



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: Laura
Streib**
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Candidate Signature:

Laura Streib

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

I would bring a creative spirit to City Hall. I am also someone who does not give up. I know myself and my values and I lead with that. Your endorsement would just reflect what I already know about myself. I stand for community first. I always have and will carry that advocacy with me to City Hall. Your support would echo what all of Portland voted for in the charter- a united Portland, working together in collaboration.

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

We first need to stop fighting about the power structure between city and county and do what the housing experts have been trying to get both the city and county to enact for the last 20 years. It needs to be a low barrier, multi-pronged, and we need to allow the systems time to be implemented rather than change course mid-implementation because we are not seeing *instant* results. Some systems take a moment to get working. Nothing is going to magically fix everything instantly - but we do need to have measurable steps of progress to show that the systems are working.

I would also like our city, county, and all nonprofits that are working on our housing solutions measure and collect the same metrics so we can track success and compare apples to apples rather than everyone collecting different information, and forecasting different results. We also need to streamline and simplify the permitting processes for remodeling and building.



This aspect has started, but needs to continue. I believe that the city needs to take into account the needs of our people rather than only the needs of developers.

As we are seeing in the Alberta neighborhood - a lack of community input is displacing residents for condo and apartment buildings that are being built by developers that are from outside Portland. One building that is next to the Alberta Pub in D2, is already making noise complaints about the music venue that has been there for a long time and coincidentally, is one of the only Black owned music venues in the entire city. These kinds of things need to be taken into account when we are working on permitting, working with communities, neighborhood associations, and developers. No one interest should supersede another group's interest. The permitting department laid off 27% of their staff in November 2023 and now it takes even longer to get a permit. I know it was stated in our economic meeting that this is not cause and effect but if we don't have the people in the jobs to move the permitting along, we can't actually get building started. Let's streamline our systems as well as hire the people who need to get things done and listen to the community, instead of thinking their voices are an afterthought.

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?

Portland needs to invest in social housing and cap rent so it cannot be more than 30% of a person's paycheck. Ideally less. We need to think creatively about the land and buildings we have and be strategic in what we develop and where and what spaces can be reimaged. The role of the city-funded housing policies needs to take a much bigger role. We have currently been abdicating our responsibility by giving contracts to developers with minimal oversight. I'd like to see the city partner more effectively with the county and be joint leaders rather than outsource our responsibilities.

There was just an article in Street Roots in August 2024 about how the city doesn't even have a way to account for the amount of tax incentives it has given developers to build affordable housing. That is something that we should absolutely be tracking and monitoring and reviewing to see how this is impacting the city's bottom line.

I would like to see social housing mixed in with apartments, triplexes, duplexes, condos, and more ADU's with single-family housing. We need to think of



housing for families, including multi-generational families. When we relegate one type of housing to one space, we are not lifting all boats. We are allowing the 1970's "projects" type of housing. When we have many price points of housing in one area, we generate a great diversity of people living, working, connecting, and interacting with each other. Whether that is at the grocery store, at our local parks, at school drop off and pick up, we are creating social connections that will build the bonds of our community up in a stronger and more resilient way. In turn when we know each other, we keep each other safe. We have created a family out of community.

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?

The first step I would take is to look at the current state of the Portland Street Response (PSR) and address it the following through the lens of public safety.

1. I fully fund the PSR 24/7- and staff it accordingly throughout the four districts of the city. I would work with other nonprofits that have been doing the work and collaborate to have a robust, organized response.
2. I would ensure that this program is not on the chopping block year after year and pass a policy to work towards stable annual funding going forward. Through partnerships, we can grow this program to be a model program for other communities in Oregon and beyond. I do like having it be a co-equal first response service area like the police, fire department and ambulance services. Adding PSR to our social safety tool kit will help allocate responders and resources appropriate to the needs on the ground.
3. I would ensure we are in collaboration with the county and that we are collecting the same data to gather the metrics we need to see need for improvement and demonstrate our successes.

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

I believe that Creative Economy will write the next chapter for Portland - our artists, musicians, innovators, and entrepreneurs have always made



Portland the place to be, to look to, to emulate for the rest of the country. We need leaders who understand that is what makes Portland the unique place we love - it's BECAUSE we have so many creatives here. These creative assets in our city are the doers that transfer that creativity into living wage jobs, economic drivers, and a bigger tax base to reinvest into our city. We need to ensure that we are investing in affordable live/work spaces for creatives, that we have performance spaces that have reasonable rent for rehearsals and performances. We need to have the full spectrum of small theaters just as much as we need the touring Broadway shows. People in Portland can bear witness to the humble beginnings of folk just starting out on their creative journey, as well as, the professionals that are "making it." Community will be invested in their success, because they see it.

That being said, it is also important that we recognize the huge economic impact that shutting the Keller Auditorium in downtown Portland, for renovations for 18 months to 2 years would have on our city. We also must recognize the significance this shutdown would have on the people that work in and around the Keller. I support a new structure to be built while keeping the Keller Auditorium open to maintain operations of our opera, ballet and visiting Broadway shows.

Once the "new Keller" is open and operational, I would support a reimagining of what the old Keller might become. I also believe that Environmental Infrastructure must be front and center. Portland needs to be a leader once more, as we did in the 1970's. From our rivers, to our forests, and tree canopies, the CEI hub, and our expansion of transportation - all of it needs to be seen through an environmentally focused lens. We need to dream big and work with county, state and federal funding avenues to make these big projects happen. These undertakings would create good paying jobs and bring wages up for Portlanders.

- 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?**



I am the ideal candidate to run for city council because I am a parent, an entrepreneur, and a board member. I'm on several working committees and am someone who recognizes what must be done for our city - I roll up my sleeves to get to work and accomplish it. While in grad school, I saw the great disparity between our creative adults and a complete lack of arts education for our students. I decided to get to work and launched the arts educational nonprofit, Vibe of Portland, to ensure quality access for ALL kids in the Portland Metro area.

With my work in arts education and advocacy, I chaired the City's Arts Oversight Committee for 4 years and was on the committee for a total of seven years until I had to term off. In that time, the city council did not once address the concerns the committee continually brought to it through our annual report. What I saw was their inability to listen to the experts in the room, not just in regard to arts education but from many issues ranging from housing, to the environment, infrastructure, to the arts, and education. I decided this was the moment to jump into city politics. I understand that many people that are now running for office, entered the race for City Hall for the same reasons. We all want to see real change and so they are for the most part, change-makers and visionaries like myself. What we do not need are remnants of the old guard, so a fresh start for Portland means a fresh slate of candidates that are not beholden to the former government structure.

We have a fresh start with Charter Reform and at this moment right now, we need to truly collaborate together to build a vision for what we want Portland to be. Now is the time to create systems to enact that vision, and with our new representational form of government, we have the opportunity to listen and follow through on what people in our community actually need our leaders to work on: Safety and Affordability, the Environment and Infrastructure, and Creative Thinking to rejuvenate our economy. My motto has been community, connection, and collaboration. Those are not just empty words. I show up and I work hard for my community. I will always follow through on my words. I have a track record of doing just that and I see working on city council to be no different.

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



Ideally, having an expanded city government through representation and ranked choice voting is the first step in nullifying special interests. If we work together as a newly elected body in City Hall, it would be advantageous for us to pass a future forward policy that bans special interests. We saw how outside money dominated the recent primary for the Congressional race in congressional district 3 here in Portland, and the OR legislature had recently passed legislation limiting outside money, however that did not go into effect for this election cycle. If the State can pass this type of legislation, so can the city. However, we would need to make it effective immediately.

I also believe that the city should fund Participatory Budgeting. I supported and endorsed the recent Community Budgeting for All initiative and will gladly do so again when it is revitalized. Through Charter reform we could have had PB included, but it was not. This new city government has an opportunity to make it right. I would support PB 100% and pledge to bring it to a vote if that is what the participating and collaborating organizations want. I have talked with so many Portlanders who want to have a say on what the city spends its discretionary budget on. PB is a phenomenal way to get more people involved. Current leadership keeps telling us we don't have money for these things, but then magically there is a million dollars for other pet projects. We need to end the practice of city council having those pet projects and really work to HEAR what our people are telling us. We work for them.

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).

I founded the Arts and Music Educational Nonprofit, Vibe of Portland, because I was witness to the inequities of an underfunded PPS. I wasn't going to wait for the school district and politicians to realize that we need to fully fund arts educational access for kids if we want creative problem solvers as future leaders, entrepreneurs, and remain in Portland to contribute to our creative ecosystem. We want empathetic and well-rounded kids to grow up to lead. Portland is a creative city. Without arts education in our foundational years, it seems to me we will be a city on the verge of losing its creative soul. When we have generations of kids who have not had the building blocks of an arts



education positioned to become our next generation of performers, musicians, thespians, designers, and audience members, and patrons we have failed. I see that lack of investment from the current city council. As a community we are struggling to keep our creatives and have affordable spaces for artists, arts organizations, and families. These folks are all leaving for “safer” and more affordable places.

If the city can actually hold our school district leaders accountable for the financial decisions, they make using our property taxes and the Arts Education and Access Fund dollars - we can use the levers of government to support a thriving educational system - that works for our youth, for our teachers, and will in turn provide a more vibrant and robust city for all of us.

The school foundation system’s current method in Portland has perpetuated the haves and have-nots within PPS in particular. Changing this pay to play form of buying people for wealthier schools will now force all families in PPS to acknowledge that the way the state funds education needs to change. Gov. Kotek is already looking for a way to add education funding to the state budget. It would be great for the families who have spent hundreds of hours trying to improve schools, fundraise, and plan gala events so folx employed at their schools can stay in their jobs to actually focus that energy to advocate to fund our schools above the bare minimum QEM funding level, which the State of Oregon has never actually met. This is why the new city council must make education a priority and work with our state, county, and federal counterparts to ensure this is a priority for them as well. When we make this a priority, our families will not relocate because we are investing in our schools and neighborhoods and they choose to stay to make Portland their forever home. Having a strong public school system will help with lots of the opportunities Portland has to make it the place we know it can be - a safe and thriving city for all of us.