



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: Will Mespelt

Campaign Contact: Will Mespelt

Phone #: 503-607-8087

Email: portlandwithwill@gmail.com

Candidate Signature:  (can be electronic or signed).

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

Yes I do! I would be thrilled to be endorsed by an organization that values getting real work and real results done. Focusing on regular people, safety, and business are vitally important to many Portlanders and myself and that is evident in United for Portland's values.

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

First, we have to close the backdoor for people leaving housing. I want to bring landlords and owners to the table with local government and create a reasonable eviction prevention program that helps prevent evictions before they are too late in the process or in the court system. I call it PREP (Portland Residential



Eviction Program). This will be a huge benefit to renters and fulfill contractual obligations to landlords. Plus, it will prevent people from having an eviction on their record that prohibits future housing. As a licensed property manager I know exactly how to implement this program successfully. Addressing homelessness in a meaningful way requires all hands on deck. The City will need to work with community organizations and partners more than ever and be very humble with our approach with Multnomah county. Increasing day and night shelters will be required to provide safe places to sleep and live and get our neighbors off the streets and out of tents and RVs. It means getting creative with existing spaces, we cannot afford the time and money it would take to build all new shelters for the over 6000 unsheltered homeless living on the streets. Addressing homelessness also means solving the root causes that create homelessness: housing affordability, addiction and mental illness.

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?

Increasing our housing supply will require a few major initiatives and a herculean effort by the City of Portland to promote and secure development. Two ways I want to see that happen are a massive overhaul of how we do permitting and fees, along with quickly boosting our local economy/market desirability. I am an advocate for cutting and waiving as many permitting fees as possible for housing development of both affordable and market rate housing. Portland cannot afford to be a developer and does not need to be a landlord. So let's empower developers in any way we can to get more units built with incentives, quick turnaround, and a positive can-do attitude. I also want to allow a developer to have a specific permit manager who will help guide their project along. This will prevent having to address a permitting issues with many different people over months often causing confusion and unnecessary delays. Boosting and building up the Portland economy is going to be a tremendous effort. The simple, yet vital path here is to be a city that is friendly to business and respects the incredible investment businesses make in our everyday lives. If we set out on a path to attract business and investment, developers will want to build and create housing in Portland.

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 starts at home for everyone, yet some people don't even have a physical home! How can you feel safe if you don't have shelter? Walking down a neighborhood street should be a normal, comforting, and peaceful experience. However, in Portland walking down a public street far too often is not safe due to obstructions, garbage, tents, speeding traffic, along with people doing drugs or having a mental crisis. All of these issues absolutely have to be addressed and swift action by the city council is necessary. I intend to push hard everyday to meaningfully address safety concerns that are forcing people to leave Portland. I will make sure law enforcement, cleaning services, homeless services, and addiction services are funded, permitted to act, and equipped to effectively serve our neighborhoods.



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

Portland remains a national leader in employing people locally at small businesses at around 28% of the workforce. This trend continues despite the treacherous waters local businesses and entrepreneurs have faced the past 4 years. Our pocket neighborhoods and resilient spirit of creativity are what makes people love Portland. People greatly enjoy going to local shops, restaurants, and service providers to spend their money in our community. As a city we need to continue to encourage and invest in local businesses and make their lives as stress free as possible. Starting, running, and funding a business is tough work and as a city council we should help propel people to success and try not to get in the way. We have to cherish our local creative and brilliant minds allowing them to blossom and thrive to attract people, jobs, and investment into Portland.

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?

Leading others and serving others to me look very similar. I strive to be a servant leader who seeks the best for others over what is best for me. I seek to be humble, yet boldly stand up for what is right and to speak for the voiceless and forgotten. I want constituents to feel heard and remembered. I want groups to feel welcome and quick to know that I am a person who seeks to help. I will not have preferences or treat people differently because of differing opinions. At heart, I am a peacemaker and I extend lots of energy bringing people together and bridging gaps between people with opposing ideas. I hope to bring this to city council to make informed policy decisions. I want my colleagues to know that we can do tremendous things if we can put aside our biggest disagreements to find common ground for the good of our great city.

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

Next to public safety the biggest complaint I hear from our neighbors is that we pay incredibly high taxes, yet see no results on the issues that matter the most. Portland needs to start providing and coming through on the basic needs of the city: public safety, cleanliness, functionality, responsiveness, as well as getting people off the street and into homes. Stewardship is something I spend everyday of my professional career navigating and perfecting. As a property manager I have a duty to get results with the millions of dollars and assets afforded to me without exception. I seek to bring this mindset to Portland city council with the hard earned tax dollars our neighbors pay. People are demanding we act responsibly and get results. I intend to deliver the results and show openly how the dollars are spent and how past dollars have been spent.



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).

What is your favorite thing about Portland? I love that in Portland people can be proud and passionate about quirky and unusual hobbies and feel no shame in showing them off to others. People are so unique and wonderful so let's celebrate each other and our individual dignity.

How will you work with the Mayor and County to address the major issues facing Portland?

I seek to very humbly and gracefully go to the Mayor and Multnomah County as often as possible to work side by side with them to address our critical issues around housing, homelessness, and addiction. Bringing everyone together and pushing for real results no matter who gets credit is the only way forward for Portland. We simply can't afford to finger point or ignore each other moving forward. I am committed to putting our people first, and my reputation last.