



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:doug@moorestrategicconsulting.com).

**Candidate Name:**

**Dan Ryan**

**Campaign Contact:**

**Sarah Ervin**

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**com**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Ryan', is written over a horizontal line.

**Candidate Signature:**

**(can be electronic or signed).**

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1. Do you want United for Portland’s endorsement and support? **Yes.**

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

**First, let’s be honest about the conditions on our streets. The denial from the ‘houseless industry’ has been exhausting and borderline criminal. The two-decade blueprint of ‘housing first’ has not been the silver bullet activists have pushed local governments to adopt. We’ve lost**



valuable time as homelessness due to untreated behavioral health has escalated. We must address the drug crisis with compassionate, tough-love action.

Quickly housing those facing economic hardship and guiding them toward workforce stability is instrumental in helping people transition from government dependence to independence. With these two distinct populations identified, we must focus on those with untreated behavioral health issues. This includes offering fully serviced medical support in a sobering/withdrawal center where individuals can be involuntarily committed with the hope of restoring their lives. The county's correctional system has the capacity to support this initiative. Once stabilized, individuals should be asked if they are willing to commit to recovery. If they refuse services and have outstanding criminal warrants, jail becomes their choice. Alternatively, they can be transported home, where they agree to receive services with the support of loved ones. Releasing them back to the streets to continue criminal behavior is not an option. It's time to show compassion for the victims of violent crimes caused by those having psychotic episodes.

There are promising practices that can be scaled up to build a system that transitions people from chronic homelessness to stability. We must all align on a goal: to decrease the number of able-bodied individuals aged 25-65 who are dependent on government services, and instead, enable them to contribute to the tax system. One successful example is Safe Rest Villages (SRVs), which I led despite significant opposition in 2021-22. SRVs are currently outperforming traditional shelters, with positive exit results 45 points higher than previous offerings not under my supervision.

We also need real-time data and accountability from our "houseless" service providers. The contract I brought to Multnomah County with Built for Zero in 2021 continues to struggle in a culture resistant to real-time data. We must measure outcomes and defund any provider unwilling to practice continuous improvement and measurable outcomes that reduce homelessness and government dependence.

Hardworking families are generous taxpayers in a system that must become more responsive to their investments, or they will continue to leave Multnomah County.

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?

We need to embrace a diverse mix of housing types, including affordable, middle-income, and market-rate units. Prioritizing transit-oriented development, where housing is integrated with public transportation, and converting underutilized commercial spaces into residential units are key strategies.



I spent three years streamlining our permitting processes to reduce delays and encourage private investments in housing. By insisting on real-time data, uniting all eight permitting bureaus and five elected offices with industry under the Permit Improvement Task Force, and adding four continuous improvement specialists to the 2022-23 budget, we can now integrate the permit system effectively.

We should also expand public-private partnerships to leverage resources and support innovative housing solutions like co-housing and modular construction. However, our tarnished reputation nationally and internationally is a significant barrier. Until we improve public safety, particularly by addressing open-air drug markets and the violent crime that stems from them, much-needed outside investment will remain stagnant. Economic recovery will accelerate when we respond more effectively to these issues haunting many Portland neighborhoods.

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?

It's about ensuring our neighborhoods are safe, our streets are walkable, and our public spaces, especially parks, are welcoming to all.

To achieve public safety, I will prioritize a balanced approach that integrates effective law enforcement with robust social services. This includes increasing the number of trained officers to respond swiftly to emergencies, in close collaboration with all professional first responders, including Fire, Portland Street Response, and Park Rangers. The 9-1-1 dispatch system is trained to coordinate the appropriate response, ensuring that the entire first response team operates smoothly as one.

I have also urged the current Mayor to work with the Mayors of Gresham and Beaverton on first responder practices. This collaboration is currently weak, and I expect the next Mayor to strengthen these efforts.

Additionally, I attend every swearing-in ceremony for the Portland Police Bureau, where the new recruits reflect a clear and promising trend toward community policing.

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

While some may view large companies like Nike, Intel, and Columbia as Portland's economic engines, the real driving force is our arts, entertainment, and small business community. The arts activate our evening and weekend economy, and small business owners in retail and



restaurants report that this summer has been their best in years, thanks to downtown's vibrant arts and entertainment scene.

According to a 2023 report by the Portland Metro Chamber, small businesses account for approximately 94% of businesses in Portland. These businesses are the lifeblood of our community, making Portland the vibrant, unique place we love to call home.

Small businesses will continue to drive economic growth through innovation and job creation. Arts, entertainment, and tourism—both local and from outside the area—remain key economic engines.

Finally, Portland offers its residents and visitors so much because of our beautiful natural areas and parks. I established the Vibrant Communities initiative to ensure the city focuses on these natural assets that define Portland. Multi-generational families have made Portland their home because of our arts, parks, and schools—attracting employees to the city and encouraging those born here to return when they're ready to build families, businesses, and jobs.

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 rooted in collaboration, transparency, and a strong commitment to community benefit. I believe in actively listening to constituents and interest groups, understanding their perspectives, and finding common ground to address our challenges. In a new council of 12, disagreements are inevitable. Known for not being a "yes" person to any special interest, I focus on the principles of the work, not the personalities of those lobbying me. I'm dedicated to making tough decisions based on what's best for Portland, even if it means standing firm against opposition. I approach each issue with curiosity, focus on the "why," and drive improvements that serve all Portlanders.

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

I will prioritize transparency, accountability, and result-driven metrics in our budgeting process. Every dollar spent should reflect our community's priorities—addressing homelessness, improving public safety, and supporting small businesses—while being measured against clear outcomes. I will advocate for a fiscally responsible budget that is aligned with our shared goals, ensuring our investments deliver tangible benefits for Portlanders. By focusing on results and engaging with residents and stakeholders, we can create a budget that is fair, equitable, and truly reflective of Portland's unique values. As we reform underperforming services, we must



include union workers in the continuous improvement process. Bottom-up culture change is more lasting than top-down policies.

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).

Portland has talked a lot about workforce creation, but we have yet to see real progress, especially for youth aged 18-24. To support our economy, we must provide meaningful opportunities for those choosing alternatives to traditional college. The education system must stop marginalizing the trades and guide more students toward these paths. Our biggest equity investment should be in building a diverse workforce and awarding contracts to companies committed to advancing BIPOC workers from pre-apprenticeship to journey person to owner. We owe this to the future of our multicultural community.