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First Name: Eben
Last Name: Pobee
Email: electebenpobee@gmail.com
IP Address: 73.35.177.236

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Q1

Please share your information below:

Name	Eben Pobee
Position	5

Q2**Yes**

As a Shoreline City Council Member, will you commit to prioritizing the amending of Shoreline's Tree Protection codes for development to include maximizing the retention of our existing healthy trees, especially large ones, and planting more climate-appropriate (particularly evergreen) trees?

Q3**Yes**

Seattle has had a Heritage Tree system that recognizes and protects trees distinguished by their exceptional size, age, rarity, historical significance, or ecological value. Would you support establishing a voluntary program to protect exceptional old-growth trees in Shoreline as "Heritage Trees"?

Q4**Yes**

Urban tree canopy studies are usually now done by analyzing aerial images of the metropolitan area (LiDAR, Light Detection and Ranging). Depending on the sampling level above the ground that is selected, results can change significantly. When the green space percentage is sampled closer to the ground, the percentage increases considerably because bushes/blackberries, and other vegetation are included. Additionally, most canopy studies provide only a two-dimensional representation of the canopy surface area, rather than the three-dimensional canopy volume, which is more directly related to the benefits provided to a city by the forest canopy. A three-dimensional study will provide a more accurate measure of the environmental benefits of our urban forest, as well as the loss and gain in canopy area and volume over time. Would you support the city's next canopy study to include both a canopy area and canopy volume analysis?

Q5**Yes**

Currently, Shoreline requires tree service providers to have only a business license in Shoreline to cut down trees. Seattle requires tree service providers to have a Seattle business license, registration as a tree service provider, have proof of liability insurance, register with the state Labor and Industry, report all tree removal proposed in the city five business days in advance of work on a public website, and either have an ISA certified arborist on staff or on call for work being done. Would you support Shoreline setting up a similar system to track data and ensure accountability for tree work, ensuring compliance with city code?

Q6**Yes**

Portland and Lake Forest Park require a comprehensive tree inventory and tree planting plan to be completed at the beginning of their development permit process. Developers enter the inventory and information into an Excel spreadsheet, which can be easily added to a master city database to track all city trees. Seattle uses an Accela database system. Do you support the implementation of a revised integrated method of reporting tree loss and replacement during development?

Q7**Yes**

Shoreline's 2023 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment showed a very modest increase in canopy from the previous five years, of less than 1%. The City's goal is to reach 40% by 2050, which aligns with the recommendation previously made by American Forests for cities. Now, American Forests and the U.S. Forest Service researchers say that a 40-60% urban tree canopy is attainable in forested states like Washington. To reach our current goal of 40% or better, we will need to develop more effective canopy preservation and expansion practices. As a council member, would you support a tree canopy plan that has specific yearly goals and guidelines to assure consistent progress toward canopy area and volume expansion here in Shoreline?

Q8**Yes**

Many trees in Shoreline die as a result of invasive species like English ivy, killing them with their climbing vines. On steep slopes, this poses a significant threat to slope stability and increases the risk of landslides. A good time to remove invasives is during development. Do you support requiring developers, as part of their landscape plan, to remove all invasives on the lot undergoing development?

Q9**Yes**

Edmonds, Bellevue, and Kirkland give special protection to tree groves that are 3 or more trees, 6" DBH or larger, that have a continuous or overlapping tree canopy. Would you support similar protections in Shoreline to help protect natural habitat infrastructure, reduce heat islands, and help preserve trees, which could otherwise be exposed and more vulnerable to storms and windfall if part of the grove is removed?

Q10**Yes**

Would you support doing a Natural Capital Assessment of Shoreline's trees and urban forest to determine the financial value of Shoreline's natural tree assets to the city's balance sheet?

Q11

Please share your favorite tree or forest-related memory, or how you like to spend time in nature?

One of my favorite memories is walking through a quiet forest just after rainfall—the air felt fresh, and the trees seemed to shimmer with new life. I enjoy spending time in nature by taking slow hikes, listening to birds, and pausing to appreciate the calm and stillness that only a forest can offer.

Q12

Is there anything else you would like to share about protecting and growing Shoreline's trees and urban forest?

Yes — protecting and growing Shoreline's urban forest is about more than just planting trees; it's about nurturing a living community asset. Expanding canopy coverage, especially in underserved neighborhoods, helps improve air quality, reduce heat, and support mental well-being. Encouraging community participation, youth education, and partnerships with local organizations can ensure our trees continue to thrive for generations, strengthening both our environment and our sense of connection to nature.
