

1 Tell us about your campaign

1a Name

Andrew J. Lewis

1b What position are you running for?

Seattle City Council, District 7

1c Campaign phone

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1d Campaign email

lewisforseattle@gmail.com

1e Campaign website

www.lewisforseattle.com

1f Approximate campaign budget

\$150,000

1g Raised to date

Approximately \$100,000

1h Key endorsements

The Stranger, MLK County Labor Council, King County Democrats, 36th District Democrats, Rep. Gael Tarleton, Rep. Frank Chopp, Rep. Nicole Macri, Sen. Joe Nguyen, and many more.

2 If elected, how will you take leadership to ensure that everyone in your community can live in a safe, healthy, affordable home?

We need to make a generational commitment to affordable housing. First, we need to strategically upzone neighborhoods around transit hubs and arterials to allow for greater housing density where it makes sense. Second, we need to capitalize on opportunities to build affordable housing on public land, and build partnerships with providers and non-profit developers to make those projects pencil out. I am a big supporter of the Home and Hope program through the Enterprise Foundation and will make affordable housing and public housing a big priority on the City Council.

3 What role does affordable housing play in your community?

I grew up in a working class household. My mom was a nurse and my dad was a heavy equipment operator. The Seattle I grew up in was a Seattle of affordable neighborhoods that made space for families like the one I grew up in. I don't want to be the last working class generation to grow up in Seattle.

Every district in Seattle needs to do its part, and we cannot concentrate all of our public and affordable housing in one neighborhood. We need an integrative and comprehensive approach to affordable housing. District 7 has some of the most affluent neighborhoods in the City of Seattle. we need to do our part, and as someone who currently lives across the street from a Seattle Housing Authority building, I look forward to having that conversation with all my constituents in District 7.

4 What are the top three things local government should focus on in its response to homelessness?

First, permanent supportive housing is the only way we will ever truly compassionately meet the challenge of our housing crisis. We know that 94% of people housed by Plymouth Housing stay housed, that's the way we are going to get ahead of the humanitarian crises of our neighbors living on the streets.

Second, enhanced shelters with privacy, hygiene facilities, lockers to store personal items, day centers, and arrangements for longer-term stays are an essential bridge strategy while we bring permanent supportive housing to scale. We rely far too heavily on 12-hour shelters with little support, no ability to store personal belongings on-site, and no integrated access to day centers and hygiene facilities to provide much needed support while the shelter is closed to users. Enhanced shelters that can provide more services, but not quite the level of support of permanent supportive housing, need to be bridge strategy to provide relief now to thousands of our neighbors living in cars and tents.

Third, we need to concentrate on preventative measures designed to keep people in their houses. A recent study found that our neighbors are evicted for back rent as low as \$10 in arrears. That is unacceptable. We need a rent stabilization fund to avoid completely unnecessary evictions and keep people housed.

5 What policy tools do you support to prevent displacement, particularly displacement of communities of color?

As we grow we need to make sure we are re-investing Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) funds back into neighborhoods where we are collecting them. There needs to be a feedback-loop between our new development policies and building strong communities so that we do not see a polarization between neighborhoods driven by affordability.

Conversely, in addition to preventing displacement in neighborhoods with legacy populations of color, we need to make space in traditionally exclusive neighborhoods for more diversified housing options. I am a strong supporter of the housing at Fort Lawton, and a housing component to the project at the National Guard Armory in Interbay.

6 State law provides municipalities with several options for generating local funding for affordable homes and related services. These include affordable housing levies authorized under RCW 84.55.050 and RCW 82.14.530, and sales tax authority under RCW 82.14.530 and RCW 82.14.460. House bill 1406, passed this year, creates a local sales tax credit that offers a new local funding source. Which of these options do you support using in your community? Are there other sources of funding that you support?

All of them. Additionally, I support using our bonding capacity more aggressively to build more housing faster, and supporting the bonds with the funding mechanisms indicated above.

I would say that among the options mentioned above I am most reluctant to continue to over rely on our extremely regressive sales tax, but I am not taking it off the table entirely. Additionally, I am optimistic that in short order we will be able to pursue a municipal income tax, which I am a strong supporter of.

7 What is the role of private companies and market rate developers in supporting affordable housing?

I support the Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) ordinance which mandates either on-site affordable housing or an in-lieu fee from private development to support affordable housing in exchange for higher density of housing.

I also applaud efforts by private companies to make significant philanthropic investments supporting affordable housing development. For example, Amazon's support of Mary's Place and Microsoft's half a billion commitment to regional affordable housing.

8 Senate bill 5600 that passed the legislature this year reformed the eviction process. What additional steps should local government take to reduce evictions and keep more people in their homes?

As I mentioned earlier, rent stabilization funds are a tried and true method to keep people in their homes and reduce homelessness. Tacoma's program has been particularly successful in keeping people housed to withstand medical emergencies, an unexpected layoff, or the myriad of other life events that can lead to homelessness.

9 What gaps exist in protections for tenants in your community?

Access to adequate rent stabilization.