



Response to stadium build!

From Rich Ryan <rryan@richryan.org>

Date Mon 5/26/2025 5:56 AM

To john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>

John, thank you so much for reaching out. I do apologize its taken me so long to reply I wanted to make sure I gave your comments the proper research and insight you deserve.

I want to start off by saying, I'm not against sports. I've coached high school football, umpired Little League, and I understand the value of a good game. But I also recognize when a city loses sight of its priorities.

Currently, Everett is moving forward with a stadium project that could cost up to \$200 million, for a team that doesn't fill its current seats, in a city of just over 110,000 people. That's nearly \$2,000 for every man, woman, and child in Everett. And none of us were asked. There was no public vote, no community-wide discussion, just a green light from the City Council without meaningful public input. That's not transparency; that's a red flag.

Meanwhile, the city has cut funding for Parks and Recreation. The Early Learning Center, a lifeline for working families, is on the chopping block for a shortfall of just \$300,000 (That's a rounding error in the stadium budget). Mental health services remain chronically underfunded, even as the need in our city grows every day. I believe revitalizing the current stadium, would cost far less, preserve public trust, and keep the team paying rent to our library system, which owns the land. Most importantly, it means we don't have to use eminent domain to displace residents or businesses. We can invest in what we already have, without forcing anyone out of their home or neighborhood.

This issue isn't unique to Everett. Recognizing the broader implications, Congress has introduced the No Tax Subsidies for Stadiums Act of 2025. This bipartisan legislation aims to amend the Internal Revenue Code to ensure that bonds used to finance professional stadiums are not treated as tax-exempt bonds. The bill's sponsors argue that wealthy sports franchise owners should not benefit from tax breaks intended for public infrastructure, especially when such subsidies have cost taxpayers an estimated \$4.3 billion in lost federal revenue over the past 25 years

We need to ask ourselves what kind of city we're building. One where massive developments get pushed through without community input? Or one where we invest in people, in kids, families, and human dignity?

Everett deserves leadership that listens before it spends; that leads with values; that expands the social safety net instead of gutting it. The choices we make today will define the kind of city our children inherit tomorrow. Let's make sure it's one they can afford to live in, and one they're proud to call home.

I will continue to fight for everyday people, everyday!

-Rich Ryan

From: john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 7:40 AM
To: Rich Ryan <rryan@richryan.org>
Subject: Re: Is Major League Baseball running the government?

Rich,

Thank you very much for your reply.

Take your time.

John

From: Rich Ryan <rryan@richryan.org>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 7:34 AM
To: john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Is Major League Baseball running the government?

Hey John! I definitely have strong opinions on this project. I'm at work at the moment, I apologize for not responding sooner, it's been a wild couple weeks. I promise to write back with my stance by the end of the weekend!

Thanks for your patience!

-Rich

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From: john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 7:30:00 AM
To: Rich Ryan <rryan@richryan.org>
Subject: Is Major League Baseball running the government?

Rich,

No opinion on the stadium? I see "Protect Taxpayer Dollars" on your website. I like your platform!!

John

From: john martin <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:22 PM
To: Rich@richryan.org <Rich@richryan.org>
Subject: Is Major League Baseball running the government?

Mayoral Candidate Rich Ryan
Everett, Washington
425-297-0901
Rich@richryan.org

Dear Mayoral Candidate Rich Ryan,

Everett faces three stadium options:

- 1.) Do nothing and wait to see if Major League Baseball is bluffing.
- 2.) Build a new stadium downtown requiring numerous eminent domain acquisitions, costing \$100-\$130 million dollars, and having the Aquasox and Major League Baseball pay rent to the City of Everett.
- 3.) Refurbish the current stadium — Funko Field — on Everett School District property, have the AquaSox and Major League Baseball continue paying more than \$100,000 per year in rent to the Everett Public School District, and after Funko Field is refurbished, establish an increased rental rate to be paid to the Everett Public School District based on the new fair market rental value of Funko Field.

Refurbishing Funko Field would cost far less than building an entirely new stadium as proposed by the City of Everett. After refurbishing Funko Field, rent is still paid to the Everett Public School District.

Support Refurbishing Everett Memorial Stadium - Funko Field - in Everett, Washington.

Oppose the construction of a New Baseball Stadium in Downtown Everett, Washington.

As a Mayoral Candidate for the City of Everett, you can act now.

Contact the full Everett City Council today at:

DL-Council <Council@everettwa.gov>;

Contact the Full Snohomish County Council today at:

contact.council@snoco.org

Contact the State of Washington's Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB) today at:

communications@des.wa.gov
or call 360-407-8200

To contact individual (CPARB) Members, see:

<https://des.wa.gov/about/committees-groups/capital-projects-advisory-review-board-cparb/member-information-and-bios>

I encourage you to take a stand on this issue and act now.

Best Regards,

John E. Martin
425-361-2854
jmartinnoj@hotmail.com