



## **Devin Hermanson Urbanist Questionnaire 2024**

US House, Congressional District 2

### **What is your top priority for the upcoming term, and how will you achieve it?**

We will never see real progress on our overall agenda if we don't secure our democracy. I have a two-year plan as part of my Case for Hope that outlines top priorities that work together - voting rights, tax reform, and fixing the Supreme Court. All three need to be accomplished and I will do my part to pound the table, educate, and inspire others to seize this moment as a possible unique opportunity to build a new America that serves the rest of us, not just the wealthy and corporations.

### **How will you prioritize investments and policies at the federal level to support cities in the Puget Sound region in their efforts to reduce car dependence and traffic deaths and prioritize walking, biking, and public transit?**

I will work with state and local leaders to highlight the already amazing work being done for inclusion in grants from the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program and seek to radically increase that funding and fill the gap between our region's vision and current reality. I am a big proponent of The Green New Deal and, after a total reworking of our tax code to ensure the wealthy and corporations pay their fare share, will ensure that walking, biking, and public transit receive significant resources in the GND's final form.

### **How do you plan to address the housing affordability crisis through federal policy, including increasing the supply of affordable housing near jobs and transit?**

Progressive Democrats like Senator Warren have made bold proposals that I would support including increasing investments in the National Housing Trust Fund and Capital Magnet Fund, expanding the Community Reinvestment Act, and creating incentives for local governments to



eliminate unnecessary land-use restrictions, and expand the Fair Housing Act to strengthen anti-discrimination laws. The overall effect would greatly increase the availability of affordable housing and specifically provide billions in grants for communities to build infrastructure, parks, roads, or schools if they agree to end land-use rules that restrict construction of new affordable housing.

**How will you support urban growth that focuses on building up existing urban areas rather than sprawling out into wilderness and agricultural land?**

The Federal Farmland Protection Act already seeks to protect farmlands and that goal must be maintained. Any legislation that I support will emphasize density over sprawl while allowing enough flexibility for states and communities to negotiate tradeoffs.

Democratic Senator Jacky Rosen's years-long negotiation with a broad array of stakeholders in Nevada to create the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act sounds like a model of collaborative policymaking that will provide low-income housing, respect for local tribes, and protection of public lands.

I don't have all the answers regarding the specifics of legislation but I can tell you my values and priorities. Deep public involvement by localities is key. I recently spoke with Mukilteo City Councilman, Jason Moon about his concerns regarding the density, mass transit, and the preservation of the waterfront. We're planning a follow-up conversation and I'll continue to have such discussions to ensure the policy made in DC is taking into account the reality of WA-02.

**How will you work to address climate change and environmental justice through federal policy?**

Progressives will ensure that federal policy centers front line communities and provides quality union jobs as part of a new, green economy that ensures corporate profits no longer trump the health of our planet and people.



**How do you propose to improve public safety in urban areas without further contributing to mass incarceration and racialized oppression?**

We need to rethink what policing is and end the era of monolithic policing. Enhance police departments with social workers, mental health experts, and drug experts rather than deploying one-size-fits-all officers, decriminalize marijuana, exercise federal oversight of police forces, and finally implement common sense gun reform.

**The conservative movement has orchestrated a takeover of the Supreme Court and many of the lower courts, installing partisans willing to legislate from the bench, eroding reproductive rights and protections for voters, workers, and consumers. What do you aim to do about it? How can we prevent judicial overreach?**

Joe Biden was not my first choice but overall I believe he has done a remarkable job in the face of radical opposition. One of the key criticisms I have is his lack of courage in dealing with the Supreme Court. President Biden and other Democrats backed down when we should have stated the obvious - it's not a question of IF we reform the Court, it's HOW.

I won't take no for an answer. My "Case for Hope" makes reforming the Court a top priority in the first two years of President Biden's next term.

We will expand the Court, create an enforceable code of ethics, and I will propose a new bill that goes further than the current ban on trading being considered. My bill will require members of Congress and judges to roll all individual stocks into broad funds. The potential for conflict of interest is simply too great and holding public office should not be an avenue to riches.