



## **Suzan DelBene Urbanist Questionnaire 2024**

US House of Representatives, Congressional District 1

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

2025 will be a big year for tax policy with many provisions from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expiring. I will be focused on expanding incentives that help strengthen the middle class and lower costs for families through policies like the child tax credit and increase production of affordable housing with the low-income housing tax credit. I will also focus on modernizing and simplifying our tax code and making it fair 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?**

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Congress created the Safe Streets and Roads for All program, providing \$5B through 2026 for projects that seek to reduce roadway deaths and injuries for vehicle passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) received \$4.8M under the Safe Streets for All grant program for their Safety Action Plan that will support development of a Regional Safety Plan and local safety plans for 25 cities and counties, including Everett and Redmond. The City of Bellevue also separately received \$2.8M through this program.



Over the last 3 years, I've secured \$45M in Community Project Funding. I've prioritized funds for multimodal, transit, and public safety improvements, such as the \$1M for the SR-531 Trail, \$3.6M for Eastrail expansion in Redmond and Woodinville, and \$500K for Sound Transit's Ash Way Station. Finally, high-speed rail allows passengers to commute or travel quickly, and in an energy efficient way, which is why I am a co-lead of the American High-Speed Rail Act, which would invest \$205 billion in high-speed rail, because we know it can significantly improve travel times, decrease traffic and congestion, and reduce carbon emissions.

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

Throughout my time in Congress, I have fought to protect and strengthen federal investments in homeless assistance and affordable housing programs. That's why I champion H.R. 3238, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) which would strengthen the Housing Credit and increase affordable housing production. The AHCIA would help create or preserve approximately 2 million affordable housing units nationwide in the next decade. H.R. 3238 would also boost affordable housing access for veterans, seniors, Native American communities, rural communities, survivors of domestic violence and stalking, and low-income students. Ensuring all families have access to safe, affordable housing remains one of my top priorities in Congress.

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

I know firsthand that what makes living in the Pacific Northwest special is the natural environment that surrounds us. Our public lands provide many benefits to our local



communities including valuable opportunities for education, conservation, and tourism. We must preserve these natural resources for future generations to enjoy. We must focus on policies that increase affordable housing production, near employment opportunities and services, through expansions of incentives like the Housing Credit, and continue to invest in funding for public transportation in order to reduce traffic congestion while also lowering greenhouse gas emissions. That's why I've fought to secure investments in clean buses for our region through the bipartisan infrastructure law, including \$33.5M for King County Metro Transit to buy approximately 30 battery-powered electric buses and associated charging equipment and train workers to maintain the electric fleet and \$9.2M for Sound Transit to purchase electric buses.

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

The Inflation Reduction Act that Democrats passed and I was heavily involved in shaping is the largest ever federal investment to tackle the climate crisis and will lower greenhouse gas emissions by 40%, in part by investing billions to reduce emissions across steel, aluminum, and other hard to decarbonize industries. As a result, many businesses across our country are investing in cleaner production processes, but their competitors in certain foreign countries are taking advantage of weaker environmental regulations in their own countries to undercut our industries, putting American jobs at risk. If we fail to harness America's clear and growing carbon advantage, more jobs will be lost to countries like China and India, where production is three to four times as carbon intensive. That's why I introduced the Clean Competition Act, which would make American companies more competitive in the global marketplace and reduce emissions by imposing a carbon fee on energy-intensive imports. The revenues from the fee would be reinvested in



environmental justice communities to further assist with decarbonizing the industrial sector domestically and also allocated to help developing nations decarbonize.

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

I regularly hear from our communities about the shortage of law enforcement officers and the impact it is having on public safety including an increase in crime. We must support our law enforcement by improving recruitment and retention, enhancing well-being and mental health resources, and encouraging a more open dialogue between police and the communities they are charged with keeping safe. This approach should include policies that increase transparency and accountability, such as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, to ensure that we are putting an end to the systemic racism and injustice in every corner of our society. I will continue to meet with and listen to members of the community concerned with increases in crime as well as those who are working to put a stop to racism, injustice, and hate in our country to ensure we are able to reduce crime while increasing trust in our judicial system.

**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?**

I am very concerned about the increased politicization of the Supreme Court and many of the lower courts, and do not believe that judges should be legislating from the bench. I am a cosponsor of the Supreme Court Ethics Act (H.R. 927), which would require the Judicial Conference of the United States to create a code of ethics



for the Supreme Court. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of the Supreme Court Term Limits and Regular Appointments Act (H.R. 4423), which would establish an 18-year term limit and require the President to appoint a Supreme Court Justice every two years.

Finally, I am a cosponsor of the Women's Health Protection Act, which would ensure that reproductive choices rest with a woman, her family, and her doctor – not with politicians. This important legislation would make unlawful any current laws that place unnecessarily burdensome restrictions on a woman's access to abortion services and prohibit any such laws from being enacted in the future.