



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: Jon

Walker

Campaign Contact: Stephanie

Condon

Phone #: 908-472-4724

Email:

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Candidate Signature:

(can be electronic or signed).

Jon Walker

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

yes

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

Unsanctioned campsites are not good for public safety, public health, the quality of life in the city or for the people who live at them. The mortality rate among people in unsheltered conditions is 3.5 times higher than the rate for those who are housed. It is a situation that can't be allowed to continue. We need to rapidly increase the number of shelter and temporary housing options in the city. It is the morally, financially, and legally correct path to take. We need to create enough housing capacity of all types to put an end to unsanctioned camping and provide shelter for all who need it.



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?

First, we need to make it easier, faster, and more predictable for new buildings to get permitted in Portland. Talking to affordable housing builders, the issue they constantly brought up is they never knew how long it would take to get something improved by the city -- and with interest rates so high, any delay is incredibly costly.

Second, we need to go line by line through our building code to look for any improvements and updates we can make. Allowing single-stair apartment buildings or different elevator codes can reduce the cost per housing unit. Create a process so that any developer willing to pay the cost of capping a section of I-405 can build on top of it for free. Many small changes could add up to big savings.

The most important thing is giving builders a sense that the Portland city government understands the issue and is looking for real solutions. Sadly, many candidates for city council are currently promising the impossible, like mandating apartments be rented below even the cost of building them. If the city government does not seem serious, no one will build anything here, and our housing crisis will get dramatically worse

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 critical for a thriving and vibrant city. To achieve that we need a well staffed, well trained, and fully accountable police force. We need to better deploy our police resources, do a better job recruiting police that fit the needs of the city, and make it clear that accountability is not about being adversarial but a necessary part of the job.

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

Currently Portland benefits from having a relatively diverse set of industries in the area including technology, design, clothing apparel, and health care. I think maintaining a diverse set of industries is the best long term strategy.

Portland is unable to ever compete on lowest taxes or weakest environmental regulations. So we must compete on a high quality of life and provide highly effective services.

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?

As the Policy Analyst for the Office of Actuarial and Financial Analytics at the Oregon Health Authority, I just spearheaded the creation of our new dental program. It will provide roughly \$20 million in bonuses to dental providers, if they increase access to dental services for low income people in Oregon.



Following the pandemic we have seen a real decrease in dental care among low income Oregonians. I worked with both internal and external actuaries to determine how much money we could use in the program. I worked with a variety of dental providers, dental networks, Coordinated Care Organizations, patient representatives, and policy experts to create and refine different options. I brought together this expertise to create a program design that met the budget, could be approved by the federal government, would be possible to implement in a very short time frame, and would have clearly defined metrics to determine if it was successful.

This is the kind of work I would do for Portland if I'm elected to city council. I can bring together the viewpoint and expertise of many different people to design a program that will work, can be rolled out quickly, and includes specific metrics to judge it on.

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

You can have a high tax high service society or a low tax low service society but a high tax low quality service political dynamic is not sustainable. I think looking at the measures on the ballot in the past few elections the people of Portland want high quality highly effective government services and are willing to pay for them, but are getting very frustrated that nothing is implemented well. That is what I want to do. Not start any new taxes or programs but trying to fix what we have and actually deliver.

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'm worried that roughly 80% of what the new city council will do is dealing with addressing budget shortfalls and finding ways to produce savings without cutting important services. My concerns is very few other candidates have any experience dealing with government budgeting or large government contracts.