



## EVERETT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Candidate Information

Name: Scott Bader

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

Campaign website: <https://www.baderforeverett.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?*

Public safety is fundamental for creating a vibrant downtown. While not a silver bullet, I think current policies and the buffer zone have given social workers and law enforcement another tool to promote public safety. I think any policy - e.g. stronger trespass policies – that gives law enforcement and social workers a legal reason to engage with those who might be contributing to an unwelcome environment is helpful – and hopefully incentivize folks to treatment etc as a better way to be living than on the street. I've heard from many entrepreneurs and small business owners who feel frustrated and overwhelmed by the public safety environment. Having a visible police presence on our streets can be helpful for deterring vandalism, theft, and other types of crime. I will prioritize funding for our first responders and ensure they have the tools and training needed to serve our community effectively.

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

The more activity we can have downtown, bringing more people downtown, the more safe space we will have. As much law enforcement as we can bring to downtown. I also think some businesses need to be more cooperative in 'controlling' their property. I'm a regular visitor to the



area around Colby and Everett Avenue on Saturday morning, and the spillover from the feeding program at Bethel church into Chase bank parking lot and the connection to the minimart there just seems to create a perfect storm of challenges, as well as making sure the city is keeping the sidewalks open for everyone to use (e.g. across Hoyt from the library). I will continue to support a comprehensive approach that includes our law enforcement officers, judicial system, and healthcare providers. We also need support from the State legislature to establish facilities and programs that can provide help for people suffering from mental illness and transition them away from living on the street.

### Economic Vitality

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

The city needs to be a partner to keep drawing people into downtown both to live (support zoning changes that can facilitate greater density in appropriate locations) and to do business, shop, and play (more activities and more attractiveness), make getting into and out of downtown easy (including parking), being a partner to market downtown Everett as a resource for the region, etc. A critical mass of people in downtown will attract more business and more residents – a virtuous cycle. We should take advantage of post pandemic changes where employers in Seattle are looking to establish satellite offices for employees in Snohomish County – and the City should market us as such. Everett has great attributes including our higher education opportunities, Paine Field, and relative affordability that we should be able to market to every major employer.

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

First, the city should continue to invest appropriately in critical infrastructure – including roads/transportation, open spaces/parks, and environmental initiatives. The easier we can make any interaction with the city (permits, etc) of course, the more we can draw people into downtown, but bottom line is we have to solve the public safety problem and even to the extent it is just perception solve any 'misperception' that might be there as well. We also want to do everything we can to keep Everett affordable for businesses and residents, including the tax burden and other costs and fees. I will support the administration in making fiscally sound decisions and long term investments in our quality of life.

### 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?*

Everett has great assets and events we want to continue and expand, to make downtown Everett and arts, cultural, and entertainment center. We should keep expanding and build on our public arts program (street art and murals), activities like the 3 on 3 basketball tournament (note I led the effort to bring back the 4th of July parade), and our other cultural assets like the Imagine center and the Schack. Regular cleaning, regular repair, but include more 'amenities'



that make them attractive such as banners, street art, things like those covers of utility boxes, make sure things are well lit and perhaps use interesting 'lighting' and other street 'furniture' to add interest.

### 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.?*

Keep building out the bicycle connections as we do work on the adjoining roads, pushing public transit to make it easy and rationale to get to downtown (so not just the transit dependent but even non transit dependent riders), regarding the pedestrian experience, I think we need to work with businesses regarding how to make visiting downtown despite wet weather attractive (a challenge because awnings or coverings often make it attractive for folks to 'loiter') as well as to some extent the mid-block connections across blocks (not just across streets) – can these be made viable and safe and not attract 'loitering'; finally regarding parking I think the city needs to make sure there is no net loss of parking spaces as they refurbish streets and perhaps even consider a second parking garage that supports both downtown and the events center.

### 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?*

Our ideal, our aspiration, should be to save all our historic buildings because it both connects us to our past and preserves what were beautiful buildings that were designed with great care. Downtown Everett's wonderful collection of architecturally interesting and historic buildings are important for creating an authentic urban experience. These add charm and character to our downtown. But we also have to temper that with reality about the cost to preserve our buildings. Potentially I'd be open to tax credits, though we have to realize that spreads the tax burden to others; certainly giving those who take the extra steps to preserve historic buildings as much public attention and thanks as we can is appropriate. The more prosperous downtown Everett is – with new businesses and residents – the more advantageous historic preservation will be for those who own historic properties for housing, hospitality, retail, and office space. At the same time, the city needs to ensure existing structures don't fall into disrepair, with the carrot of tax incentives and other tools but also the stick of code enforcement when the carrots don't work.

### 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?*

Public Safety is the foundation upon which any 'attractiveness' is built. If we don't take care of that, we are always going to be swimming upstream in our hopes and dreams for downtown. I



am endorsed by all our public safety leaders – the county prosecutor, the Everett Police Officers Association, the Everett Police Management Association, Firefighters IAFF Local 46, as well as the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 883 and the Longshore ILWU Local 38, who both have a great stake in downtown's success (since transit is so prevalent in downtown and the Port of Everett almost immediately adjoins downtown.)