



**Seattle City Council Candidate Questionnaire on Housing and Homelessness,  
September 2019**

*Prepared By: [Resolution to End Homelessness](#), [Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness](#) and  
[Tech 4 Housing](#),  
in partnership with [Housing Development Consortium](#) and [Solid Ground](#)*

**Candidate's Name:**

Councilmember Lisa Herbold

**City Council District:**

District 1

**Campaign Address:**

2518 S. Brandon Court, 98108

**Campaign Phone:**

206-768-1122

**Campaign Email Address:**

d1forlisa@gmail.com

**Campaign Website:**

District1forherbold.org

**Candidate Photo:** X Attached or \_\_\_ Permission to use photo from website

**There are six questions. You may choose to skip a question; if so, please indicate that you choose not to answer. Please limit your answers to 150 words each (about 1,000 characters, including spaces).**

**Question 1.** Beyond making current programs more efficient, do you think we need to increase funding for housing for people experiencing homelessness? If so, where would you raise the revenue?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

Yes, I support the McKinsey Report recommendation that we increase our investments in homelessness, and I am currently working to double the investment in Permanent Supportive Housing for the remaining four years of the Housing Levy. I want to use the [new authority granted](#)



[by the state](#) to retain a portion of Seattle’s sales tax that goes to grow our bonding capacity to do so. In 2019 over [\\$190 million in housing projects \(projected to produce around 2300 units\)](#) were provided in the Office of Housing’s Intent to Apply application round, but the City may only have capacity to fund about a quarter of those projects. Added bonding authority will supplement our Housing Levy, incentive zoning, and MHA dollars. We need more revenue in addition to that.

**Question 2.** What are your thoughts on the City's current implementation of encampment removals? In what ways would you improve the policies?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

The unauthorized encampment removal policy is intended to mitigate the safety and health risks for people living unsheltered, and prioritize connecting people to services and housing. To avoid this policy from becoming disruptive to peoples’ lives we need greater accountability and fidelity to these goals.

To that end, I’ve levied a proviso on Navigation Team funds requiring the Human Services Department (HSD) to demonstrate which encampments are being removed and why. Through this reporting, I’ve advocated for HSD to adopt recommendations of the City Auditor such as giving the Navigation Team access to diversion services, which they didn’t have and earmarking enhanced shelter beds for people having to leave removed encampments

Some of the additional Auditor recommendations I am pursuing are access to bathrooms and drop-in showers, and providing enhanced access to garbage pick up so locations are deprioritized for removal. I am also working to require the Executive to re-evaluate the staffing model for the Navigation Team, another Auditor recommendation to minimize law enforcement involvement and improve engagement outcomes.

**Question 3.** The City and State have introduced several new tenant protections in recent years. Do you think more work is needed to protect tenants and combat displacement? If so, what changes would you like to see?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

I am grateful for advocacy at the City and State level to improve tenant protections with passage of [SB 5600](#) and [HB 1440](#). More work needs to be done. I’ve advanced recommendations from the “Losing Home” report. made some important headway, and I’ve recently passed bills that would ensure that DV survivors aren’t liable for damages caused by their abuser, and protecting the ability for tenants to live with family members and roommates. I intend to follow up with a bill to limit the financial impact of tenant-initiated lease termination.

We need help from the state legislature to allow us to 1. Amend the Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance so that a. renters with roommates and b. renters earning between 50%-80% average median



income can qualify for assistance and 2. close loopholes in the Just Cause Eviction Ordinance so tenants can get eviction protection at the end of fixed term leases 3. fund a tenants' right to counsel in evictions and 4. remove the prohibition against rent regulations.

**Question 4.** Homelessness and housing insecurity disproportionately affect people of color, LGBTQ communities, people with disabilities and other marginalized communities. What would you do to address these disparities?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

As we move to a Regional Governance Authority, I will advocate for new performance metrics that provide greater support for interventions that close disproportionalities in homelessness. Even the controversial Barb Poppe report said that we should focus efforts to serve populations with the greatest barriers accessing housing and services. A results-based accountability system that focuses rewards on organizations serving those with the fewest barriers to housing will not help us address our crisis.

As the "Losing Home" report outlines, eviction reform is key to resolve disproportionalities in homelessness, and I sponsored SLI 15-9-A-1 requesting [HSD to provide recommendations on strengthening eviction prevention resources](#). Based on a racial equity assessment of MHA, I am also championing a policy that would promote earmarking affordable housing units with community preference policies in areas at high displacement risk to benefit communities disproportionately displaced from those areas.

I also support allocating Housing Levy dollars for projects like CHH's LGBTQ-affirming senior housing project.

**Question 5.** How would you adjust Seattle's land use and zoning laws? In particular, what changes, if any, would you want to see in neighborhoods currently zoned exclusively for single-family housing and in multi-family neighborhoods where we're making significant investments in transit?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

I support transit-oriented development, including increased density with mandatory affordability that has helped to create greater housing options in our urban villages. Further, I support efforts to consider expansion of residential small lot (RSL) in other single-family zoned areas as well.

I support consideration of the Seattle Planning Commission's Neighborhoods for All report. The implementation of the MHA legislation will help us understand the effectiveness of converting Single Family to RSL so that we can continue discussion of other zoning changes necessary to maximize affordable housing development outside of our urban villages.



**Question 6.** We know that it is cheaper to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place than it is to support them to exit homelessness. What is your vision for homelessness prevention initiatives and services in our community?

*Please answer here, limit 150 words.*

As I've mentioned in questions 1, 3, and 4, I believe that eviction reform and prevention, and increasing affordable housing, especially PSH, are key strategies to increase housing stability. I will continue to advance these solutions. I also envision greater emphasis on preserving our current affordable housing stock through the City acquiring properties reaching the end of their Low Income Housing Tax Credit contracts. I also have anti-displacement legislation to require developers to replace affordable housing that they demolish because a significant portion of Seattle's rental housing stock is in single-family homes (20% of single family homes are renter-occupied) and smaller rental properties subject to redevelopment to preserve or replace this "naturally-occurring affordable housing" stock.

Finally, I'd like to make more opportunity for new, low-income homeowners to enter the housing market. During the last reauthorization of the Housing Levy, I voted to support a pilot to subsidize the cost for low-income homeowners to build accessory dwelling units.

**Candidate Signature** for verification (electronic is ok):

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a white background. The signature is cursive and reads "Lisa G. Berbold".

**Date:** October 4, 2019

– END OF QUESTIONNAIRE –

**Please return to:** [hinrichc@seattleu.edu](mailto:hinrichc@seattleu.edu), cc [lacey@seattleu.edu](mailto:lacey@seattleu.edu), by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, 2019. Thank you for participating.



Distributed to all 2019 Seattle City Council general election candidates on behalf of partners Resolution to End Homelessness, Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness, Tech 4 Housing, Housing Development Consortium and Solid Ground, by SU's Project on Family Homelessness, Institute of Public Service, Seattle University/CASY 210, P.O. Box 222000, Seattle, WA, 98122-1090, on Sept. 4, 2019.

*Housing Voter logo by Anneke Karreman, SU '20.*