



Julia Reed Urbanist Questionnaire 2024

State Representative, LD36, Position 1

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. The House is ready to vote for and pass a wealth tax bill. We need to clear a way in the Senate by electing, appointing, and supporting Senate leaders who are ready to champion, vote for, and pass progressive revenue.

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

I strongly believe that we need a transit-oriented development bill that ensures affordable units will be built in newly upzoned areas and provides flexibility for builders. I think we can do both and that is the bill that I have championed and would support.

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?

Yes, I strongly support and was proud to vote for HB 2114. Again, the House supports and voted for this measure strongly — not just progressive members but swing members as well. The next step is getting the right Senate leadership and



membership in place that will advance this critical legislation. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues on this.

What are the highest priority items on your housing agenda?

For the 2025 session it's rent stabilization and passing the transit-oriented development bill. But I also want to work on increase accountability for implementation of housing reform laws, speed up permit times, manage local fees, and eventually establish a Department of Housing for the 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?

Fixing our K-12 system funding challenges is one of the major reasons we need more progressive revenue. We should be eliminating the special education funding cap, and ensuring all our school districts are well-funded to reverse declining enrollment trends. Another thing I want to focus on in the legislature is fixing the "education social compact" — i.e. that if you do well in school, you can go to higher education and have a path to a good paying job. Because of bureaucratic barriers and rising costs, that is now out of reach for too many of our students, at precisely a time when a credential after high school is essential to participation in the 21st century economy. I want to see us make community college education free in Washington state, and create friction free pathways to four year degrees. Seeing a future and purpose in their education will help encourage more students to stay in school and realize their full potential.



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

Much higher than it currently is! As an avid cyclist we need to truly prioritize biking, pedestrian, and transit infrastructure. I'm particularly focused on how we can improve that work on the bridges in the 36th like the Ballard bridge and the Magnolia bridge

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

Yes. I'm also very interested in ranked choice voting.

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](#)?

No, let's raise this arbitrary cap and set levels that make sense. We can do that while still protecting those on fixed incomes.