship

I believe strongly in being a steward our natural resources to safeguard them for present and future generations. In Washington we are incredibly fortunate to have such abundant wildland, wildlife, and waterways. It is essential that we protect them for our current residents and future populations.

I'm proud to live in a community whose citizens are so committed to protecting our climate, our green spaces, and our region's natural beauty. Olympia has set ambitious carbon emissions reduction targets with the support of neighboring cities in Thurston County, and we are currently developing strategies to meet these goals.

Even with significant carbon emission reductions, however, scientists anticipate that sea levels will continue to rise, so it's essential that we plan for the future now. Downtown Olympia is vulnerable to flooding, and we must do everything possible to protect our critical infrastructure, residences, and downtown businesses from sea level rise while also working to reduce our city's carbon emissions.

In addition to issues of climate change, we will continue working towards our park plan goals. Recreational opportunities and green spaces for all Olympians to enjoy is a priority of our community. In

the years to come we will continue working towards park development and maintenance, the location of new dog park, and creation of neighborhood parks.

Public Safety

Thanks to the passage of our 2017 public safety measure Olympia has expanded its community court, diverting individuals out of the criminal justice system and applying a holistic approach to criminal justice. We also increased our downtown walking patrol and created neighborhood policing to increase outreach and positive relationships with neighborhoods.

The city has also invested in mental health and support services for individuals that are experiencing a mental health crisis. Olympia created the Familiar Faces program where peer counselors with lived substance use disorder experience proactively engage with individuals that frequently utilize public services such as fire, EMS, and law enforcement. By building relationships, they connect individuals to services and appropriate care. Olympia also created the Crisis Response Unit which utilizes mental health professionals when a person is experiencing an acute mental health crisis. This allows medical professionals, not law enforcement to assist individuals with a mental health crisis. On a state level we must reform our mental health system to include embedded community supports and services, including housing. I will continue working with our state legislators on this important issue.

Economic Development

Olympians deserve and expect a safe and welcoming downtown core that serves as the social, cultural, historic, and economic heart of our city. Our downtown is a regional gem, and we must continue to support a growing business and retail environment, arts and cultural opportunities, promote inclusive residential options, and mitigate the impact of homelessness.

Over the next 20 years, downtown Olympia is expected to become home to 5,000 new residents. While we look forward to growing our city, we must work to ensure the availability of housing options for all income levels. As your councilmember, I'll work to modernize our housing strategy, ensure that we have the tools to increase affordable housing supply, explore options for redeveloping city-owned property to meet our community's needs, and increase public housing that will remain permanently affordable.

Growth Management & Transportation

Land use, zoning, building codes and design are integral to achieving our environmental goals. We must promote environmentally sustainable land use to minimize sprawl, provide a healthy livable environment for all, and minimize the use of our resources. In order to reduce our climate impact, we must make our buildings more energy efficient and utilize alternative non carbon energy sources. We must also change the way people travel, reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing multimodal transportation. Mass transit is predicated on land use and density. For alternative transportation to be successful, we must have the density to support it.

In Olympia we need to increase density downtown, along our corridors, in our neighborhood centers while increasing infill throughout the community. In addition to building energy efficiency and alternative transit options, density also supports people interacting with their neighbors and friends which supports positive health outcomes. Growing our neighborhood centers will also help us achieve our goals of people having amenities within walking distance of their home, which increases the likelihood that they will walk, bike, or take the bus.

Diversity

Diversity and inclusiveness are inherent to our democratic processes. The City of Olympia has been rated by the Municipal Equality Index for the past few years, scoring 100% on its policies impacting LGBTQ community members and employees. Recently the City became members of the Government Alliance for Race and Equity, a cohort of municipalities working to create more equitable policies within our organizations. Their mission is to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. I am hopeful that this alliance will strengthen our policies and practices on race and equity within the City. We also hired a new human resources director and are initiating a strategic plan to recruit and hire a more diverse workforce that reflects the population it serves.

In addition, we continually strive to receive input from diverse perspectives. To that end, we have been conducting community conversations to gather input from community members directly, focusing on individuals not typically represented in surveys or public comment. We need to shape our engagement processes to include individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds, including renters, young people, and communities of color in order to receive feedback that reflects our community.