



## **Adam Smith Urbanist Questionnaire 2024**

US House of Representatives, Congressional District 9

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

I believe that perhaps the greatest issue of our time is economic insecurity. Middle class wages have not kept up to the cost of living. We have seen an increase in food insecurity, housing insecurity, etc. We need to ensure that workers receive better wages, affordable education, and the support they need to make it in this country. On that front, I have fought hard to pass legislation such as paid family leave for all federal employees. I have also been working hard to drive federal dollars to our community, particularly towards affordable housing. Continuing to work with unions and community organizations to combat economic security will remain a priority of mine.

### **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?**

The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. As we modernize our transportation system and infrastructure, it's critical that we transition away from a reliance on fossil fuels. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is just one step. The Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress in 2022 also includes incentives that will spur the adoption of electric vehicles and bring the manufacturing of these vehicles to the U.S.

I am focused on ensuring that the Ninth District and the entire region is poised to take advantage of the funding opportunities created by legislation like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and annual appropriations bills.



I support funding and policies that build on these landmark pieces of legislation, continue to expand sustainable infrastructure like public transit and electric vehicles, and make our transportation system safer, more reliable, and efficient for everyone.

This year through the annual appropriation bills I was able to target federal funds towards specific projects in their communities. I championed projects that supported multimodal development in order to reduce car dependency and increase public transit use. These projects include:

- \$500,000 for the City of SeaTac for the Airport Station Area Pedestrian Improvement Project (SeaTac)
- \$500,000 for Sound Transit for the South Renton Transit Center (Renton)
- \$850,000 for Arc of King County for The Arc Legacy Center (SeaTac)

All CPF projects are available here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7dbb59ca049c4766805717700a969b28>

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

It is critical that Congress take action to alleviate the housing crisis. That means building more affordable housing units. I have and continue to advocate for significant federal investment that would drastically increase the supply of affordable housing.

Affordable housing and transit are essential to our sustainable development. My bill, the Promoting Affordable Housing Near Transit Act, was passed into law last year as part of the FY 2022 NDAA. It



establishes a process by which a non-profit organization or other third-party entity can receive a land transfer from a federal transit agency at zero cost for the purposes of a transit-oriented development or affordable housing project. We must be creative about securing affordable and efficient housing in King County and that is why I fought so hard to pass this measure into law.

Just recently, Sound Transit received FTA approval to use what's called an "Affordable Housing Disposition". This law allows transit agencies to repurpose qualified properties for transit-oriented development and affordable housing projects. This allows them to extinguish federal interest in properties transferred to nonprofits and community-based orgs for affordable housing. Sound Transit is using it on the Angle Lake North project in SeaTac, which will create 130 units of affordable housing and office space for the ARC of King County. The property was appraised for nearly \$2 million and contained 80% federal interest. Extinguishing the federal interest through the new disposition made it possible for them to make a low-cost transfer directly to Mercy Housing Northwest, the nonprofit developer, for this project.

I am also proud to have introduced a new bill this Congress in partnership with Sen. Ed Merkley (D-Oregon). The End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes Act seeks to put an end to this harmful practice of hedge funds buying up single-family homes by banning hedge funds from owning these types of homes and requiring them to sell at least 10% of the total number of single-family homes they currently own to families per year over a 10-year period. After a 10-year full phase-out, all hedge funds will be completely banned from owning any single-family homes.

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

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Washington is home to incredible natural resources from the Puget Sound to the Wild Olympics and the Mountains to Sound Greenway. I am committed to preserving these natural resources and



promoting the conservation of endangered species like salmon and Southern Resident orcas. I have strongly supported legislation like the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act to permanently protect public lands and waters. I was proud to work with my colleagues in the Washington delegation to get the PUGET SOS Act signed into law in 2022, which will enhance the federal government's role and investment in Puget Sound restoration vital to salmon and Orca recovery.

I strongly support building in our cities to make them denser areas that are near transit and other services instead of building in areas that increase sprawl.

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

I am a cosponsor of the Green New Deal and support bold action to combat the climate crisis. I believe that we need to take bold steps to reach carbon neutrality as soon as possible.

I was also proud to support The Inflation Reduction Act which was signed into law in 2022 and represents the single largest investment to combat climate change in U.S. history. The investments included in the bill will:

- Accelerate our clean energy economy, putting us on a path to reduce emissions by roughly 40 percent by 2030.

- Support the production of more affordable and reliable clean energy right here at home, creating millions of good-paying American jobs and reducing our reliance on foreign countries for energy.



- Prioritize investments in underserved communities, with upwards of \$60 billion going towards environmental justice priorities.

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

I believe that we need to ensure that police departments have necessary funding, while also investing in diversionary programs and police reform. I introduced a bill to divert non violent 911 calls to specialized responders and fund community- based public safety programs. By utilizing these community based programs, we can reduce violent encounters, help restore trust between law enforcement and community members, and provide better care for public safety.

I also have been able to secure federal funding through the Appropriations process this year to support Seattle's Civilian Assisted Response & Engagement (CARE) Department, that will support the Seattle Police Department and Seattle Fire Department by diverting mental health, substance use disorder, and wellness-related calls to this new civilian-run department.

**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?**

It is crucial that we work to build a durable progressive coalition that can win elections and maintain public support through passing essential legislation. In doing so, we can work to shift the balance of the courts over time. Congress must also pass crucial legislation enshrining, among others, a woman's right to choose and voting rights into law.

