



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:

Dan Gilk

Campaign Contact:

Dan Gilk

Phone #: 7608891154

Email:

danforportland@gmail.com

Candidate Signature: Dan Gilk

(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?

I acknowledge that folks on the street are homeless for myriad reasons, and therefore there will not be a one-size-fits-all solution; on the other hand, we cannot continue to enable urban campers while we design perfect solutions for everyone.

Our focus should be on providing scalable cost-effective shelters coupled with designated "camping zones" on cheap land at the edges of the city. I support the city's current policy of



sweeping encampments as I do not believe we should tolerate or enable the takeover of our public spaces by private individuals.

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?

I do not believe publicly financed housing solutions will ever scale to meet our housing needs; we need systemic reform in how we incentivize and promote dense market-rate development. I believe that a Land Value Tax as a replacement to traditional property tax is the best solution, but more viable short-term strategies include increasing height limits, reducing zoning restrictions, repealing inclusionary zoning, and reducing the ability of anti-development neighbors to interfere with legally zoned projects.

The appropriate mix of housing should be allowed to align with what the market desires: be that small studio apartments, communal complexes, high rises, or townhouses. Permanent supportive housing will always be necessary for residents that truly are not able to manage themselves, but income restricted housing is a wasteful and inefficient way to distribute housing. Rather than means-tested housing I support housing vouchers or direct cash-payments to low-income residents.

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?

I intend to work with PPB to ensure they have an appropriate level of staffing and training. I believe that PPB is currently understaffed and under-hiring (and I believe we should incentivize new hires to live within Portland rather than neighboring cities). I will also push for renewed efforts against guns and gangs.

I also believe that conversations about “public safety” often ignore traffic violence. We have an ever-deteriorating culture of dangerous driving in Portland and I will push for more traffic enforcement. I believe that automated tools like speed monitors and cameras are great low-cost tools to improve safety on the roads, and we also must invest in improved alternative transit like biking, walking, and bussing.

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

While it’s hard to claim a specific industry as our core economic driver - I believe we should lean into our biggest strength: people want to live and raise families here. I believe our focus should be on residential development and creating a lower cost of living, complete with modern infrastructure, so that we can attract young families that will create future economic activity.

Remote white collar work is here to stay. We should be courting remote workers with tax incentives and employment zones dedicated to remote workers. I envision Portland as the



remote worker destination where workers can enjoy urban amenities and natural beauty with a much lower cost of living than competing west coast cities.

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 have a technocratic leadership style; that is, I prefer to base decisions off of data, expert opinion, and observations of real world solutions rather than ideology. I am able to hear and empathize with both sides on nearly every issue and I will bring this energy of centrist collaboration to the council. I believe that even during disagreements, we will be able to agree on fundamental data-driven goals, and we will be able to design tests and measurements to determine if we are meeting those goals.

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

I believe we need to realign the city's taxing and spending and get back to the basics of city governance. The most important tax reform we could push for is implementation of a Land Value Tax as a replacement for Property Tax (and in the process nullifying state measures 5 and 50). While this would require partnership with the state legislature, I propose smaller reforms in the meantime: reform PCEF to tax net profit rather than gross receipts, repeal the Arts Tax, and remove tax incentives for downtown office tenants. These tax reforms would create a more fair tax environment for residents and businesses alike.

Spending needs to be realigned as well - the city should renew its focus on the basics of public safety, road maintenance, schools and emergency services. I would push for the city to renew and augment our existing public spaces by building out missing sidewalks and assuming maintenance of street-trees. In exchange, I propose we reduce spending in our public housing sector and homeless services (where we historically have very poor returns for our money).

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 touched on this briefly, but I feel very passionate about redesigning our streets to be more friendly to alternative transit and pedestrians and more hostile to car traffic. Studies have shown that these redesigns invigorate local business and improve physical and mental wellbeing of residents. This is also necessary as we grow our population and add denser housing, as these solutions are far more scalable than car travel.