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US House of Representatives, Congressional District 9

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

My top priority for the upcoming term is to make "Liberty and Justice for All" a reality for everyone, and to create a future where America is a thriving, prosperous, representative, multiracial democracy, as it should be. This priority encompasses ending unnecessary deaths, addressing systemic injustices, and fostering a sustainable and equitable future for all. Here is how I plan to achieve this ambitious goal:

1. **Advocating for Peace and Justice:** I will work tirelessly to promote peace and justice globally, focusing on ending conflicts and addressing humanitarian crises. This includes advocating for diplomatic solutions to international conflicts, supporting human rights, and pushing for an end to military actions that result in civilian casualties and unnecessary deaths. While the ongoing genocide in Palestine is a major concern, my efforts will extend to all regions where human rights are under threat.
2. **Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability:** I will prioritize bold climate action to address the urgent threat of climate change. This includes supporting legislation like the Green New Deal, investing in renewable energy, and promoting sustainable practices across all sectors of society. By fostering an ecologically sound civilization, we can ensure a healthier planet for future generations.



3. Economic Prosperity and Equity: I will advocate for economic policies that promote prosperity for all, not just the wealthy few. This includes supporting living wages, expanding access to healthcare and education, and investing in infrastructure that benefits communities. Economic equity is essential for a just and thriving society, and I will work to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to succeed.

4. Housing Affordability and Urban Development: I will focus on addressing the housing affordability crisis by increasing federal investments in affordable housing, promoting transit-oriented development, and supporting policies that prevent urban sprawl. Ensuring that everyone has access to safe, affordable housing near jobs and transit is critical for creating vibrant and sustainable communities.

5. Strengthening Democracy and Human Rights: I will work to protect and strengthen our democratic institutions, ensuring that all individuals have a voice in the political process. This includes advocating for voting rights protections, campaign finance reform, and judicial accountability. Upholding human rights and promoting democratic values are fundamental to achieving lasting peace and justice.

6. Community-Led Safety and Justice: I will promote community-led approaches to public safety that prioritize restorative justice and decriminalization. This includes supporting programs that address the root causes of crime, such as poverty and lack of opportunity, and investing in mental health and substance abuse services. By shifting away from punitive measures and towards community empowerment, we can create safer and more equitable urban areas.



7. International Solidarity and Cooperation: I will advocate for the United States to take a leadership role in promoting international cooperation and solidarity. This includes rejoining and strengthening international agreements on climate, human rights, and peace - and ending the United States's consistent use of our veto power at the UN to block resolutions that condemn war crimes and advocate on behalf of the oppressed. By working together with other nations respectfully and responsibly, rather than from a position of arrogance, we can effectively address global challenges and build a more peaceful and just world.

Achieving these goals will require dedicated effort, collaboration, and a commitment to principled leadership. I will leverage my experience, my network of allies, and the support of my constituents to drive meaningful change. Together, we can create a future where America is a thriving, prosperous, representative, multiracial democracy, as it should be, and where "Liberty and Justice for All" is a reality for everyone.

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?

Reducing car dependence and traffic deaths while prioritizing walking, biking, and public transit is essential for creating sustainable, healthy, and vibrant communities in the Puget Sound region. At the federal level, I will prioritize investments and policies that align with these goals through several key initiatives:



1. Increased Funding for Public Transit: I will advocate for significantly increased federal funding for public transit infrastructure. This includes expanding bus and light rail services, enhancing the frequency and reliability of transit options, and ensuring affordability for all residents. Reliable and accessible public transit is crucial for reducing car dependence and providing equitable transportation options.

2. Complete Streets Policies: I will support and champion federal legislation that promotes Complete Streets policies, which ensure that roadways are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. This approach prioritizes safety and accessibility, helping to reduce traffic deaths and encourage active transportation.

3. Investment in Biking and Walking Infrastructure: I will push for dedicated federal funding to develop and maintain high-quality biking and walking infrastructure. This includes protected bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, and safe crosswalks. By creating a network of safe and connected pathways, we can make biking and walking viable and attractive alternatives to driving.

4. Vision Zero Initiatives: I will advocate for federal support of Vision Zero initiatives, which aim to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. This includes funding for local governments to implement traffic calming measures, better street lighting, and public awareness campaigns focused on road safety.



5. Climate and Environmental Justice: Recognizing that transportation is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, I will work to integrate climate and environmental justice into transportation policy. This involves investing in zero-emission public transit options, supporting electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, and ensuring that low-income and marginalized communities have access to clean and efficient transportation.

6. Support for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): I will promote federal policies that encourage Transit-Oriented Development, which focuses on creating mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods centered around high-quality public transit. This approach not only reduces car dependence but also fosters vibrant, inclusive communities.

7. Collaboration with Local Stakeholders: I will actively engage with local governments, transit agencies, community organizations, and residents in the Puget Sound region to understand their specific needs and priorities. By collaborating closely with local stakeholders, I can advocate for federal policies and investments that directly support and enhance local efforts to create sustainable and livable urban environments.

As someone who spearheaded the funding for EcoThrive Housing (www.ecothrivehousing.org), an affordable, walkable, and ecologically friendly neighborhood on transit, I am deeply committed to creating urban spaces that prioritize people over cars. My formal studies in Living Systems Design and Biophilic Design further demonstrate my joyful dedication to promoting healthy, vibrant, and environmentally friendly communities.



By prioritizing these investments and policies at the federal level, we can support the Puget Sound region in its efforts to reduce car dependence, improve safety, and create a more sustainable and equitable future for all residents.

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

Addressing the housing affordability crisis is one of the most urgent challenges we face today. Ensuring that all residents have access to affordable, quality housing near jobs and transit is essential for building equitable, thriving communities. At the federal level, I plan to address this crisis through a multi-faceted approach that includes increasing Congressional discretionary spending on housing, creating a national Housing Trust Fund, and implementing other innovative solutions:

1. Increase Congressional Discretionary Spending on Housing: I will advocate for a substantial increase in federal discretionary spending allocated to housing. This includes funding for affordable housing development, preservation of existing affordable housing, implementation of living systems design and green infrastructure, and supportive housing programs. By prioritizing housing in the federal budget, we can make significant strides in addressing the affordability crisis.

2. National Housing Trust Fund: I will champion the creation of a national Housing Trust Fund dedicated to building, rehabilitating, and preserving affordable housing for low-income families. This fund will provide a consistent and reliable source of financing for affordable housing projects, ensuring long-term stability and addressing the needs of our most vulnerable populations.



3. Support for Local Housing Initiatives: I will support federal policies that empower local governments and communities to develop their own housing solutions. This includes grants and technical assistance for municipalities to implement inclusionary zoning, community land trusts, and other innovative housing strategies that increase affordability and prevent displacement.

4. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): I will promote policies that encourage Transit-Oriented Development, which focuses on creating dense, mixed-use communities centered around high-quality public transit. By incentivizing affordable housing development near transit hubs and job centers, we can reduce commuting times, lower transportation costs, and improve quality of life for residents.

5. Expansion of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC): I will advocate for the expansion and enhancement of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, which is one of the most effective tools for financing affordable housing. Increasing the allocation of LIHTCs will stimulate private investment in affordable housing and support the construction and preservation of thousands of affordable units.

6. Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protections: I will work to implement federal policies that support rent stabilization and provide strong tenant protections. This includes measures to prevent unjust evictions, ensure fair rental practices, and protect renters from excessive rent increases. Stable housing is critical for family and community well-being, and tenant protections are a vital component of housing affordability.

7. Investment in Public Housing: I will push for increased investment in the maintenance and expansion of public housing. Public housing provides a crucial



safety net for low-income families, and we must ensure that these units are safe, well-maintained, and available to those in need.

8. Support for Housing Innovation: I will support and fund innovative housing solutions such as modular housing, co-housing models, and adaptive reuse of underutilized buildings, and I'll advocate for code changes and variance programs that make these projects feasible, faster. These approaches can help quickly and cost-effectively increase the supply of affordable housing while meeting diverse community needs.

9. Homelessness Prevention and Supportive Housing: I will advocate for comprehensive strategies to prevent homelessness and expand supportive housing services. This includes funding for homelessness prevention programs, wraparound services for individuals experiencing homelessness, and initiatives to rapidly rehouse those in need.

My commitment to affordable housing is demonstrated through my leadership in securing \$3.2 million for EcoThrive Housing, an affordable, walkable, ecologically friendly neighborhood on transit. I believe that by prioritizing these federal policies and investments, we can make significant progress in addressing the housing affordability crisis, ensuring that all residents have access to safe, affordable, and well-located housing.

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



Supporting urban growth that prioritizes building up existing urban areas rather than sprawling into wilderness and agricultural land is essential for creating sustainable, vibrant, and equitable communities. At the federal level, I will support policies and investments that encourage smart growth and urban infill development through several key initiatives:

1. **Incentivizing Density and Mixed-Use Development:** I will advocate for federal policies that incentivize higher-density, mixed-use development in existing urban areas. This includes offering grants, tax credits, and other financial incentives for projects that combine residential, commercial, and recreational spaces, creating vibrant communities where people can live, work, and play without relying on cars.
2. **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD):** I will promote and fund Transit-Oriented Development initiatives, which focus on creating dense, walkable neighborhoods centered around high-quality public transit. By concentrating growth near transit hubs, we can reduce the need for car travel, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance access to jobs and amenities.
3. **Revitalization of Underutilized Urban Areas:** I will support federal programs aimed at revitalizing underutilized and distressed urban areas. This includes funding for brownfield remediation, infrastructure improvements, and community development projects that transform vacant lots and abandoned buildings into thriving, productive spaces.
4. **Protection of Wilderness and Agricultural Land:** I will advocate for policies that protect wilderness and agricultural land from urban sprawl. This includes



strengthening land use regulations, supporting conservation easements, and providing funding for land preservation programs that safeguard natural habitats and farmland from development pressures.

5. Investment in Affordable Housing: I will prioritize federal investments in affordable housing within existing urban areas to ensure that growth benefits all residents, including low- and moderate-income families. By increasing the supply of affordable housing in urban centers, we can reduce displacement and create more inclusive, equitable communities.

6. Smart Growth Policies: I will support and promote smart growth policies at the federal level, which encourage sustainable land use practices, efficient infrastructure investments, and the preservation of open space. Smart growth principles prioritize compact, transit-accessible, and walkable development, reducing the environmental impact of urban expansion.

7. Green Infrastructure and Public Spaces: I will advocate for the integration of green infrastructure and the creation of vibrant public spaces in urban growth strategies. This includes funding for renewable energy, healthy stormwater systems, and other ecological infrastructure - as well as parks, green roofs, community gardens, and other green amenities that enhance the quality of life in urban areas and provide environmental benefits.

8. Collaboration with Local Governments: I will work closely with local governments and urban planners to ensure that federal policies and investments align with local needs and priorities. By fostering collaboration and providing technical assistance,



we can support effective urban growth strategies that reflect the unique characteristics of each community.

9. Sustainable Transportation Investments: I will push for substantial federal investments in sustainable transportation infrastructure, including public transit, biking, and walking paths. Improving transportation options within urban areas reduces the need for car travel and supports compact, connected communities.

10. Community Engagement and Empowerment: I will prioritize community engagement and empowerment in urban growth initiatives. This involves actively involving residents in planning processes, ensuring that development projects meet community needs, and supporting grassroots efforts to advocate for sustainable and equitable growth.

My commitment to sustainable urban growth is rooted in my work in affordable housing and permaculture, and my studies in Living Systems Design and Biophilic Design. I believe that by prioritizing these federal policies and investments, we can support urban growth that builds up existing urban areas, protects natural and agricultural lands, and creates thriving, sustainable communities for all.

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

Addressing climate change and promoting environmental justice are critical priorities for ensuring a sustainable and equitable future. At the federal level, I will work to implement comprehensive policies that mitigate climate impacts, promote renewable energy, and ensure that all communities, especially marginalized ones,



benefit from a clean and healthy environment. Here are the key initiatives I will focus on:

1. **Aggressive Climate Action Legislation:** I will advocate for bold climate action legislation, such as the Green New Deal, which aims to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This includes transitioning to 100% renewable energy, investing in green infrastructure, and creating millions of good-paying jobs in the clean energy sector.
2. **Investment in Renewable Energy:** I will push for substantial federal investments in renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal. This includes funding for research and development, subsidies for clean energy projects, and incentives for businesses and homeowners to adopt renewable energy technologies.
3. **Environmental Justice Policies:** I will support and champion policies that address environmental justice, ensuring that low-income and marginalized communities are protected from environmental hazards and have access to clean air, water, and green spaces. This includes strengthening regulations to prevent pollution in vulnerable areas, increasing funding for environmental cleanup, and ensuring community involvement in environmental decision-making.
4. **Decarbonizing Transportation:** I will promote federal initiatives to decarbonize the transportation sector, which is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. This includes investing in electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, expanding public transit options, and promoting biking and walking. Additionally, I will support incentives for the adoption of EVs and stricter fuel efficiency standards for vehicles.



5. Energy Efficiency and Green Building Standards: I will advocate for policies that promote energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure. This includes updating building codes to require higher energy efficiency standards, providing incentives for retrofitting existing buildings, and supporting the development of green and sustainable construction materials and practices.

6. Climate Resilience and Adaptation: I will work to ensure that federal policies prioritize climate resilience and adaptation strategies. This includes funding for infrastructure projects that protect communities from climate impacts such as flooding, extreme heat, and sea-level rise. I will also support initiatives that help communities develop and implement climate adaptation plans.

7. Protecting Public Lands and Biodiversity: I will advocate for the protection and conservation of public lands, wildlife habitats, and biodiversity. This includes opposing efforts to roll back environmental protections, supporting the expansion of protected areas, and promoting sustainable land management practices.

8. Green Jobs and Just Transition: I will support policies that create green jobs and ensure a just transition for workers affected by the shift to a clean energy economy. This includes providing training and job placement services for workers transitioning from fossil fuel industries, ensuring fair wages and benefits, and supporting communities that are economically dependent on fossil fuels.

9. International Climate Leadership: I will advocate for the United States to take a leadership role in international climate efforts. This includes rejoining and strengthening international agreements like the Paris Agreement, increasing funding



for global climate initiatives, and collaborating with other nations to address climate change on a global scale.

10. Community Engagement and Education: I will prioritize community engagement and education on climate and environmental issues. This involves supporting programs that raise awareness about climate change, promote sustainable practices, and empower communities to take action.

My commitment to addressing climate change and environmental justice is lifelong. Ever since learning about climate change and environmental injustice in childhood - and the cascading challenges that will result, hitting the communities least responsible for climate change, the hardest - I have dedicated my life and learnings to understanding the intersecting systems of environment, economy, and society/policy, and how to design solutions for all three of them at once. By prioritizing these federal policies and investments, we can make significant progress in mitigating climate change, promoting environmental justice, and ensuring a sustainable future for all communities.

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

Improving public safety in urban areas while avoiding the pitfalls of mass incarceration and racialized oppression - and remediating centuries of those entrenched issues - requires a fundamental rethinking of our approach to justice and community well-being. At the federal level, I will advocate for policies and investments that prioritize community-based solutions, restorative justice, and preventive measures. Here are the key initiatives I will focus on:



1. Community Self-Policing: I will support federal grants and programs that empower communities to implement self-policing initiatives. This involves training and funding community leaders to organize local safety efforts, ensuring that residents have a direct role in maintaining peace and order. Community self-policing fosters trust and accountability, reduces reliance on traditional law enforcement, and promotes a sense of collective responsibility for public safety.

2. Restorative Justice Programs: I will advocate for the expansion of restorative justice programs that focus on reconciliation, healing, and rehabilitation rather than punishment. Restorative justice practices, such as victim-offender mediation and community restorative circles, provide opportunities for offenders to make amends and for victims to have their needs addressed. These programs have been shown to reduce recidivism, strengthen community bonds, and promote long-term peace.

3. Crisis Response Teams: I will promote the establishment and funding of crisis response teams that can address emergencies involving mental health, substance abuse, and domestic disputes without resorting to force. These teams, composed of trained social workers, medical professionals, and crisis counselors, provide compassionate and effective responses to situations that traditional policing may not adequately address.

4. Decriminalization and Diversion: I will support policies that decriminalize non-violent offenses, particularly those related to drug use and minor infractions, and expand diversion programs that offer alternatives to incarceration. By focusing



on treatment, education, and community service, we can address the root causes of crime and reduce the number of individuals entering the criminal justice system.

5. Investment in Youth Programs: I will advocate for increased federal funding for youth development programs that provide education, mentorship, and recreational opportunities. Engaging young people in positive activities and offering them support can prevent involvement in criminal behavior and promote a sense of belonging and purpose.

6. Economic Support and Job Training: I will work to ensure that economic opportunities are available to all residents, particularly those in marginalized communities. This includes funding for job training programs, apprenticeships, and small business support. Economic stability is a key factor in reducing crime and improving public safety.

7. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services: I will push for expanded access to mental health and substance abuse services. Providing comprehensive support for individuals struggling with these issues can prevent crises and reduce the likelihood of interactions with the criminal justice system.

8. Police Reform and Accountability: I will support federal legislation that requires police departments to implement anti-bias training, de-escalation techniques, and strong accountability measures for misconduct. This includes creating pathways for civilian oversight of police activities and ensuring that law enforcement practices are transparent and just.



9. Affordable Housing and Community Development: I will advocate for federal investments in affordable housing and community development projects that create safe, stable environments for residents. Ensuring that everyone has access to decent housing and vibrant community spaces reduces the conditions that can lead to crime and enhances overall public safety.

10. Support for Victims of Crime: I will prioritize federal support for services that assist victims of crime, including counseling, legal aid, and financial assistance. Addressing the needs of victims is crucial for fostering trust in the justice system and promoting healing within communities.

My commitment to improving public safety is grounded in my belief in equity, justice, and community empowerment. By prioritizing these federal policies and investments, we can create safer urban areas while dismantling the structures of mass incarceration and racialized oppression. Together, we can build communities where everyone feels secure, valued, and safe to build and grow and contribute their best.

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?

The conservative takeover of the judiciary represents a significant threat to our democratic values and the rights of all Americans. To address this issue and prevent judicial overreach, I will advocate for a comprehensive strategy that includes



legislative action, judicial reform, and mobilization of public support. Here are the key initiatives I will focus on:

1. **Judicial Reform and Expansion:** I will support efforts to reform and expand the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court. This could involve increasing the number of justices on the Supreme Court to dilute the influence of partisanship and ensure a more balanced representation of judicial philosophies. Additionally, I will advocate for term limits for Supreme Court justices and lower court judges to reduce lifetime tenure and promote regular judicial renewal.

2. **Strengthening Judicial Ethics:** I will push for the implementation of stronger ethical standards and accountability mechanisms for federal judges. This includes establishing a robust code of conduct for Supreme Court justices, enhancing transparency in judicial decision-making, and ensuring that judges who engage in unethical behavior are held accountable.

3. **Protecting Reproductive Rights:** I will advocate for federal legislation that codifies reproductive rights, ensuring that all individuals have access to safe and legal abortion services, contraception, and comprehensive reproductive healthcare. By enshrining these rights in federal law, we can protect them from judicial erosion.

4. **Voting Rights Protection:** I will support the passage of comprehensive voting rights legislation, such as the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which restores and strengthens the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This includes



measures to combat voter suppression, gerrymandering, and discriminatory voting practices, ensuring that every citizen has the right to vote and that their vote is counted.

5. Worker and Consumer Protections: I will work to strengthen federal laws that protect workers' rights, including the right to organize, fair wages, and safe working conditions. I will also advocate for robust consumer protection laws that safeguard individuals from corporate abuses, deceptive practices, and predatory lending. By fortifying these protections in federal legislation, we can reduce the impact of adverse judicial rulings.

6. Judicial Nominations: I will advocate for the nomination and confirmation of fair, impartial, and highly qualified judges who are committed to upholding the Constitution and protecting the rights of all Americans. This includes prioritizing diversity in judicial appointments to ensure that the judiciary reflects the rich diversity of our nation.

7. Public Mobilization and Education: I will work to mobilize public support for judicial reform and protection of rights through education and advocacy campaigns. By raising awareness about the importance of a fair and balanced judiciary, we can build a broad coalition of citizens who demand accountability and integrity in our courts.

8. Executive Actions: I will support executive actions that protect and expand rights where possible. This includes utilizing executive orders and regulatory measures to



advance protections for reproductive health, voting rights, worker rights, and consumer safety.

9. Advocacy and Collaboration: I will collaborate with advocacy organizations, legal experts, and community leaders to develop and promote strategies for judicial reform. By working together, we can create a unified front to counter judicial overreach and protect the rights of all Americans.

10. Ensuring Legislative Review: I will advocate for congressional oversight and review of judicial decisions that undermine constitutional rights and democratic principles. By maintaining a system of checks and balances, we can ensure that the judiciary does not overstep its bounds and that legislative intent is respected.

My commitment to protecting the rights of voters, workers, consumers, and reproductive rights is unwavering. By implementing these federal policies and reforms, we can prevent judicial overreach, restore balance to the judiciary, and safeguard the democratic values that are fundamental to our society.