



EVERETT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Information

Name: **Luis Burbano**

Candidate for: Everett City Council, District 4

Campaign website: <https://www.electluisburbano.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 2025 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?

As reported by multiple news [outlets](#), the buffer zone around the Fred Meyer in South Everett shows that "crime at the location dropped 49% in 2024 compared to 2023, and shoplifting was down 82% compared to 2020." I am a resident of South Everett, I can not speak for the downtown core because I don't go there often. However, the data shows that buffer zones work.

Increasing the amount of services dedicated to addiction recovery, transition housing, job training and shelters. Creating activities and resources to promote mental health in the community. Studies have shown that community gardens and youth activities reduce mental health issues in young people. Studies have also shown that being outdoors and spending less time in front of screens reduces depression and anxiety that can lead to substance abuse. As a community we need to be proactive. We need to fix the problems before they even happen.

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

Make it a walkable community. Reducing the number of cars in communities decreases the amount of vehicular collisions, road rage, speeding and people being hit by cars. This was applied in the city of Leavenworth which closed their Front Street in 2020. The measure was so popular and effective that it



remains in place even today. Walkable streets also allow for more convenient access to businesses and services. Walkable communities reduce crime by adding “eyes on the street”.

Economic Vitality

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

Downtown Everett needs to be more family friendly, walkable, accessible to pedestrians and cyclists. It needs more options for eating and the nightlife needs to be improved. More opportunities for new small businesses to grow, such as winter markets, and artwalks once a week or once a month. More events to gather the community such as the [Luminata](#).

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

Revitalize the area to encourage people to come to Everett. Increase the number of housing units in Everett. Give people a reason to go to Everett. Revise the business permit code to help and motivate existing businesses to expand in Everett. Make it walkable.

Public Spaces

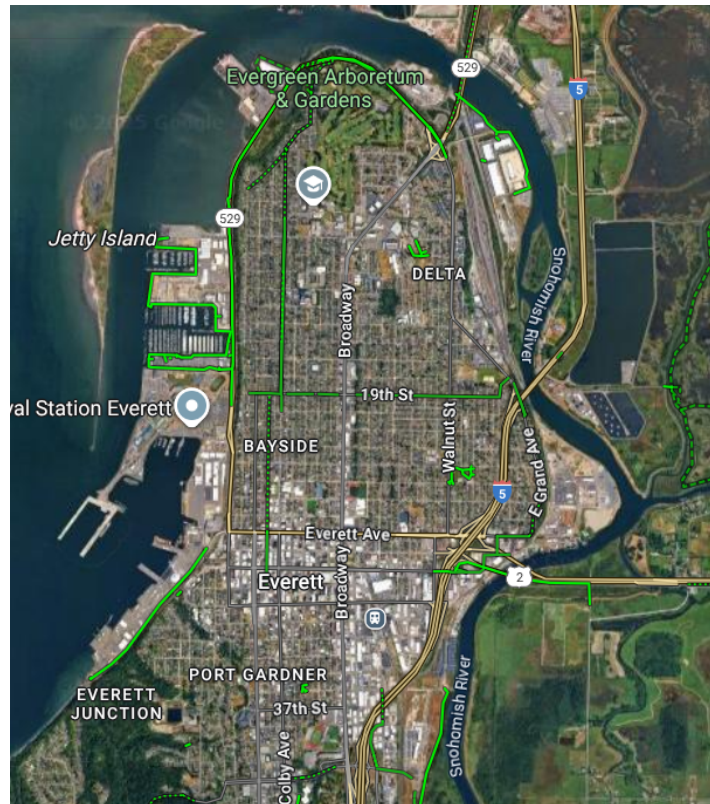
What steps can the City take to improve Downtown Everett’s public spaces, such as streets, sidewalks, parks, and places where people spend time and gather?

I think downtown Everett has proper sidewalks and streets. The problem is that Downtown Everett does not offer a good reason to go to Everett and spend time in open places and walk on sidewalks.

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.?

Implement protected bicycle lanes. Right now, there are no safe ways to connect South Everett with Downtown Everett. Businesses in general around the city lack bicycle racks. Accessibility is something Everett lacks and local businesses are being affected by this. My household supports the businesses in Mill Creek because we can take the Interurban trail and ride our bikes downtown and spend time eating lunch there. Everett downtown is disconnected from itself and other communities just look at the lack of bicycle lanes around Downtown Everett



Downtown Everett has been designed for cars and not for people; therefore, we will see more people in cars than walking and enjoying the infrastructure downtown.

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?

Downtown historic buildings are important because they provide character to the city. They certainly contribute to the feel of the city. A way to preserve the buildings is to educate people about the buildings. Seattle has the Underground tour or the Smith Tower tour that tells the story of the city. I am pretty sure those buildings in Everett have a few stories to tell.

Additional

With the Everett 2044 Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations going into effect, describe your related approach to zoning, density, allocation of city resources, and the priority for growth in the downtown core.



If Everett wants to become a vibrant community, then it needs adequate population density, job growth and walkability that will provide the city with the resources needed to maintain itself. A lot is being said about the growth of the city, but we also need to make sure that our downtown has plenty of tree canopy and green areas as well. I would like to see more bodega style grocery stores that will encourage people to walk and work in the city this way ensuring that the money and jobs stay local.

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?

Everett is a beautiful town that has not been able to take advantage of its location and manufacturing centers. We have a waterfront, a lake; we are a short drive to the mountains, farms, ferry, Japanese Gulch, (mountain bike). We host one of the largest employers in the state. Still, Everett is not considered a prime location for families and businesses. Everett needs to change that. Everett needs to move from an old little town, to a little vibrant, inviting, and walkable town.