

# 2015 Urban Forest & Green Space City Council Candidate Questionnaire



**Name:** Tim Burgess

**District:** Seattle City Council Position 8

1. Larger trees provide significantly more ecological value to Seattle's green infrastructure, by reducing storm water runoff, cleaning pollutants from the air, and providing animal habitat. **Do you support giving greater protection to large trees like Heritage Trees and exceptional trees? What measures would you propose to provide this protection?**

**Yes. I'd like to strengthen current protections and adopt policies similar to some of our eastside neighboring cities who have much stronger tree protections in place, as a general rule.**

2. Seattle's interim tree ordinance protects existing groves of trees (group of 8 or more trees 12" in diameter). The Department of Planning and Development has proposed removing this protection. **Do you support continuing the policy of protecting tree groves to conserve habitat and canopy cover?**

**It depends on the specific circumstances for these groves of trees. I generally do not favor lifting restrictions, but I could support removal in some cases if a greater number of trees are to be planted.**

3. Deferred maintenance results in the costly loss and replacement of trees and landscapes. **Do you support funding for the maintenance of public greenspaces,** including increased funding for the Green Seattle Partnership so that the goals to restore our parklands, greenbelts, and critical areas can be met?

**Yes.**

4. Seattle currently has a 23 percent tree canopy cover. Seattle's Urban Forest Stewardship Plan targets a 30 percent canopy cover goal by 2037. **To help reach this goal, do you support strengthening tree protection by requiring permits to remove trees on private property?**

**Yes.**

5. Seattle is one of the very few urban environments that still boasts an extensive, diverse, and impactful urban fruit tree canopy. Over the last six years, over 80,000 pounds of fruit has been gleaned from public and private property, and donated into the emergency food system. **Do you support funding to continue the maintenance of fruit trees on public land and gleaning of fruit from private property for food banks?**

**Yes.**

6. Seattle is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Over the last two years, there has been a 25 percent increase in apartment building, which often involves the destruction of single-family homes that provide open space and trees. In 2014, Seattle reports that it has 5,546 acres of designed parkland plus natural areas. The Trust for Public Lands 2014 report places Seattle's ranking among the 200 largest U.S. cities as 188th -- that's 12th from the bottom. **What do you propose to stop this loss of open space, and to increase open space in the city?**

**In our multi-family zoning areas, I would not restrict the building of apartments as you suggest. I do favor the acquisition of more public space dedicated to open and public use.**

7. The Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan calls for the addition of 1400 acres of open space by 2035 to accommodate population growth. **What is your opinion of this goal? What ideas do you have to achieve this goal? Do you support this goal and saving current surplus city properties to help meet this goal?**

**Yes, but again the specific details are important here. I have consistently and strongly supported the acquisition of public lands for public use and open space and will continue to do so.**

8. Currently, the Department of Planning and Development is responsible for drafting the urban forest ordinance. **Do you support the Mayor and City Council appointing a citizens committee to prepare a draft urban forest ordinance instead, such as the Parks Legacy Committee and Parks and Green Spaces Citizens' Advisory Committee?**

**Yes. I also would consolidate all tree maintenance and accountability for city-owned trees into one city department. Right now these responsibilities are in various departments and we lack a strong, consistent approach.**

9. The Department of Planning and Development is proposing to reduce the current long-term tree canopy aspirational goal in the Seattle Comprehensive Plan from 40 percent to 30 percent. **Do you support maintaining the 40 percent long-term goal in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan?**

**I support the 37 percent goal.**

10. Trees and open space offer a number of community benefits: increased housing values; decreased rates of crime; offering protection against climate change; filtering stormwater run-off; and quality of life for communities. **Share with us your favorite tree or memory of an open space and why you support continued investment in these community resources.**

**I grew up across the street from Volunteer Park. As kids, we would roam around the park constantly. We raised our daughters on Queen Anne and enjoyed Little Howe and Big Howe Parks. These public parks are vital to our city's long term viability which is why I strongly supported creation of the Seattle Parks District last year. It provides steady and long-term financial support for our parks.**

Please add any clarifications or comments you would like to convey to us regarding the questions above, or on protecting trees and the urban forest and open space in general.

Are you willing to meet briefly with representatives from TreePAC, at a time and place that is mutually convenient?

***Thank you for your participation!***  
***Please return questionnaire by July 19 to [treepac@comcast.net](mailto:treepac@comcast.net).***

# Getting Good Things Done

"I was born and raised right here in Seattle. Joleen and I raised our three daughters here, too. As your City Councilmember, I am incredibly proud of what we've accomplished. But, we have more to do.

I would greatly appreciate your vote."

- Tim



"We're proud to support Tim Burgess for City Council because time and again, he's stood up for working people and a more fair, equitable and just city. Tim supported the \$15 minimum wage, paid sick leave ordinance and gender pay equity."

- David Rolf, President of SEIU 775

"Seattle Fire Fighters know they can count on Councilman Tim Burgess to ensure public safety while he helps lead Seattle forward."

- Kenny Stuart,  
President of Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27

**TIM BURGESS**

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE POSITION 8

## PROGRESSIVE LEADERS SUPPORTING TIM'S RE-ELECTION

Mayor **Ed Murray**

Former Mayors

**Norm Rice and Charles Royer**

City Councilmembers

**Sally Bagshaw, Bruce Harrell, John Okamoto, Tom Rasmussen**

Former Councilmember **Sally Clark**

County Executive **Dow Constantine**

Former County Executive **Ron Sims**

County Councilmembers

**Rod Dembowski, Larry Gossett, Joe McDermott**

Attorney General **Bob Ferguson**

State Treasurer **Jim McIntire**

State Senators

**David Frockt, Pramila Jayapal,  
Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Jamie Pedersen**

State Representatives

**Reuven Carlyle, Eileen Cody, Jessyn Farrell, Joe Fitzgibbon,  
Ruth Kagi, Eric Pettigrew, Brady Walkinshaw**

Learn more at [www.ElectTimBurgess.com](http://www.ElectTimBurgess.com)

# Progressive Accomplishments

- Led the push for **high-quality, voluntary and affordable preschool** for our youngest learners.
- Helped Mayor Murray hire an outstanding new police chief committed to **protecting our safety while still increasing accountability and transparency**.
- Supported **phased-in \$15 minimum wage** that counters the income inequities that threaten our lowest-wage workers and the middle class.
- Protected core city government services including police and fire and **increased funding for direct human services, homelessness prevention and services for our kids**.
- Wrote the new **Chronic Nuisance Property law** that gave the city more power to shut down drug houses and Aurora motels that were magnets of crime and disorder.
- Key negotiator for the final **Paid Sick and Safe Leave Act** that provides all workers city-wide with the ability to care for themselves and their families.
- Wrote the ordinance in 2013 that dedicated all school zone speed camera revenue to **school zone safety improvements**.
- Added budget to **fully fund the Nurse Family Partnership**, an evidence-based home visitation program for low income, first time moms.
- Wrote the city's **Wage Theft Law to protect workers** from dishonest employers.
- Raised more than \$1 million to open only the 4th **residential safe-haven for the care of prostituted children**, some as young as 13 and 14 years of age.
- Provided key support to the city's new **Rental Housing Inspection legislation**, protecting renters from unscrupulous landlords.
- Led the effort to fund the **first city-focused gun violence injury study in the U.S.** that documented the huge impact gun violence has on the health system.
- Led the effort to establish and fund the city's **Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**.
- Requested an **audit of rental housing practices** in the city resulting in discrimination charges against six property owners.

Learn more at [www.ElectTimBurgess.com](http://www.ElectTimBurgess.com)



CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE POSITION 8