

## Housing Comments – In Class Workshop

<b>Big Picture</b>	<b>Well I would say housing because I am thinking of not living here in the future because of the costliness of the housing</b>
Big Picture	I like the policy that ensures to promote housing affordability. I like it because people need to be aware of the struggles of others
Big Picture	I like the housing policy 1 because they fund more city activities and so we can make more and more and could offer more with funding.
Big Picture	Making housing more affordable
Big Picture	I like to provide affordable housing because I like homeless (sic) to stop.
Big Picture	I like the housing one because my family has rented my whole life and it's been crazy so its cool to read some of the details about it.
Big Picture	I like the policy move of encouraging collaboration with the groups most impacted by housing costs to make housing more affordable to rent or own because it would really help out people and it's a great way to make it a better place to live.
Big Picture	Housing because it is improving affordability and easier access
Big Picture	I like the housing policy moves part 1 Because many people don't have enough money to get a house or apartment and the house tax are really expensive. So I think Bellevue should support and make housing less expensive and easier.
Big Picture	I like the housing because we need to house the homeless
Big Picture	Housing affordability and equity - I like that the housing can be more affordable for the people who don't have a lot of money. People can find houses without worrying about discrimination.
Big Picture	I like the transportation because we need more options on transportation like subways. I also like the housing moves because we need to bring down the housing prices since they are very expensive here.
Big Picture	Housing affordability and equality. Human services ???
Big Picture	I really like the key policy moves (part 1) for housing. I really like how we are planning the houses to be safe and also really updated, I also like how it will be affordable for more people. The building and the structure of the housing is also really advanced and good.

Big Picture	I like the human services policy and the housing policy. I like them because the first works to help people mentally and physically. It also works towards helping people in the LGBTQIA+ community. The latter because living expenses are quite high here.
Newport High	Transportation because of the population sustainability of housing because of climate. It'll be more environmentally friendly therefore making the environment more livable.
Newport High	Housing since they plan on making it affordable. Addressing homelessness and making sure it only happens once
Newport High	Affordable housing for limited households - might help college students living off minimum wage, also families in general. Climate friendly housing - energy efficient housing, more advanced home tech for some energy cost.
Newport High	Ensure affordable housing is available to low income households. I like this because it gives the people in vulnerable situations opportunities to build your life forward for you and your descendants.
Newport High	The second policy move on homelessness appeal to me since it as multiple points to produce results and prevent future homelessness. The sustainability policy discusses climate friendly housing with more renewable energy.
Newport High	Housing - policy to support the provision of transitional, emergency, and supportive housing to prevent homelessness. Policy to promote climate friendly housing that minimizes energy use and can adapt to a changing climate.
Newport High	Policy to promote housing stability for renters More trees --> less greenhouse gas emissions = better air quality.
Newport High	New policy to encourage and prioritize the development of affordable housing through incentives.
Newport High	I like the policy for house renting stability because house renting is the most certain way people settle in a place. Providing stability is significant for positive ??
Newport High	New policy to undo harms caused by discriminatory policies. This is a good rule as blockbusting was once prominent in Seattle and Bellevue and putting this rule to use would benefit equal housing oportunities that are not baed on race, ethnicity, or nationality.

Newport High	Prioritize the development of affordable housing: I think it is extremely privileged to live in Bellevue and to have access to the resources Bellevue has to offer, however many don't get the opportunity to do is because housing is too expensive. I think kids being able to live in houses rather than rented apartments contributes more to their sense of belonging too.
Newport High	Climate Change: I like the idea of limiting harmful impacts to human health and safety and wild life by minimizing pollution. Human Service: I really like the idea of establishing programs that eliminate discrimination and promote inclusion. Also targeting and improving mental health is very important in my opinion, especially among youth and teens. Speaking of housing, making houses more affordable is also important. I see them being addressed in the housing and human services ( <i>element</i> ) which I really like. Resources for homelessness and equal housing opportunity.
Newport High	I like the policy to support the effort to address the crisis of housing instability and homelessness by funding services
Newport High	Housing. It's like a million for single story house...so affordable housing is good.
Newport High	Housing because more \$\$\$ are wasted on preventing homelessness, rather, get them to join the workforce to make \$\$\$ for their use and taxes. Climate, we can handle the healthy smog from the factories. Transportation, speedy movement good and because we need to build wider roads (does it cost >/\$5 billion).

**Housing Comments - Emails from Newport High School Students**

Hello,

My name is Jayden Hsu, a freshman at Newport High School. I wanted to express my gratitude to Ms. Brook, Gwen, and Sophia for their recent visit to our class. Their presentations were amazing, and I learned a lot from them. My family and I have been living in Bellevue for a while now, ever since we moved from Australia. When we first got here, housing prices were much lower. Back in 2012, we bought an apartment for \$400k. Now, it's surprising to see that the prices have skyrocketed. Nowadays, buying an apartment can easily cost over 1 million dollars. I think part of the reason for this could be inflation, but compared to other states, Washington seems to be one of the more expensive places to live. These rising housing costs have caused quite a few problems for my family. We've been thinking about getting a new house, but it's really hard to decide because all the houses downtown are so expensive. Plus, I've noticed how the high housing prices have made the homeless crisis even worse. It seems like because housing is so expensive, people can't find jobs that pay enough to afford a place to live, And This could mean fewer people wanting to live in Bellevue or Seattle. So as a Bellevue citizen, I believe it is important for our city to find a way to make housing more affordable. Maybe we could invest in programs that help prevent homelessness and provide support services to people who need it. Or we could try to make more land available for building houses, both publicly and by encouraging private landowners to help out. I really hope something can be done about the prices of housing and the major rise of the homeless in our city.

Thank you for listening,  
Jayden Hsu

Thank you to Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia for visiting our classroom last week to teach us about the City of Bellevue's urban planning policies.

My name is Risa Sinthunava, and I live in Bellevue with my mom and my dad. We currently reside in an apartment complex near the Factoria area, and have done so for the past seven years. We initially planned to move out sometime while I was in second grade, however we never had the opportunity to do so. As the years passed, housing prices in Bellevue rapidly increased, and we were no longer able to afford moving into a house. My family has worked hard for the prospect of moving into a larger home, but the increase in housing prices has stunted our ability to do so.

I believe it is extremely crucial that the City of Bellevue work to reduce housing prices around the greater Bellevue area. I am certain there are many more students and families like mine, that have similarly been unable to move into a larger home. It strongly contributes to our sense of place and belonging in the Bellevue community, and without a permanent solution, we will continue to feel like we are displaced. I wish for the city to update and develop policies regarding existing infrastructure and alleviate the expensive housing market. Unfortunately, if the problem persists, people will be unable to move into Bellevue as well when rent and home prices become too high. Bellevue is a desirable area to live in due to its resources, school system, and quality of life, and I would love for these features to be utilized by as many as possible. I think more people should have the opportunity to live in an area such as Bellevue.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for providing my family with an amazing area to live in!

Risa Sinthunava  
Newport High School  
Grade 9

Good evening,

I hope this email finds you well.

To begin, I wanted to extend my gratitude to Ms. Brooke, Ms. Gwen, and Ms. Sophia for the wonderful guest visit into my human geography classroom at Newport High School.

I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to share my ideas and thoughts regarding Bellevue's long-range urban plan. It is amazing to see the City of Bellevue actively seeking input from its young residents.

Firstly, allow me to introduce myself and my family. My name is Lily, and I have been a proud resident of Bellevue for several years now. As an artist and a lover of all things creative, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that a thriving arts community can have on a city's culture and livability.

Addressing the housing policy area, I believe it is crucial for Bellevue to prioritize the availability of affordable housing options for all residents. As our city continues to grow and evolve, it is essential that we ensure housing affordability remains within reach for individuals and families from diverse backgrounds.

My family and I have experienced the challenges of finding affordable housing in Bellevue. Currently, we plan to move out to a bigger house, but the rising costs have made it increasingly difficult for us to stay in the community we love. It is disheartening to see many talented individuals and families being priced out of the city due to the lack of affordable housing options.

Another issue I want to address is the transportation and construction problems in Bellevue. Construction in Bellevue takes too much time and creates traffic problems every day. A typical construction project can take months to complete, especially with lots of projects happening at once. Making these projects go faster would really help all of us deal with less inconvenience.

By including affordable housing and reducing long-period construction as key focuses in the long-range urban plan, Bellevue can create a more inclusive and equitable community. This will not only benefit current residents but also attract and retain diverse cultures, creating a vibrant and thriving city for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my input on this matter.

Warm regards,

**Lily Chen (She/her)**

**Student at Newport High School**

Before I start, I just wanted to say thank you to our special guest Brookie, Gwen, and Sophia who prepared and performed a speech in our AP Human Geography not long ago. I am Jeremy Liu, a 14-year-old student at Newport High school, with me and my family who just immigrated here 4 years ago. We pay attention very much about housing, as me and my family rented a house for 2 years and struggled to find a cheap and decent home, as not only did we take consideration of the quality of the houses, we also worried about the surrounding, such as crime rate, neighborhood friendliness as well as access to parks, trails and other natural activities. I believe we should build more small houses and townhouses as they are cheap and accessible, cheap small houses and townhouses offer affordable homeownership and lower maintenance costs. Their compact size brings a sense of community within neighborhoods, this is important as it acts as a warm welcome to newcomers who settled in the city of Bellevue. Another issue is the crime rate of the city, with the crime rate being 31 per 1,000 people, which is higher than the national average. Many homeless that fills the street, although most are not threats to the people of Bellevue city, it still brings a sense of uncomfortableness. This problem can be resolved by building more homeless centers as well as providing public facility for them to use. I've personally had experience with living in a place of danger, with many violence activities, this danger was the number one reason why me and my family moved out of there. Me and my family also really enjoy nature walks and parks, which is why I believe more trails should be created, one issue is how all of the trails are built by crowded roads, which ruins the sense of nature. Not only does it increase the enjoy ability of walks, but it also appeals/attracts outsiders to live here for the clean, beautiful ecosystem. Thank you!

**Jeremy Liu**

**9th grade**

**NewPortHighschool 2023-2027**

Hello, my name is Walsh Hawkins and I want to thank you for coming to Newport High School to talk about the current state of Bellevue and its possible issues. There are three issues I would like to discuss.

I think housing is a big problem in Bellevue right now. Just recently my family was looking for either buying or renting a new house. However, most of the houses we have looked at have been out of our budget and way too expensive. Prices of houses in Bellevue have gotten out of hand. Increasing mortgages are too much for families and have driven people away from Bellevue, therefore, lowering the population. The fact that young families who cannot afford to live in Bellevue has already led to school closures. I think a substantial lowering in prices for houses would be just what Bellevue needs to bring more people in and ultimately make Bellevue be a better and more popular place to live again.

Another issue in Bellevue that needs to be addressed is the transportation, specifically buses. They usually don't smell very good, and sometimes people are doing drugs. The drug uses on the buses is too much and does not feel super safe for kids like me who are trying to either get to school or just another city. This is yet another reason people are leaving the city of Bellevue.

Finally, I think most of the parks in Bellevue are pretty good. However, I think the dog parks need more attention. We usually like to bring our dogs to the dog runs, but they are usually dirt-filled rather than nice grass. The dogs usually get pretty dirty, or even sick from the germs and bacteria there. Our dogs are family members too, and we want them to have a nice, safe place to have fun.

If these issues are better addressed, I would be more likely to stay in Bellevue as I grow older.

**Walsh Hawkins**  
**Newport High School**  
**Grade 9**



Dear the City of Bellevue Urban Planning Team,

Hi I'm Shinji and last week you came to 2nd periods AP Human Geography class at Newport and gave a presentation about long-range urban plans. Thank you to Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia for coming out and educating people about the things that you do, how things work in the City of Bellevue, and a bunch of your plans to fix certain issues already addressed. Currently the biggest concern I have would probably be transportation.

I live at the top of a couple giant hills, and every time I want to go somewhere, and not have to ask my parents for a ride, it's almost a 45-minute walk to the nearest bus stop. For example, I play soccer and like to practice as much as I can. But the nearest field is about an hour's walk away and my parents are usually pretty busy making them unable to take me. Which makes someone without a bike or something, (like me) have a tedious trek that can be a real pain only to do more exercise and do the same on the way back. So sometimes it's just hard to be motivated to get out of the backyard and walk a while to get to a park/field when it's so far away, with the bus stop also being pretty much 2/3 of the way there making it pointless in taking it. Similarly, when my parents are unable to pick me up from school and I have no way of getting home beside the bus there are times when I have to wait another hour or so after tutorial until the next bus comes which is highly inconvenient. Overall, the whole process of getting home is very time consuming and takes more time out of my already pretty busy schedule. I also have a lot of friends who live close-by or just in a place similar to mine like Sommerset and struggle with the same issue.

All in all, me, and a lot of other people I know also struggle with the issue that there is no efficient or convenient way to get around places and access public transportation. It would save a lot of time and effort if this issue was solved, and I hope this gets resolved. Thank you!

**Shinji Tsuei**  
**Newport High School**  
**9th Grade**

Dear guest speakers: Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia,  
Thank you for your speech in our class!

I'm a student at Newport High School living in Bellevue. My parents and I settled in Bellevue last April. Overall, it is a green, safe, and well-planned city. However, in this living and studying for ten months, I also found some shortcomings in Bellevue.

First, there are inconveniences in transportation. The distribution of bus stops is too sparse. I live in Newport Hills, a neighborhood with several bus stops. If the cars are being repaired or someone else asked for them, my father has to walk more than half an hour to the station to take the bus to work. As I passed through other hillside neighborhoods, I barely found the bus stops along the way. Moreover, subways and light rail have not been popularized in the city, only the light rail is in trial operation. If the city is willing to invest in these two vehicles, I-405 congestion might improve, and it can also bring more convenience to people, because subways and light rail don't get stuck in traffic.

In addition, I found the sanitation of the roads are poor. When passing through the highway on weekends, I often see the road strewn with construction waste, as well as the socks and shoes of people who have been involved in car accidents. A high-speed car may have a safety hazard if it accidentally presses or collides with these things. Once, there was a sandbag lying on the road near my school, and a car hit the sandbag and slammed on the brakes, almost causing a rear-end accident. For the sake of safety and environmental aesthetics, I suggest that these wastes should be cleaned up in time.

In conclusion, as a student's perspective, Bellevue still has the necessity for improvement and re-planning.

Best Regards,  
CP

Hello, my name is Selina Lai, and I am from Newport High School wanting to share my ideas with the City of Bellevue. I want to start off with a thank you to the guests including Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia that visited our school and taught us what the City of Bellevue does, how they do it, and what policies or ideas they wish to set to benefit lives and make our city livable. A main concern that affects me and my family is transportation. Both my parents work full time jobs and drive every single day to work as well as all over Bellevue. That leaves me, a high school student that has not yet had the opportunity to learn how to drive, find other ways to transport home. This applies to all students and even people that haven't learned to drive yet or don't have a car and no easy transportation around. Majority of students may find this a problem too as parents are too busy to pick them up or are having conflicting problems with doing so. I heavily rely on carpooling with friends to get home and sometimes it doesn't work out as they have very different lives and schedules that require me to adjust to. I am putting the focus on routes that can be improved for public transportation such as buses reaching more residential areas. I live in a very large neighborhood but the bus that I travel on only reaches the very outer rims of main streets. Having a stop more near my house will definitely be a lot easier and safer for me to get home without needing to constantly go out of my way to fit my schedule into other's. This could better improve the lives of people in Bellevue as it is important to have easier access to transportation when no other option is available in order to get home safe and efficiently. As

the city of Bellevue continues to develop, there is going to be more traveling around back and forth and I believe that with even more buses and routes, it could also reduce traffic which I ultimately believe should be addressed and considered in the future plan.

Thank you,

**Selina Lai**

Hello!

Thank you Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia! My name is Victoria Lee, I was not able to make it to your presentation, but I did read about your system planning. I would like to address a pressing issue concerning our city's transportation system and its profound impact on both our environment and public health. As a concerned student who relies on public transportation daily, I wish to highlight the discomfort and health risks experienced while waiting for the Metro bus. Each day, as I wait for the bus, I am confronted with the unpleasant and unhealthy air caused by the emissions from passing vehicles. This recurring experience is particularly disconcerting, considering its occurrence in my daily routine, especially during school days. The significance of this issue cannot be overstated, as it affects not only my personal well-being but also that of countless other individuals who rely on public transportation as their primary mode of travel.

It is evident that our reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles is exacerbating air pollution and contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating climate change and its associated consequences. Investing in eco-friendly buses equipped with electric or hybrid engines presents a sustainable long term benefits. Transitioning to eco-friendly buses will not only reduce carbon emissions but also promote cleaner air and healthier communities. Moreover, expanding and optimizing our public transportation network will incentivize residents to choose sustainable modes of travel, thus reducing traffic congestion and individual carbon footprints. The number of individuals who rely on public transportation underscores the importance of addressing this issue promptly and decisively. Countless lives are impacted by the health risks associated with emissions from vehicles, making it an obligation that we prioritize investments in eco-friendly transportation options.

Thank you for considering this critical matter. I urge you to recognize both the immediate and long-term benefits of transitioning our transportation system toward a greener, healthier future for generations to come.

Thanks,  
Victoria Lee

**Victoria Lee**  
**Newport High School**  
**9th grade**

Hi City of Bellevue,

I would first like to start out with a big thank you to Brooke, Gwen, and Sofia. They shared a lot of extremely useful information about our society today and laws that take place in it; along with new rules or changed rules that have/will be taking place. My name is Abelia Carp and I am a freshman at Newport Highschool. My family and I are medium-low to low on an economic standpoint. We don't have very much money which is what brings me to the issue I would like to be discussing. I would say housing is a major part of everyone's everyday living. Where they're going to sleep, eat, and relax. The price of housing keeps going up and up to a point where it's almost unaffordable to people who aren't in middle or high class. Buying a house or renting an apartment alone or as a family is really expensive, but paying taxes makes the price even worse. I know for my family, and probably many others, we live in Bellevue for the good education. Bellevue is a relatively expensive area, but the education offered at the excellent schools in Bellevue makes it worth it. The price of housing to have good education, however, could also prevent students from getting other necessities, new clothes, food, or other items that might not be vital to survive but is useful to have such as a computer for schoolwork or new clothes every year. There are ways people can save money on housing such as having roommates or living in a cheaper, not as high-quality area. However, sometimes that's not practical and it would be better to have your own house or apartment to live in and still get quality education. Like our family, we learned to sacrifice, and we stay in Bellevue School District for the quality education, but not having the high-end car, organic foods and most trendy clothing sometimes sets us apart from other students. If the price of housing goes down, then many other students can get both, the higher end daily necessities and a good, well-deserved education so they can go on to get a good job then pay for their own house and continue the cycle (especially since the price of housing will definitely keep growing the more time that passes by).

Thank you for reading my letter,

Sincerely,

**Abelia Carp**

## Testimony on Housing from Big Picture School Students

Hello, My name is M.A., I live In Bellevue Lake Hills, And I go to Big picture School, I'm an 8th grade student, I am here to speak on a proposed policy for Rental Housing, I'm in favor of the affordable rental housing for the people that cannot afford the rental housing, This worthy cause is important to me because I care a of equalness and fairness, I also care about families safety, I don't want families in streets, I want to make the city a better place, So when you vote, you should vote for this good cause, because it will lead to a better, safe, and healthy place. I know this is a big decision, but it will end up as a good decision, Thank you for your time and Consideration.

My name is TN, I live in Tam'o Shantern and I attend Bellevue Big Picture middle school. Today I will be discussing the Climate and Environment policies. I think the most important policy is the policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050. We need to continue and do better with this issue because it's important to me. My health and life are greatly affected by greenhouse gas emissions. When greenhouse gasses pollute a city, it makes the city unlivable, unwelcoming and dark. Who would want that for their city? For example, Houston Texas has very low c02 emissions. There are many people who love going to Texas and constantly hearing good things about this city. They push electric vehicle usage and have many things that help businesses and homes have clean energy. I think our city should continue to support the policies and people who fight to bring down greenhouse gas emissions.

Hello, my name is LS, and I am learning about housing polices within Bellevue, more specifically on homelessness in the area. Homelessness is something I want to decrease to help create a safer, and more enjoyable living style for everyone. Bellevue has been great with providing affordable housing services and I want the city to expand that by having more homeless shelters and tents around downtown. We recently surveyed middle school students and out of 134, 68 middle schoolers said that they found homelessness occur most in the downtown area. We think this is achievable and will overall benefit the city of Bellevue. Thank you for taking your time to listen.

**My name is RS. I live in Surry Downs, and I go to big picture I would like to talk about Housing in our neighborhood. I would like to see housing costs decrease if possible because in my neighborhoods and, I would like to change the accessibility to services like grocery stores and parks.**

**This topic matters to me because my plan will help the future generation of kids. The reason is because if the housing is too expensive, we will not be able to afford it, and fewer people will leave our neighborhoods.**

**This personally affects me because the house near my area is so expensive some are going for 2 to 5 million dollars; we have lost some people in our neighborhoods due to cost and some of my friends have left my neighborhood because they did not have enough money to stay.**

**When you think about making your decision, please think about the lives you could help are neighborhoods by decreasing housing cost.**

**Thank you for listening to my idea and I hope you take this into consideration, your job is very important, just make sure you do the right thing. Even the smallest things can have the biggest impact.**

**Thank you for listening. I hope you have an amazing rest of your day!**

**Hello my name is JT and I live in the Clyde hill Bellevue area and I am currently discussing about affordable housing policies with my group which are, MA and LS. Helping with these policies is important to me because having things be affordable or in my budget is important to adult life because having a house is also super important because. So when you make the vote on the policies to take note on my speech when you are voting. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Hello my name is Giray and I currently live in the somerset area and I go to big picture middle school as an 8th grader. My family has lived in Bellevue for over 8 years. I am here today to talk about the Bellevue housing policies. One of the most important things for me in the Bellevue area is homelessness. Thankfully homelessness in my area is not an issue. However Homelessness is an unfortunate situation for many families in other areas of Bellevue and can make me and others feel unsafe in certain situations. This is especially the case for financially struggling families who can only afford housing that limit those family's to rely on light rail and public transportation which is made daunting because of the housing problem. M Although the board has created policies to address homelessness they are very vague and unclear. I would like the board to build homeless shelters and strengthen policies meant to help the homeless find reliable housing and stable jobs so that those who are less fortunate can be supported by the city of Bellevue and families can feel safer.**

**My name is Lucas and I live in the Kelsey Creek Area and go to Bellevue Big Picture Middle School. My family has lived here for 10 years straight and have seen many changes upon the city. Most recently the new policies that have been added to help the situation of affordable housing . I am here to speak on the proposed polices for more affordable housing. One thing I would like to see is the construction of more affordable housing as it is a problem that could be impacting other problems such as homelessness in Bellevue. One of the things that is important to me and the Bellevue community is affordability and this is how we can help this situation. From my personal experience I have talked with my parents about how they feel about more affordable housing and they say that it is very expensive to live in Bellevue. When I go to downtown One issue I have seen with my family is homelessness and affordable housing can affect the amount of homelessness in the city. By adding more affordable housing it will impact and improve the homelessness that is also a big problem Bellevue. Thank you for your time and consideration I look forward to seeing what changes will be made and with that I will pass it on to Giray.**

**Henry: Hello my name is Henry and I live in the Somerset area. I attend big picture middle school. I am here to speak about Bellevue and its climate friendly housing. Now, Bellevue has some great housing that is kind to our planet but there are always things that we can work on. Have you ever been relaxing in your home on a hot summer day? AC cranked all the way up? Did you ever think about what you were doing to the planet? To Bellevue's climate? How could we make housing affordable and adaptable to climate? If you aren't asking yourself these questions, you should be. If we don't make any small changes, how can big ones ever happen? The policy that mentions climate friendly housing on the comprehension plan is quite vague. What we need to do is set a goal of at least 1 in every 10 houses running on reliable energy such as hydro or solar power by 2035. This will take one step in the right direction for green housing.**