



Davida Haygood Urbanist Questionnaire 2024
Pierce County Council District 2

What is your vision for how Pierce County should grow in the coming decades?
What does a livable community look like to you and how do you plan to ensure the County is doing enough to create these kinds of communities?

My vision for Pierce County District 2 is to see it grow into a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable community where everyone has the opportunity to live, work, and flourish. To achieve this, we must ensure affordable housing and housing stability by increasing affordable housing stock, strengthening tenant and landlord partnership, and providing comprehensive services to prevent homelessness. We need to foster a robust local economy with diverse job opportunities that provide living wages and benefits, advocate for local business investment, support apprenticeship programs in high schools, and ensure labor has a voice in legislation and policy. Building a community where everyone feels safe and has access to necessary health services involves supporting crisis response teams, and ensuring reproductive health services are accessible. We must make Pierce County a leader in environmental stewardship by strengthening our partnership with tribal communities for climate change policies, supporting local tribe land trusts, and investing in green infrastructure. Fostering authentic community connections, investing in public transportation, parks, and community spaces, implementing policies that address systemic racism and economic inequities, and championing progressive taxation to fund social services are essential to creating a livable community. My commitment to community engagement, equitable growth, and sustainable practices will ensure that we are building a future where everyone can thrive.



Given that 446,000 people live in unincorporated Pierce County, how will you manage growth in these areas? How should the County curb sprawl and encourage urbanization and transit use in unincorporated areas of the County?

Managing growth in unincorporated Pierce County, home to 446,000 residents, requires a strategic approach to development, urbanization, and transit use. To effectively manage this growth and curb urban sprawl, we must implement comprehensive planning, encourage sustainable urban development, and enhance public transportation options. This involves developing a detailed growth management plan that prioritizes higher-density development in designated urban centers while preserving open spaces and natural areas. We should focus on creating vibrant, mixed-use urban centers within unincorporated areas, encouraging development that includes residential, commercial, and recreational spaces to create walkable neighborhoods and reduce the need for long commutes. Providing incentives for developers to build affordable housing and mixed-use developments, such as tax breaks and streamlined permitting processes, is essential.

Investing in expanding and improving public transportation networks to connect unincorporated areas with major urban centers is crucial. This includes increasing bus route frequency and coverage, developing light rail systems, and creating dedicated lanes for public transit. Promoting public transportation through affordable fare policies, improved transit accessibility, and safe, well-maintained transit stops is necessary. Prioritizing sustainable infrastructure, including green buildings, renewable energy sources, and efficient water and waste management systems, will support environmentally friendly growth. Additionally, implementing policies that support the development of bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and green spaces will promote alternative transportation modes and enhance residents' quality of life.



Engaging with residents through public forums, surveys, and workshops to gather input and build consensus on growth management strategies ensures community voices are heard and considered. Educating residents about the benefits of urbanization, smart growth, and public transportation, and providing information on how these strategies can improve their quality of life and reduce environmental impact, is essential. Collaboration with neighboring cities, regional planning organizations, and state agencies will coordinate growth management efforts and ensure policy consistency. Partnering with private developers, non-profit organizations, and community groups to leverage resources and expertise in implementing these initiatives will further support our goals. By following these strategies, we can manage growth effectively, curb urban sprawl, and encourage sustainable urbanization and transit use, creating a more livable, equitable, and environmentally sustainable community for current and future residents.

What policies would you put forth to address historic inequities and move towards a more equitable Pierce County?

To address historic inequities and move towards a more equitable Pierce County, I propose a series of comprehensive policies. Firstly, increasing funding for affordable housing projects and providing incentives for developers to include affordable units in new developments is essential. Strengthening tenant and landlord partnerships, and establishing a community land trust will ensure long-term affordability and prevent displacement, particularly in historically marginalized communities. Supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs from underrepresented communities through grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance programs will stimulate economic development. Promoting apprenticeship programs and vocational training in high schools will create pathways to well-paying jobs, while implementing a living wage ordinance will ensure fair compensation for all workers.



In education, advocating for increased funding for public schools serving low-income and BIPOC students, implementing culturally relevant curricula, expanding access to early childhood education, and providing comprehensive support services for students, including mental health resources and after-school programs, will create an equitable education system.

Expanding access to affordable healthcare, including mental health services, and supporting reproductive health services will ensure health equity. Implementing community policing strategies, expanding unarmed crisis response teams, and promoting restorative justice practices will improve community safety and justice reform. Establishing a task force to explore reparations for Black communities, supporting initiatives addressing gentrification impacts in BIPOC neighborhoods, and advocating for policies protecting LGBTQIA2S+ rights will advance racial and social justice. Investing in green infrastructure, renewable energy projects, and establishing Community Climate Resilience Hubs will enhance environmental sustainability and resilience, while partnering with local tribes to protect natural resources. Creating advisory councils representing marginalized communities, implementing participatory budgeting, ensuring voting access through measures like automatic voter registration and extended early voting, and advocating for proportional representation and ranked-choice voting will foster inclusive governance and political participation. By implementing these policies, we can address historic inequities and build a more just and equitable Pierce County where all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

How will you ensure youth are able to thrive in Pierce County, from education to transportation to access to opportunity?



To ensure youth thrive in Pierce County, we need to address education, transportation, and access to opportunities comprehensively. Firstly, I will advocate for increased funding for public schools, particularly those serving low-income and BIPOC students, to guarantee high-quality education for all. Implementing culturally relevant curricula, expanding access to early childhood education, and providing comprehensive support services, such as mental health resources and after-school programs, are essential steps. Promoting apprenticeship programs and vocational training in high schools will create pathways to well-paying jobs, equipping young people with the skills they need for successful careers.

Improving transportation is crucial for youth mobility and access to opportunities. Expanding and enhancing public transportation networks, including increasing bus route frequency and coverage, developing light rail systems, and ensuring safe, well-maintained transit stops, will help students and young people travel to schools, jobs, and extracurricular activities. Implementing affordable fare policies will make public transit more accessible to youth, removing financial barriers and encouraging transit use.

To foster youth engagement and leadership, I will establish a Junior Council that provides young people with a platform to voice their concerns and ideas about county policies and initiatives. This council will offer mentorship and leadership training, empowering youth to actively participate in their community's development. Additionally, removing financial barriers for youth engagement by providing stipends, covering transportation costs, and ensuring access to necessary resources will make it easier for young people from all backgrounds to get involved.

By implementing these strategies, we can create an environment where youth in Pierce County have the education, transportation, and opportunities they need to thrive. Through comprehensive support, engagement, and empowerment, we can ensure that the next generation is well-prepared to contribute to and lead our community.

What are your priorities around transportation? Do you support Pierce Transit's vision for a bus rapid transit network and if so how would you bring it about?



My priorities around transportation in Pierce County focus on creating an efficient, accessible, and sustainable system that meets the needs of all residents. I strongly support Pierce Transit's vision for a bus rapid transit (BRT) network and believe it is a crucial step towards improving public transportation in our community. To bring about this vision, I would advocate for federal and state transportation grants, work with local governments and private sector partners to secure additional funding, and collaborate with regional planning organizations and community groups to ensure a coordinated approach to BRT development. Prioritizing the construction of dedicated bus lanes, modern transit stations, and efficient signal systems is essential to ensure that BRT buses operate quickly and reliably. Additionally, implementing real-time tracking and information systems, along with affordable fare policies and accessible transit stops, will enhance the user experience and increase ridership. By investing in green infrastructure, such as electric buses, and developing bike lanes and pedestrian pathways, we can promote sustainable transportation and reduce the county's carbon footprint. Engaging with residents and businesses along proposed BRT corridors to gather input and build support, alongside launching marketing campaigns and incentive programs, will further promote the use of public transit. Through these efforts, we can develop and implement a bus rapid transit network that significantly improves public transportation and enhances the quality of life for all residents in Pierce County.

What does a Vision Zero campaign to end traffic deaths look like to you and what will you do to fund and achieve that?

A Vision Zero campaign to end traffic deaths in Pierce County involves comprehensive strategies aimed at creating safer streets for all users. This includes infrastructure improvements such as protected bike lanes and traffic calming measures, policy changes like stricter enforcement of traffic laws, community



engagement to raise awareness about road safety, and data-driven approaches to identify high-risk areas and behaviors. To fund this campaign, I will pursue federal, state, and local grants, allocate a portion of the county's budget towards road safety improvements, seek partnerships with private sector stakeholders and non-profit organizations, and explore community funding initiatives. Through these efforts, we can achieve Vision Zero and ensure that all residents can travel safely on Pierce County's roads.

How will you shift the current dynamic and challenges regarding homelessness funding between the Executive and Council?

Shifting the current dynamic and challenges regarding homelessness funding between the Executive and Council requires a collaborative and proactive approach. As a supporter of Ryan Mello for County Executive, I believe in his ability to lead this change. I would encourage open communication and collaboration between the Executive and Council, using data to identify gaps in homelessness services and track progress. Engaging with community stakeholders and ensuring transparency and accountability in funding decisions are also crucial. Additionally, exploring innovative funding solutions and developing a long-term strategic plan for addressing homelessness will be key steps in shifting the current dynamic and effectively addressing homelessness in Pierce County.

What steps should the County take to expand renter protections in unincorporated Pierce County?

To expand renter protections in unincorporated Pierce County, the County should consider the following steps:



Rent Stabilization: Implement rent stabilization measures to limit rent increases and provide stability for tenants, particularly in areas experiencing rapid gentrification. I am watching the pilot program that is happening in Tacoma for better understanding the benefits and challenges of this.

Just Cause Eviction: Enact just cause eviction policies to prevent landlords from evicting tenants without a valid reason, ensuring that tenants are not unfairly displaced.

Tenant Rights Education: Provide education and resources to tenants about their rights and responsibilities, empowering them to advocate for themselves and address issues with their landlords.

Anti-Retaliation Measures: Establish protections against retaliation for tenants who assert their rights, ensuring that landlords cannot evict or retaliate against tenants for reporting violations or organizing with other tenants.

Habitability Standards: Enforce minimum habitability standards for rental units to ensure that tenants have safe and healthy living conditions.

Tenant Assistance Programs: Create programs to provide financial assistance and legal support to tenants facing eviction or housing insecurity.

Landlord-Tenant Mediation: Establish a landlord-tenant mediation program to resolve disputes outside of court, reducing the burden on the legal system and providing a more efficient and cost-effective way to address issues.

Tenant Screening Reform: Address unfair tenant screening practices that disproportionately impact marginalized communities, such as banning the use of certain criteria like credit scores or criminal history in rental decisions.

By implementing these steps, Pierce County can expand renter protections and create a more equitable rental housing market for all residents.