



2024 Portland City Elections Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to fill out United for Portland's candidate questionnaire. Any candidate seeking our endorsement or support must fill out this questionnaire.

The endorsement process and all responses will be made public on our website.

Please return this questionnaire via email to doug@moorestrategicconsulting.com. Please return it as a Microsoft Word document or as a PDF file by 8/30/24.

All questions are open-ended, and an opportunity to tell us about your thoughts on key issues facing our city, as well as discuss your leadership style. This will be shared on our website, and we ask that you take the time to tell us what you really think and what voters should know about you. There are no right answers to these questions, and we don't want you simply telling us what you think we want to hear.

If you need further information about any of the items covered in the questionnaire, please give United for Portland Executive Director Doug Moore a call at 503-729-5175 or email doug@moorestrategicconsulting.com.

Candidate Name: Loretta Smith

Campaign Contact: Loretta Smith

Phone #: 503-490-6041

Email:
info@lorettasmithpdx.com

Candidate Signature: (can be electronic or signed).

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

Yes

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

We need to end unsanctioned tent and RV camping on Portland's streets. I support the City's latest camping ordinance, and if I were on the City Council, I would have championed additional language to be included that addressed a much-needed workforce training and education component.

It is not enough to talk about wrap around supports for mental health and substance abuse treatment without understanding and talking about how income inequality and workforce challenges have been a driving factor in the rise of homelessness.



A 2021 University of Chicago study estimates that “53 percent of people living in shelters and 40 percent of individuals unsheltered were employed.”

If this holds true in Portland, I believe we should increase the local tax dollars towards training, education, and increase apprenticeship opportunities, where a living wage job can help people who want to work stay housed or move out of homeless ecosystem. We have 10,000-12,000 baby boomers retiring every day. Where do we get talent to replace our retirees?

Let’s increase our efforts and tax dollars towards workforce training and education. Our policy makers must stop assuming that all homeless folks need to go to drug and alcohol rehab more than they need a good job and an affordable place to live.

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?

Put simply, BUILD IT. In every district, we need to have middle housing in addition to affordable housing and market rate housing. Only by building a full continuum of housing can we meet the current and future needs of a thriving city.

We need to cut red tape and reform the permitting process, so building is streamlined. We need to make it easier and faster to build residential infill (Tiny Homes/ADUs/Granny Suites) multifamily, mixed-use and multi-generational housing, and we need to do it yesterday.

Where the city has the ability to reduce the cost of building much-needed housing are in the system development fees. We can lower the cost of building housing with maintaining high safety standards, and prevailing wage laws.

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?

Public safety means to me that my grandkids can play in the park without the fear of gun violence, and that families can feel safe walking to their cars or going out to shop at a local business.

Living in the Numbers, when I, or my neighbors, call the police for help, we know that no one is coming right away because they are understaffed. We need to fully fund our first responders, including our police, fire, and 911 system officers. Our public safety officers are dangerously understaffed, and the City Council must meaningfully address this issue in the next budget cycle.

Another aspect of public safety is good jobs and apprenticeships. The more we invest in our young people and their futures, the more progress we are making on the root causes of crime, addiction and poverty.



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

Our economic engines are small businesses and a skilled workforce, and it's time that East Portland got in on this. We need to ensure our small businesses have access to capital, technical assistance and opportunities to bid on some of the city contracts, since roughly 50 percent of our \$9 Billion operating budget is contracted out. We need to increase our efforts to bring good jobs Portland – there is no reason the semi-conductor industry shouldn't be expanding in East Portland. Throughout my life of service, I have always been passionate about access to job training and work experience so that our local economies are healthy.

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 collaborative, and that means knowing your colleagues and what drives them to serve. I'll always have an open door for constituents and interest groups – I started my career doing Constituent services for then-Congressman Ron Wyden.

My eight years of experience as a Multnomah County Commissioner taught me over the years how to work with my colleagues on a variety of issues that built great coalitions to pass meaningful policies.

For example, I authored and passed over 100 ordinances, resolutions and amendments as a County Commissioner between 2010 and 2018. I built a working relationship with all my colleagues to get support for many policy areas.

For example, I worked alongside Dr. Sharon Meieran on a Healthcare For all resolution; when I wanted to expand the summer jobs my office created, I partnered with Comm. Jules Bailey; when I led the Promise Neighborhood Coalition, Commissioner Diane McKeel was my 2nd vote, and when I authored championed the Gladys McCoy Standard, that directed the county to interview qualified candidates from underserved communities for management positions, I partnered with Chair Kafoury.

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

Portland and Multnomah County do not lack for tax revenue or good intentions, but we lack for effectiveness and accountability for those designated tax dollars. Until we can get our city back on track and get people and businesses moving back into Portland, we need to put a moratorium on new taxes and fees.



8. Is there an issue, topic, or policy we didn't ask about, but is very important to you? If so, feel free to ask and answer your own question(s).