



EVERETT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Information

Name: Demi Chatters

Candidate for: Everett City Council, Position 6 (At Large)

Campaign website: <https://www.votefordemi.com/>

Background

As part of our mission to support a vibrant downtown core, the Downtown Everett Association provides leadership and awareness to the issues impacting our downtown community. We've created this candidate questionnaire – which aligns with our [mission](#) – to help voters understand the 2023 Everett City Council candidates' vision and priorities for Downtown Everett. The Downtown Everett Association does not endorse candidates; we encourage the community to read the candidates' responses below to learn how they would support a thriving downtown.

All candidates were invited to respond. Candidate responses are posted in their entirety. Typos and grammatical errors are their own.

Questions

Public Safety

Do you believe current policies, such as the service provider buffer zone ordinance, help accomplish the City's goals of promoting public safety in the downtown core? What other policies do you believe would help meet this goal, and how?

See "Additional" below

How do you believe the City can create a safe space for all members of the downtown community? How would you prioritize these measures?

See "Additional" below

Economic Vitality

How do you believe the City can help make Downtown a more attractive location for new businesses?

See "Additional" below

How can the City support existing businesses – from small to large?

See "Additional" below



Public Spaces

What steps can the City take to improve Downtown Everett's public spaces, such as streets, sidewalks, parks, and places where people spend time and gather?

See "Additional" below

Transportation

How can the City increase accessibility to Downtown and help people feel more connected to our neighboring communities? What are your priorities in regards to bicycle infrastructure, public transportation, pedestrian experience, parking, etc.?

See "Additional" below

Historic Preservation

In your view, how important are Downtown Everett's historic buildings to its social vibrancy and economic vitality, and why? What would be your approach be to incentivizing the preservation of these buildings?

See "Additional" below

Additional

Is there any additional information you would like to share about your candidacy that would be helpful for downtown residents, workers, and visitors to know?

It is clear that our Downtown community is suffering under the weight of the downstream impacts of past public policy decisions that have, over time, exacerbated the housing affordability crisis. This has led to increasing numbers of people dealing with severe health and economic challenges who functionally have no place to go but the streets, making folks feel unsafe and negatively impacting our business community as they try to create welcoming spaces for patrons.

Because this crisis has grown out of many years of inadequate action, it will not be solved overnight. There is no magic bullet here, and it must begin with a wholistic evaluation of the architecture of policy that got us here. Our policy solutions must create intentional and accessible pathways for people in crisis to get off the streets and connected to wrap around services, as a starting point, which requires building regional partnerships at all levels of government and with service provider agencies. I will work to support policies that rebalance housing access, affordability and economic opportunity, because this crisis will continue spiraling out of control until these elements are sustainably aligned, and reach a point of equilibrium.

I will demand that our public safety and law enforcement professionals have access to the right tools and resources for the right responses to community members when they call for help. I support neighborhood policing and problem solving, and have talked with many residents and small business owners who would very much appreciate a more prominent police presence on



the streets. I support expansion of programs like COET and our EPD bicycle team, which gets our law enforcement professionals out of their cars and more visibly present in the spaces where our businesses and residents are being impacted by these challenges.

Investing in multi-modal transportation infrastructure is also a critical element of supporting the vitality of our Downtown Community. Our bicycle master plan is antiquated and I will advocate for updating it to reflect more recent findings around best practices for making communities better for people on bikes. I am honored to have received the endorsement of Washington Bikes because of my commitment to creating safer streets and roadways, and encouraging economic vitality through walkable and bikeable cities.

I support investing in streetscaping that creates well lit, visually appealing spaces in our Downtown community that will draw folks in and make them want to spend time (and money in support of our local economy) here in Everett. Protecting and preserving our green spaces, as well as our historic sites and buildings is an important part of this process. I support tax incentives and grant partnerships that restore our historic buildings and repurpose them to meet our current needs.

By working together as a community, we can collectively create and move forward an agenda that respects our shared culture and history, while also innovating and building space for future generations of Everettonians to imagine, evolve and grow. You can learn more about me, my endorsements and my priorities at www.votefordemi.com. It would be an honor to earn your vote and serve as your partner on the Everett City Council in getting this work done.