



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:

Jesse Cornett

Campaign Contact:

Jesse Cornett

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Candidate Signature:

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(can be electronic or signed).

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

I would like United for Portland's endorsement because I believe that your support can help amplify my message and help drive the changes our city desperately needs. As a candidate for Portland City Council,



I am committed to tackling our most pressing issues—homelessness, housing, addiction, and public safety—while also ensuring that Portland plays a leading role in combating climate change.

Throughout my career, I have focused on finding practical and collaborative solutions that make a real difference in people’s lives. I am dedicated to ensuring that every Portlander has access to safe, affordable housing, that we address addiction with compassion and effective public safety measures, and that our city takes steps to protect the environment.

Your endorsement would strengthen my campaign and highlight our shared commitment to building a better Portland. Together, we can restore our city’s vibrancy and create a safer, more sustainable, and equitable future for everyone.

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

Ending unsheltered homelessness in Portland requires a comprehensive, compassionate, and pragmatic approach, rooted in both immediate action and long-term planning. My strategy focuses on several key areas that together can create lasting change.

First, we must bolster rental assistance and other supports that help tenants remain in their homes. This is the most humane and cost-effective way to prevent individuals from falling into homelessness. By providing the necessary resources and support, we can stop the spread of unsheltered homelessness before it begins.

Next, it’s crucial to fund a rapid rehoming function. When individuals experience short-term homelessness, quick intervention can help them return to stability. The longer someone remains unsheltered, the harder it becomes to transition back into permanent housing, especially with the increasing prevalence of addiction issues. Rapid rehoming is essential in these early stages to prevent the escalation of homelessness.

We must also adopt a flexible approach to addressing homelessness. While Housing First is a proven strategy, it cannot be the only one. Many Portlanders need pathways that include support services to regain self-sufficiency. For this reason, I support a mix of housing options, including transitional shelters, Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites (TASS), and safe rest villages. These solutions offer immediate security and a foundation from which individuals can rebuild their lives.

Places like the “A Place Called Home” on 92nd Ave demonstrate the effectiveness of such an approach, with over 90% of participants successfully transitioning to permanent housing. These types of programs should be expanded and replicated across the city.

Finally, to create a long-term solution, we must address the systemic issues that slow down the construction of new housing units. Portland needs to streamline the permitting process and lower barriers that hinder the development of affordable housing. Building more units is the only sustainable way to ensure that everyone in our city has a place to call home.



To support these efforts, we can look to successful initiatives in cities like Houston, which has drastically reduced homelessness through coordinated outreach and housing strategies.

By combining these strategies—preventing homelessness before it starts, providing immediate support and shelter, and creating long-term housing solutions—we can make significant progress toward ending unsheltered homelessness in Portland. Your support is essential in making this vision a reality, and together, we can build a future where every Portlander has a safe, secure 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?

To address Portland's future housing needs, the city should adopt a comprehensive approach. This includes promoting higher housing density, offering a range of housing types, and streamlining the development process.

First, increasing density is crucial. This involves encouraging development in underutilized residential areas by allowing more multifamily units, such as duplexes, triplexes, and apartment complexes, particularly around transit corridors.

In addition, it's important to create a diverse mix of housing options. This should encompass affordable, market-rate, and middle-income housing, including single-family homes, multi-unit buildings, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and co-housing communities.

Streamlining development processes is also essential. Simplifying and expediting permitting will help reduce costs and encourage faster development, enabling developers to adapt to changing market demands more efficiently. We should have a funding mechanism for BDS that does not require layoffs as building cools, since this is a major impediment to being ready to build when the market is ready.

Adopting innovative construction methods can further benefit the housing market. Modular and prefabricated construction can cut costs and construction time, while mixed-use developments combining residential, commercial, and public spaces can create vibrant, connected communities.

Finally, fostering public-private partnerships will be key. Collaborating with private developers and non-profits can enhance resources and expertise, especially in the creation of affordable housing options.

By implementing these strategies, Portland can build a resilient and inclusive housing market that addresses both current and future needs.



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 is more than just the absence of crime; it's about fostering a community where everyone feels secure, supported, and protected. With my background as a graduate of Oregon's basic police academy, a former Reserve Deputy Sheriff for Multnomah County, and as the Policy Director for Oregon Recovers, I will bring a comprehensive understanding of both law enforcement and addiction issues to the City Council.

Portlanders have experienced a significant erosion of their sense of safety. The prevalence of public drug use, long 911 wait times, and a troublingly low arrest rate for theft - less than 2% in 2023 - have all contributed to a growing feeling of insecurity. Labor shortages in our emergency services further exacerbate these challenges, limiting our ability to respond effectively to urgent needs.

To address these concerns, I am committed to hiring additional police officers and firefighters while also expanding vital non-law enforcement services like Portland Street Response. This approach will ensure we can effectively tackle our homelessness, addiction, and mental health crises.

My top priority will be establishing a sobering center in Portland. The city has been without one for years, and the lack of detox and rehabilitation beds is a significant barrier to managing our addiction crisis. We have an opportunity to leverage Measure 110 funds to address this shortage, but we must focus on building a qualified workforce and creating effective pathways for individuals in need of support.

Restoring community policing is also essential. This requires a generational shift within the Portland Police Bureau, starting with a re-evaluation of our hiring practices. We should prioritize hiring officers from within our community and offer incentives for them to reside in Portland. This will help build a culture of accountability and trust, ensuring that everyone in our city feels safe and supported.

For more details on my vision for community policing, please visit [my website](#). By implementing these strategies, we can rebuild trust, enhance public safety, and create a more resilient and inclusive Portland for all.

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

Portland's economic engine has traditionally been fueled by a diverse range of industries, including technology, manufacturing, tourism, and creative sectors. The city's unique culture, innovative mindset, and strategic location have all contributed to a vibrant and multifaceted economy.

Looking ahead, Portland's economic future should build on its strengths while embracing new opportunities. The technology sector, with its focus on software development, green tech, and startups, offers significant potential for growth. By fostering an environment that supports innovation, investing in



tech education, and developing infrastructure for tech businesses, Portland can solidify its position as a leader in this field.

Sustainability is another key area where Portland can excel. The city's commitment to green practices positions it well to lead in renewable energy, sustainable manufacturing, and eco-friendly construction. Emphasizing these industries aligns with Portland's values and can attract businesses and talent focused on environmental responsibility.

Portland's creative and cultural economy also plays a vital role. The city's vibrant arts scene and cultural institutions contribute significantly to its identity and economy. By supporting local artists and creative enterprises, Portland can continue to draw visitors and enhance its reputation as a cultural hub.

While tourism has faced challenges, it remains an important economic driver. Investing in tourism infrastructure, promoting the city's unique attractions, and improving the visitor experience can help rejuvenate this sector.

Additionally, supporting small businesses and local entrepreneurs is crucial for driving economic resilience and innovation. Creating programs that provide resources, funding, and mentorship will help nurture Portland's entrepreneurial spirit and strengthen its local economy.

Finally, investing in education and workforce development ensures that residents are equipped with the skills needed for future job markets. Collaborations between educational institutions and businesses can help align training with industry needs and support overall economic growth.

By focusing on these areas, Portland can build a robust and adaptable economy that leverages its existing strengths while preparing for future opportunities.

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 and inclusivity, which I believe are essential for effective governance. An example of this approach is my work to pass Cover All People in Salem in 2021, where I successfully brought together a broad coalition including the Oregon Association of Nurseries, SEIU, and around 75 other diverse community organizations. This experience underscores my commitment to engaging with various stakeholders, valuing different perspectives, and finding common ground.

As a member of the Portland City Council, I will prioritize open communication and constructive dialogue with my colleagues, constituents and interest groups. I believe in actively listening to the concerns and ideas of all community members and ensuring that their voices are heard in the decision-making process. My approach is to foster an environment where collaboration and mutual respect drive our work.



Addressing disagreements in a council with diverse viewpoints will require patience and a commitment to problem-solving. I am prepared to approach conflicts with a focus on understanding differing perspectives and seeking solutions that balance competing interests. My goal is to build consensus through respectful negotiation and to ensure that our decisions reflect the best interests of all Portlanders.

By maintaining an open and collaborative approach, I am confident that we can navigate the complexities of a new council and work together to address the challenges facing our city while advancing our shared goals for a better Portland.

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

Aligning Portland's taxing and spending with the city's needs and values requires a strategic approach that balances fiscal responsibility with community priorities. Here's how I would address this challenge:

First, I would advocate for a comprehensive review of the city's budget to ensure that expenditures align with Portland's core values and strategic goals. This involves prioritizing spending on critical areas such as affordable housing, public safety, and sustainable infrastructure, while eliminating or reducing funding for programs that no longer meet our needs or align with our values.

Second, I would work to enhance transparency and public involvement in the budgeting process. Engaging residents in discussions about how tax dollars are spent helps ensure that spending reflects community priorities and fosters trust in local government. This includes holding regular town hall meetings and using digital platforms to solicit feedback and incorporate community input into budget decisions.

Finally, I would promote efficiency and accountability within city bureaus. By implementing performance metrics and regularly reviewing program outcomes, we can ensure that public funds are used effectively and that programs deliver the promised benefits.

By aligning our taxing and spending practices with Portland's values and needs, we can create a more equitable, responsive, and effective city government that serves all residents well.

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).

One crucial issue that often deserves more focus is climate change and its intersection with Portland's other pressing needs. Addressing climate change not only involves investing in green infrastructure and sustainable practices but also ties into priorities like affordable housing and public safety. By integrating climate resilience into these areas—such as ensuring new housing developments are energy-efficient and preparing emergency services for climate-related challenges—we can create a more sustainable and resilient Portland that meets the diverse needs of our community while safeguarding our environment.