

Resolution to Endorse Seattle for Everyone

WHEREAS Seattle, the Puget Sound region, and the United States are in a prolonged state of housing emergency in which many of our neighbors are forced into homelessness, and

WHEREAS Housing prices across the region and country are increasing dramatically due to a near-record low of supply combined with heavy demand from new generations aging into adulthood [<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/04/23/business/stock-market-today>], and

WHEREAS 49% of all land in Seattle is zoned to restrictive single-family detached houses only, in comparison to 8% of land zoned as multi-family and 8% commercial and mixed-use [<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/real-estate/amid-seattles-rapid-growth-most-new-ho-using-restricted-to-a-few-areas/>], and

WHEREAS Single-family detached zoning has a racism-tainted history of excluding access to BIPOC through the practices of redlining, racial covenants, and being excluded from upzones, community housing, and social projects for lower-income peoples [<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/reports/2019/08/07/472617/systemic-inequality-displacement-exclusion-segregation/>], and

WHEREAS Single-family detached zoning in Seattle forces people further and further from the central core of the Puget Sound, increasing transportation energy use, deteriorating the environment through greenfield development, and requiring exponentially longer commutes, creating a trap of poverty and high cost of time, and

WHEREAS The aforementioned negatives are felt especially by lower-income and poorer peoples who cannot afford inner-city housing expenses, and

WHEREAS Access to transportation provides access to opportunity, the #1 most important factor in allowing for social mobility from lower to upper income brackets, scoring higher than metrics for two-parent households, school district test scores, and neighborhood crime [<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/07/upshot/transportation-emerges-as-crucial-to-escaping-poverty.html>], and

WHEREAS Seattle's zoning currently excludes a broad swath of housing types between now-familiar single-family detached homes and 5 story apartment buildings, such as duplexes, triplexes, courtyard condos, cottage courts, townhouses, medium multiplexes, and live-work spaces, collectively known as the "missing middle" of developable housing types, [<https://missingmiddlehousing.com/>], and

WHEREAS The currently upzoned neighborhoods of Seattle, such as the Rainier Valley, Capitol Hill, International District / Chinatown, Northgate, Central District, Lake City, South Lake Union, U District, Ballard, and Junction all represent disproportionately less-advantaged communities of Black, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, LGBTQ, blue-collar longshore

workers and sailors, and other traditionally politically disadvantaged communities while neighborhoods such as Windermere, Laurelhurst, Mt. Baker, Blue Ridge, Briarcliff, Madison Park, Magnolia, Madrona, Alki, Upper Queen Anne and other single-family detached house zoned neighborhoods have broadly avoided all up-zoning, collectively accounting for a paltry 5% of the more than 100,000 person population increase of Seattle during the last decade [<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/real-estate/city-report-widespread-single-family-zoning-is-damaging-seattle-and-needs-changing/>], and

WHEREAS Seattle for Everyone is an advocacy group made from a broad range of non-profit developers, private developers, labor groups, businesses, business associations, and social justice advocates with the goals of creating and preserving more housing in every neighborhood in Seattle; supporting middle and low-income housing options; and supporting development with a lens on equity and protection of communities at risk of displacement [<https://seattleforeveryone.org/>], and

WHEREAS Seattle for Everyone is supported by MLK Labor, LGBTQ Allyship, Downtown Seattle Association, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Futurewise, Transportation Choices Coalition, The Urbanist, Habitat for Humanity, and Master Builders Association [<https://seattleforeveryone.org/>],

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The 43rd District Democrats endorse Seattle for Everyone and allow Seattle for Everyone to place the 43rd District Democrats logo in Seattle for Everyone's coalition partners website section, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The 43rd District Democrats endorse Seattle for Everyone's Principles for Action,

- "1. Create & Preserve More Housing Options in Every Neighborhood: Increase our shared capacity to effectively and compassionately build a full spectrum of housing. A fundamental contributor to the housing crisis has been gross underproduction coupled with a legacy of discriminatory and restrictive policies. By removing barriers, we can enable more homes to be built across the city, especially around transit, jobs, and opportunity; and
- "2. Support Low- and Middle-Income Affordability: Fund, produce, and preserve a range of housing choices with a special focus on affordable low- and middle-income homes. Solutions must intentionally provide for affordability; and
- "3. Support Equitable Development: In all of our efforts we remember that the lifeblood and vibrancy of our city comes from the empowerment, expression, diversity, and stability of the people — past, present, and future. We believe in supporting and protecting communities at risk of displacement and including everyone in growth," and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT The 43rd District Democrats forward its endorsement of Seattle for Everyone to all Seattle Legislative Districts.