



## **Darya Farivar Urbanist Questionnaire 2024**

State Representative, LD46, 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 an income tax and a wealth tax. Washington state has the 49th most regressive tax code in the country - those with the least pay the most, this is unacceptable. We need reliable, progressive revenue. Unfortunately, we need a 2/3rds majority to amend the state constitution to pass an income tax. This is just one of the reasons we need to grow our democratic majority to a supermajority. While we work on this strategy, we need other progressive tax solutions.

During this legislative session, I was proud to support a number of those creative solutions including HB 1473 which would create a wealth tax, HB 2276 and 1628 which would create the real estate excise tax. I was also proud to oppose measures that would make it harder for us to create sustainable progressive revenue. It was hugely disappointing to see I-2111 passed into law considering the uncertainty of how it will impact our future ability to pass an income tax. After this legislative session, we now have two major hurdles to address before introducing legislation to create an income tax.

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

As a life long Lake City resident, I understand how badly we need to increase density around mass transit. Those who need it the most need to be prioritized which is why



I was proud to secure funding for the Northgate affordable housing project going in across the lightrail station. I believe that we can be intentional about creating affordable housing and support market growth in transit oriented development and that we must do both to address our housing crisis. Washington state needs to build one million homes in 20 years and half need to be affordable which means we have to use all the policy tools we have to encourage growth and address displacement. The legislature has been focused on creating opportunities for density and has made notable progress. We cannot forget about individuals who cannot afford what the market has to offer and need homes right now.

**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?**

I have been and will continue to strongly support HB 2114, this is the critically missing piece in our housing approach. Given this critical election year, we will have several changes to the make up of both chambers, because of this it is difficult to know what the leading strategy will be. If the legislation is introduced again, which I hope it is, I plan to sign on and fully support however the prime sponsor needs. With a bill this important, and given the path this session, it is even more critical to have companion bills moving throughout both chambers. We cannot wait any longer, my constituents are in desperate need of rent stabilization.

**What are the highest priority items on your housing agenda?**

The two most important housing bills on my agenda are HB 2114 and HB 2278 creating a real estate excise tax to fund affordable housing. We have done some important work to support the creation of market rate housing, we now need to



provide support to renters, and create the resources to provide affordable housing throughout our state.

**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?**

Washington state has consistently failed to meet its paramount duty. I strongly support increasing funding for basic education and support moving away from a per-student allocation. Additionally, as a disability and special education advocate, at the very least we need to remove the cap on special education. However, we also need to increase the multiplier and should change the entire process for accessing safety net funds. I'm proud to have supported HB 1436, 2174, 2380, 2180, and many more bills that are attempting to fully fund our education system.

Furthermore, I'm deeply concerned that Seattle Public Schools have announced the closure of twenty schools to address the \$100M+ annual budget deficit. Legislators must take responsibility for this and act to pass progressive revenue. And this won't be possible without education advocates putting the pressure on unsupportive legislators so that we aren't constantly robbing Peter to pay Paul. Bottom line: we need more progressive revenue now.

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

I strongly believe that our budget is our priority statement, and that if we truly want to address climate change, support marginalized communities, and prevent traffic



fatalities we have to take a hard look at our budget. The entirety of Sandpoint Way runs through the 46th district, this is a notoriously dangerous road for pedestrians and yet is the only bus route connecting hundreds of my constituents to our urban core. This road has no sidewalks whatsoever and is an important place where non-drivers wait for public transportation to arrive. My constituents have been asking for years to have sidewalks put in to act as a guard rail for cars, which have flown into their homes, and support the pedestrians trying to access the 75 bus route to no avail.

While we are making progress through investments like Move Ahead Washington and the Climate Commitment Act, we have to take a hard look at our priorities and the impact to our communities. The legislature needs to think carefully about their investments and realize that neglecting the needs of transit users and pedestrians is dangerous and costly for everyone.

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

I strongly support creating the option for local jurisdictions to move their elections to even years. I was proud to sponsor HB 1882 and co-sponsor HB 1932, voters have been showing us with their voting patterns that they prefer voting in even years and we need to listen to them. There are a number of election reforms, in addition to even year elections legislation I introduced three other election reform bills.

Before being elected I started working on HB 1475 with King County Elections to address barriers to ballot return. This legislation provides the option for incarcerated people, individuals with disabilities, and eligible individuals in jails to return their ballot electronically. Based on my own experience running in one of the most expensive races in Washington as a young woman of color without major donor



networks I introduced HB 1755. This would create a statewide democracy vouchers program for legislative races. And finally, last session I introduced OSPI request legislation that doubles the voting education provided to high school students. HB 2192 requires that voter education be provided on National Voter Registration Day as well as Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. Next year, I'm also interested in exploring the creation of a signature alternatives pilot program to address the needs of disabled community members.

**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](#)?**

The reality is that we will continue to rob Peter to pay Paul until we develop strong sustainable progressive revenue streams. Until we address this, we will likely have to keep coming back to lift this cap. Living in Lake City, I see many of my aging neighbors worry about staying in their home solely based on their sky rocketing property taxes. While it may seem like lifting the cap may be the only way to address this situation, it is not. We have had great legislation introduced every year to create progressive revenue streams and we need to focus on those. That being said we are in a dire situation and the legislature should have acted to prevent this. I'm extremely worried about the cuts being contemplated at the local level and know that each cut will negatively impact my community and constituents.