



Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss to seek reelection.

Strauss will focus on homelessness, public safety, housing in next term.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALLARD – Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss announced today he will seek reelection for a second four-year term representing District 6 (Ballard, Magnolia, Phinney Ridge, Fremont, Green Lake, Loyal Heights).

“During the past four years we’ve been hit with a pandemic, an exploding homelessness population, a racial reckoning over policing practices, increasing crime rates, and a shortage of housing,” Strauss said. “I’ve worked hard to help improve Northwest Seattle, and I have an ambitious plan to tackle Seattle’s problems.”

Strauss was elected to represent District 6 in 2019. Prior to that, he served as a legislative aide and policy advisor at the City of Seattle, Washington State Legislature, Oregon State Legislature, and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility.

Strauss continued, “We are at a time of change in our city, another rebirth. Over the past decade we have grown into a large city, and now we have a moment to truly remake our downtown AND make our neighborhoods even more vibrant. And this work is already underway, the proof-of-concepts have already been tried, the prototypes are currently being used, and now we are scaling these plans city- and District 6-wide. Born and raised in this city, I know where we have come from, and I see the horizon of the next growth spurt that our city will take to the world’s stage — all while taking care of our own backyards.”

As part of his reelection, Strauss released a detailed list of accomplishments and goals for his next term. His first act of the campaign is to start a listening tour in Magnolia to reconnect with the neighbors he worked with while working for Councilmember Bagshaw.

Public Safety

Here’s what I’ve done:

- I have supported fully funding the Seattle Police Department staffing and hiring plans every year I have been in office.

- I hold weekly meetings with law enforcement, city departments, human service providers, and local business owners, residents, and neighborhood groups to address public safety issues in different neighborhoods.
- I personally fully funded the SPD recruitment media plan.
- I created a Public Safety Coordinator position in Ballard to coordinate between businesses, residents, city departments, and social service providers.
- I funded a staff position to assist SPD's compliance with the consent decree.
- I worked with Mayor Harrell to add additional Harbor Patrol patrols during the summer.
- I funded and dedicated Mobile Crisis & Intervention Services for Seattle to help before, during, and after a crisis event.

Here's what I plan to do:

Reforming and fully funding public safety is what is needed most. Specifically:

- I will continue fully funding the police to address criminal activity because police time should be focused on crime.
- I will continue expanding our existing first responder groups: Community Service Officers, Parking Enforcement Officers, Health One, Mobile Crisis Team, and Park Rangers. I'll also support Mayor Harrell's CARE Department.
- I will scale up my public safety task forces neighborhood by neighborhood. These task forces are already underway, the proof-of-concepts have already been tried, the prototypes are currently being used, and now we are scaling these plans city and District 6 wide.
 - Case conferencing — addressing the needs of the people who impact public safety the most in our community.
 - Streets and stores — organizing small businesses and residents to identify and respond to public safety issues by coordinating with city and regional departments.
 - Block watch — organizing neighbors in residential areas to identify and respond to public safety issues on their streets and alleys by coordinating with city and regional departments.
 - Create the framework for residents and business owners to organize within their communities to receive the attention they need.
- I will continue supporting officer recruitment and retention so that we continue rebuilding our department with officers who share Seattle's values.

Homelessness

Here's what I've done:

- By creating a census and conducting a needs assessment, and matching people with shelter that met their needs, I resolved the Woodland Park encampment by moving 89 people into shelter, transitional, or permanent supportive housing. By securing funding the previous year, we restored the park to its intended use and left it in better condition than before the pandemic. Our phased plan was the most successful encampment resolution in our city's history, and this model has continued to define our path forward.

- We resolved the encampment at the Ballard Commons without a sweep by expanding adequate shelter and connecting people with the shelter that met their needs by using a census and needs assessment. To restore the park, I secured \$1 million for a new children's playground.
- I expanded our only outreach team dedicated to working with people living in their cars. I secured \$2 million to tailor shelter options to better address the needs of people living in their vehicles.
- I worked with Mayor Harrell to create Unified Care Teams that are geographically based and better able to respond to different needs in different neighborhoods throughout Seattle.

Here's what I plan to do:

- Better is not good enough. The number of unhoused people on our streets is a **completely unacceptable societal failing**, and addressing homelessness will remain a top priority of my office.
- I will continue my work to scale our homelessness response to go section by section in our city rather than having one team responding to the whole city.
- I will continue to expand our Vehicle Outreach Team and tailor shelter and housing to meet the needs of people who live in their vehicles.
- I will continue to work with residents to address homelessness in their neighborhoods.
- I will continue separating predators from people who are down and out by bringing people inside and intervening in predatory behavior.
- I will continue adding urgency to the Regional Homelessness Authority to ensure Partnership for Zero is successful and scaled quickly.
- We must still fund shelters while we create the direct pipeline into permanent housing.

Housing

Here's what I've done:

- In 2021 and 2022, we met our promise of investing \$200 million per year into affordable housing. In 2022, with \$250 million invested, we began buying existing buildings in addition to new construction. This opened permanent supportive housing in Green Lake, Greenwood, and Ballard during my first term.
- I passed legislation exempting affordable housing projects for up to 60% AMI from the design review process to reduce time and costs for getting these projects online.
- I passed protections for manufactured home parks to protect seniors and low-income families from being displaced and help them stay in the neighborhoods they call home.
- My bill helped reduce confusion between tenants and landlords, and it gives tenants a reasonable amount of time to repay debts, which will reduce the threat of eviction and ensure landlords are made whole.
- I requested the City Auditor conduct an audit on all city departments involved in our permitting process to identify bottlenecks and system improvements. We must do a better job of issuing permits in a timely manner, which is why I secured additional staff to process permits faster.

- I was one of four original co-sponsors of Jumpstart to bring the funding we need to build affordable housing.

Here's what I plan to do:

The family I grew up in would not be able to afford to live in Ballard today. We need more housing for everyone, from market rate to deeply affordable housing, so that our nurses, baristas, teachers, and social workers are able to live in the same city as our CEOs, doctors, and lawyers.

Specifically, I will:

- Reform design review to give it the teeth it needs and ensure it isn't weaponized to stop projects from being built.
- Increase speed, consistency, and predictability of issuing permits for housing.
- Change SEPA thresholds downtown to make conversions from office space to housing faster.
- Continue funding affordable housing above the \$200 million/year benchmark.

Dan is proud to be endorsed by: State Senator Noel Frame, State Rep. Frank Chopp, State Rep. Julia Reed, Fmr. State Senator David Frockt, Fmr. State Rep. Gael Tarleton, Fmr. State Rep. Jessyn Farrell, County Executive Dave Somers, County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay, Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, Fmr. Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Port Commissioner Ryan Calkins, Port Commissioner Fred Felleman, Port Commission President Sam Cho, and Port Commission Vice President Toshiko Hasegawa.

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