



Amy Walen Urbanist Questionnaire 2024

State Representative, LD48, Position 2

Do you think Washington state should have an income tax (yes/no)? If yes, what is the legislative path? If not, what forms of progressive revenue would you champion?

Yes. We need constitutional amendment to limit sales and property tax and introduce an income tax. By limiting the tax rates in a three-legged stool we can maintain voter trust and secure an income tax.

How would you vote on a transit-oriented development bill without an explicit affordability mandate and why?

I would. Our cities can create the balance between incentives and mandates best suited to their unique communities.

Do you support the rent stabilization and renter protection bill (HB 2114) that made it through the State House last year? If so, how would you approach ensuring its passage in both chambers?

No. I have an alternative proposal that is more balanced.

What are the highest priority items on your housing agenda?

*



Shortening permit timelines so that financing of development is less in jeopardy due to uncertainty. Removal of all design review except administrative. Removing parking mandates near transit.

What's your roadmap to fixing educational inequities in Washington state? How can Washington state comply with its constitutional duties regarding education, especially in light of several school districts including Seattle's contemplating school closures to grapple with deficits?

Authorizing charter schools, having WEA organize teachers there to remove that roadblock. Rework the prototypical funding model so that it reflects reality - current math allows for 0.1 of a school counselor for hundreds of kids in my district. Progressive tax reform.

What share of the state's transportation budget should be for alternatives to cars, such as transit, biking, and pedestrian infrastructure?

To grow users we need to have infrastructure in place first. People won't use e-bikes and e-scooters which have made transportation in our region without a car much more viable if they cannot do it safely. Car infrastructure is bought and paid for so we have a lot of catch-up to do on ped/transit/bike.

Do you support permitting jurisdictions to choose to hold elections in even years? What other election reforms excite you?

Yes. I'm excited that we removed the Eyman push-polls and I think we are just starting to see the benefit of down-ballot election moving up where those used to



be. Automatic voter registration; pre-registration of 17 year olds; adding civic education and the importance of voting to school curricula.

Due to the interventions of ballot-initiative-monger Tim Eyman and a state legislature that caved to him even after a lawsuit overturned the measure in 2007, Washington State has a 1% cap on property tax increases, greatly tying the hands of local governments and forcing them to use ballot measures to fund basic services. Do you think this cap should remain? If so, what tools will you give local governments to deal with the [fiscal cliff they're facing?](#)

We should follow the recommendations of the tax structure work group and remove the cap. This was agreed to in a bi-partisan way. We need the state to adjust it's share of property taxes to protect our families from high property tax bills.