

## **United for Portland**

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### **1. Do you want United for Portland's endorsement and support?**

Yes. An endorsement from United for Portland would signal to voters that I am someone who is committed to listening, learning, and collaborating with our city's chamber of commerce.

### **2. What's your approach to ending unsheltered homelessness in Portland?**

I am committed to reducing and ending unsheltered homelessness through evidence-based policies that will actually move the needle on this issue. First, in reference to the joint office, the City has an important role to play in the oversight of funds spent on addressing homelessness. We must ensure dollars are being spent appropriately and that there is accountability in place to make sure we are adding beds and creating the conditions to support folks' transition off the street.

Second, housing must be paired with supportive services so that people are able to progress along the shelter to housing continuum and achieve upward economic mobility.

Third, we must hire and train additional homeless outreach workers so that we can meet people where they're at and help them transition off of the streets into a shelter that meets their needs.

Fourth, for best outcomes shelters should be appropriately sized and align with best practices such as a locking door and trauma informed design. The City should advocate for joint office partnerships with community based organizations that are closest to the people who are being served.

Fifth, we must work to address the root causes of homelessness by aligning local government efforts to increase our housing supply. I support creating workforce housing and middle housing which will increase capacity and bring down housing costs. We should also look to pilot programs, such as short term rent assistance, that would help alleviate some housing insecurity. Once someone is out on the street, it takes significantly more taxpayer dollars to address those needs. If we can be strategic with our dollars we can end up saving money in the long run. We must also be more creative

about trash and sanitation. As we work toward short and long term policy objectives, we can't dismiss immediate challenges around trash, livability, and public health.

### **3. How do we create housing sufficient to meet future needs, not just current needs? What mix of housing does that look like to you?**

I am proud to be a pro-housing candidate who will fight to unlock housing opportunities by legalizing missing middle housing, increasing the supply of housing, streamlining permitting, and increasing height limits so more people can continue to afford to live in Portland. I'm proud to support Portland: Neighbors Welcome "Inner Eastside for All" campaign which seeks to increase density in inner Portland in areas well served by transit, high tree canopy, and have a low displacement risk.

I would also advocate for strategic policies that drive down the cost of building housing. One example of this is single stair reform. This relates to allowing developers to build apartments with one set of stairs; the idea is that by foregoing the second set of stairs, the cost to build is reduced making those units more affordable. Single stair reform is often accompanied by stronger fire & life safety standards in buildings, ensuring safety is not compromised. Many cities and states have utilized these sorts of policies to reduce construction costs and make it possible for more types of housing to pencil out. House bill 3395, which was signed into law June 2023, begins the process of allowing single stair buildings in the Oregon Building code. More details can be found here: <https://www.centerforbuilding.org/singlestair-tracker>

### **4. When you think of public safety, what does that mean to you? What will you do to ensure public safety for all Portlanders as a member of the city council?**

For me, public safety means that everyone is safe and feels safe in their community. Achieving public safety involves all of us and is not something the government, by itself, can provide. As it relates to city policies and budgets that relate to public safety, I will work to ensure we are addressing this issue holistically. For me, this means investing in park rangers to have a visible presence at East Portland parks in the evening hours. It means street lighting on arterials so that people feel safe, crash risk is reduced, and gun violence is mitigated. As someone who has spent a significant amount of time working to shape the built environment in East Portland, I will bring the perspective of crime prevention through environmental design and work to address hot spots for gun violence and gun violence through all of the tools available.

As it relates to police, my view is that there are certain things the police should be doing and some things that are best handled by others. I'm committed to building out the continuum of response options, including supporting the hiring of unarmed public safety support specialists

who are equipped to handle certain types of calls. I'm also committed to the future of Portland Street Response and will advocate to make it available 24/7, citywide with the resources it needs to be a successful program. I believe having these systems in place and available to accept more call types will ultimately allow the city to better manage its 911 system and reduce the pressure on police officers.

As it relates to gun violence in East Portland, my approach to would be as follows:

- Strengthen "place-based" interventions to gun violence such as street lighting and green spaces. This is sometimes referred to as crime prevention through environmental design.
- Street level outreach ("violence interrupters") to prevent retaliatory shootings
- Supporting the Ceasefire program which provides intense wraparound case management to a small number of individuals who are most at risk of committing gun violence
- Invest in supporting community based organizations who are doing work on the ground to prevent gun violence
- Support city programs that build community cohesion and foster social interaction between neighbors (neighborhood emergency teams, movies in the park, Sunday Parkways)
- Support a voluntary gun buyback program, which other U.S. cities have seen success with.

## **5. What do you see as Portland's economic engine, and what do you believe it should be for the future?**

I see all of various industries as a core part of Portland's economic engine: Arts/tourism/music/hospitality; manufacturing; construction; transportation; professional/legal/consulting; and education. I also believe this diversity of industries serves us well as our economy isn't reliant on any one key sector. Moving forward, I support a balanced approach where we continue to have multiple strong sectors of the economy.

In terms of where government investment could have the biggest impact, I foresee this being in the tourism/hospitality/arts/music sector. I believe a little bit of investment goes a long way particularly with branding, getting domestic travelers back to visiting Portland, and supporting the many Portlanders who rely on income from this sector. Portland has very strong tourism bones and if we can get people to make the decision to come to Portland, there are lots of places for them to spend their dollars in our rich community of small businesses. Moreover, I would like to see more attention placed in East Portland where there are existing culinary corridors such as SE Division Street, NE Halsey, and SE 82nd Avenue with authentic food from every corner of the world. Oftentimes, the region's focus for tourism investment has been west of 82nd Avenue. I'm committed to ensuring that when people come to visit Portland, they are able to enjoy the riches of all East Portland has to offer. When people land in PDX airport in city council district 1, we must make it as easy as possible for them to continue exploring our district before heading to the more traditional tourism destinations.

**6. Tell us about your leadership style. How will you work with constituents and interest groups?**

**How are you going to address the inevitable disagreements in a brand new council of 12?**

My leadership style is one that is collaborative. I seek to learn, listen, and work with a variety of stakeholders to achieve the best policy outcomes. I treat people with respect and will always be honest. I try to make myself as accessible as possible and will support my staff being engaged in issues that affect community, business, and labor.

As it relates to city hall, I will actively work the building and listen to what my colleagues say are important to them. As someone who has worked in city hall, I know that passing policy means incorporating feedback and priorities so that people feel included and can be excited to vote in support of it. It also means being proactive and lining up votes for an item before it ever reaches the council agenda.

When disagreements do occur, I will be someone who works to try to find middle ground; I will work to serve as a mediator. I will try to build consensus and drive toward an outcome where everyone can move forward with, even if some are less excited than others. With an expanded city council, I believe those who will be most successful are those who can articulate a vision, work together with meaningful dialogue, find compromises, and build support for short term wins that build the path for larger policy wins around homelessness, safety, and community health.

**7. What would you do to align Portland's taxing and spending with our city's needs and values?**

My biggest priority as it relates to aligning our taxing and spending priorities is to look at the city holistically. As someone who has worked in city hall, I have seen firsthand how city commissioners increase their system development charges in their portfolio with a complete lack of regard for other bureaus and the bigger picture. While I'm glad we are leaving behind the fiefdoms of the commission form of government, we can't trade bureaucratic silos for geographic silos. I'm committed to working together with all of the city council to ensure we are looking at taxes and fees holistically- the same way a taxpayer looks at their property tax bill in November.

Moreover, we must prioritize where the public has the most urgent need for us to address. For me, this means housing/homelessness and community safety. We must focus and show wins in these areas to highlight successful use of taxpayer dollars and build people's trust.

**8. Is there an issue, topic, or policy we didn't ask about but is important to you?**

A focus for me will be health. East Portlanders have approximately 10 years lower life expectancy than Portlanders residing west of I-205. This is due to greater rates of gun violence, traffic crashes, historic underinvestment, and a lack of political representation. With Portland's new district boundaries, this will be the first time there will be political boundaries tied to East Portland's health outcomes. I am running for city council because I want to be accountable for reducing health disparities and extending life expectancies in East Portland. Getting our housing policies right is a large part of extending East Portland's life expectancy. Other city government elements tied to public health include sidewalks/curb ramps, park access, tree canopy, Fire Bureau's community health assessment team, gun violence reduction efforts, access to public transit, safe transportation systems, and well maintained parks/community centers.