



EVERETT CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Information

Name: **Don Schwab**

Candidate for: Everett City Council, District 3

Campaign website: <https://www.schwabforcouncil.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?

YES, I support the implementation of buffer zones and "stay out of drug" orders as important tools for promoting public safety in downtown Everett. These policies help reduce disruptive and illegal activities near service providers and public spaces, making the area safer for residents, businesses, and visitors. Beyond enforcement, I support programs for regular street cleaning, graffiti removal, landscaping, and maintaining public plazas. These efforts not only improve the physical environment but also send a clear message that our downtown area is cared for and welcoming. An attractive, well-maintained downtown attracts more visitors and customers, which in turn supports economic vitality and community pride.

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

Creating a safe space for all members of the downtown community requires a comprehensive and inclusive approach. First, maintaining a visible and stable police presence, supported by enhanced security services and community policing programs that build trust and foster collaboration between law enforcement and residents.

Second, invest in outreach programs that connect vulnerable individuals including those experiencing homelessness or behavioral health challenges with social services, housing, and



addiction treatment. Everett's Community Alternative Response Everett (CARE) program is a strong example of how specialized teams can address non-violent crises compassionately and effectively.

Third, regular street cleaning, graffiti removal, landscaping, and well-maintained public plazas, as these efforts not only deter crime but also create a welcoming environment for everyone. Fourth, adequate lighting, safe pedestrian pathways, and accessible public spaces are essential for both actual and perceived safety.

Economic Vitality

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

The city should focus on creating a vibrant, welcoming environment and providing targeted support for entrepreneurs. Investing in public improvement, including such clean streets, attractive landscaping, and well-maintained public plazas. This creates a positive image and draws both visitors and potential business owners. The City should offer incentives and grant programs, like storefront improvement grants, which help new businesses enhance their visibility and appeal. Streamlining permitting processes and providing clear guidance for startups can reduce barriers to entry and encourage innovation. Supporting mixed-use development and increasing residential density downtown will boost foot traffic and create a built-in customer base for new businesses. Hosting regular community events and promoting local arts and culture also foster a sense of place and make downtown a destination for residents and visitors.

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

Supporting existing businesses requires strong partnerships, targeted programs, and a commitment to maintaining a safe, attractive environment. networking opportunities, and advocacy for local businesses of all sizes.

The city can collaborate with business owners to address safety and security concerns, ensuring downtown remains a walkable and vibrant destination for residents and visitors. Workforce development initiatives, including partnerships with Everett Community College and local workforce agencies, help businesses connect with qualified employees and provide training opportunities.

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?

One of the most impactful ways to enhance downtown Everett's public spaces is by prioritizing flexible, accessible community event spaces. Using outdoor plazas, multi-use parks, or the event centers can serve as the heart of our downtown, bringing residents, visitors, and businesses together for festivals, concerts, markets, and cultural celebrations.



The city should invest in adaptable infrastructure, such as modular seating, retractable partitions, and advanced lighting and sound systems, to ensure these spaces can host a wide variety of events year-round. Accessibility is key: event spaces should be easy to reach by foot, bike, and public transit, and designed for people of all ages and abilities.

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.?

Continue expanding light rail service to downtown Everett, as it will be essential for the future of our downtown. Maximize the use of Everett Transit, especially event shuttles that transport visitors from designated parking lots to the downtown core during major events like the Fourth of July and Salty Sea Days. To meet the needs of our growing population, focus on connecting residents from all parts of Everett without relying solely on cars. Develop safe, clearly marked bike lanes that link downtown with surrounding neighborhoods, and continue to improve parking strategies to accommodate daily use and large, simultaneous events.

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 Everett's historic buildings are essential to the city's social vibrancy and economic vitality. They provide a unique sense of place, connect us to our shared heritage, and serve as anchors for community identity and pride. These buildings attract residents, visitors, and businesses by offering character and authenticity that cannot be replicated by new construction.

To incentivize preservation, I support flexible regulations, adaptive reuse policies, and flexible building codes that make it easier to renovate and repurpose historic structures for modern uses while maintaining their character.

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.

My approach to zoning emphasizes flexibility. Encouraging mixed-use development, reducing barriers for adaptive reuse of existing buildings, and ensuring that new projects contribute to a lively streetscape and a sense of place. I also support policies that direct most of the new growth into designated centers like downtown, where infrastructure and transit access can best support it. Resource allocation should prioritize investments in public infrastructure, streets,



sidewalks, parks, and transit, to support increased density and maintain a high quality of life for all residents. The city should leverage public-private partnerships and seek state and federal funding to maximize our impact.

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?

I am committed to ongoing community engagement to ensure that growth reflects the needs and aspirations of Everett's diverse residents and businesses. By focusing on public safety, flexible zoning, increased density, and strategic resource allocation we will ensure that downtown Everett remains the economic, cultural, and social center of our city.