



## 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).

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**Candidate Signature:** *Kezia Wanner*

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

**I would like to receive the endorsement**

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

**Addressing unsheltered homeless in Portland requires a range of strategies that will involve health care systems, public safety, social services, housing development, and private investments. I don't believe that we will ever completely end unsheltered homelessness, but that should be our goal.**

**The complexity of the interrelated issues demand new cooperative and innovative solutions and approaches across the City and County governments. To break it down into two primary groups of**



issues, there are livability impacts and there are the human impacts on individuals experiencing homelessness and these groupings of issues will require different solutions and resources.

Livability impacts of homelessness is not what the question is asking but I will address it because of the intertwined issues. The impacts on our neighborhoods and businesses have been significant and lasting, degrading the social and economic fabric of our City. The City has the appropriate authority, responsibilities and resources to mitigate and address livability impacts of homelessness specifically the City can enforce violations of law, establish and enforce City code, clean and clear public property, provision of financial assistance for residents and business owners related to the impacts on their properties (board ups, trash, window replacements, patrols, etc).

The individuals experiencing homelessness require high-touch solutions and strategies. There are two primary intervention points with homeless individuals - focused outreach to people on the streets and triaging within the criminal justice system for individuals that are arrested. The interaction with law enforcement will be one of the primary intake points for homeless individuals into systems that will move them off the streets, and therefore we as a City and County need to accept that arrests will be a first step in an intake process. That being said, the City and County need to support legal enforcement strategies, whether it be police or other entities who are given authority for enforcement.

Functional process from streets to housing looks like a case management system with warm handoffs at each step that starts with intake points, connections to appropriate services, monitoring progress, delivery to shelters or other temporary housing options, services available at those sites, and ultimately longer-term housing availability. A shared commitment by City and County leadership is needed to build this ecosystem and it will require significant time, resources, and commitment to the outcomes by all parties.

What needs to be broadly discussed but has not been because of undesirable options, is what to do with the significant number of individuals on the streets who are not in control of making their own decisions, often attributable to drug addiction issues and/or mental illness. If these individuals cannot make decisions for themselves, I support exercising public safety and mental illness holds to get these individuals into systems of treatment and housing and off the street. Again, this requires that we have an adequate system of services to be in place.

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 will put my focus on where we can provide incentives to developers so that it is financially beneficial for them to invest in projects while meeting the city's needs for additional housing. I would focus on real ways that the City can reduce barriers and provide services that support development, particularly the targeted development that is priority for City leadership and that will generate economic growth and more expansive housing opportunities. One area of focus for streamlining and reducing barriers is the permitting process, which has long been acknowledged as a challenge for the development community.



To do this quickly requires the urgency of action which would translate to the new City leadership adopting pragmatic approaches to address economic and housing challenges out of the gate. We can't rely upon old ways of doing business and expect to meet ambitious goals related to city growth.

The mix of housing that is projected to meet the future housing needs for our City is primarily affordable and middle income housing which will be predicated on strategies of land banking, new TIF district establishment, rezoning and adjusting debt funding strategies. I believe that we can build the city's housing stock in an intentional way that preserves the distinct sense of neighborhoods, is intelligent investments across the city, and can capitalize upon the underutilized, and in some cases, derelict properties in the City. The Central City and outer east Portland are areas of significant focus for redevelopment and land development for housing investments.

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 have worked in public safety most of my career, with the most recent positions of Deputy Director for Portland Fire & Rescue and Deputy Director for Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. I have also worked for Portland Police and Oregon Department of Emergency Management. Public safety means the community shares a sense of safety and security and the fear of crime does not impede our community's ability to thrive and grow. Public safety should not be the goal in and of itself, but the effects of a healthy public safety system - economic growth, community pride and engagement, reputation as a safe city, attractive to investors and new residents - these are the real goals.

I will raise public safety issues and impacts with city council consistently, and because of my background, I will know when policy issues will have implications for the public safety systems and the criminal justice system. I will serve as an advocate that we fund and resource our law enforcement officers, and firefighters to appropriate levels. That is one significant value I will bring to the new elected body.

I have the trust and support of public safety in my run for City Council as illustrated by endorsements from Multnomah County Deputy Sheriff's Association, Portland Police Association, and Portland Firefighter's Association for my candidacy.

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

Portland has many potential lanes for economic growth at this pivotal time in Portland's trajectory. I see it as a natural opportunity building upon the strong foundation and identity of arts, culture, culinary and creative industries. This is what Portland was known for, it would honor Portland's rich arts and culture past, and be a draw for new residents to the city. Additionally, the City needs to bring in more large employers with high paying jobs. This is an essential component of the city's economic vitality and the city has suffered in recent years with the loss of large employers. One of the primary focus of the new City Council and Mayor needs to be strategies for attracting, growing, and developing new businesses.



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 one of collaboration and engagement, however I am strong in my priorities and values. I am a straight talker however I maintain respectful dialogue even throughout disagreements. I lead with civility and believe that we can disagree on important topics to get to workable outcomes. My intention as a member of Council will be to promote a healthy democratic process to get through deliberative processes and get to decisions. I envision the need to establish ground rules and standards of conduct for the Council from the outset. I will be intentional about developing solid relationships with the other members of council, and from experience, this will make it easier to work through conflicts, competing interests and positions while preserving trust and confidence.**

**I will make myself available to interest groups and constituents through public engagement opportunities, utilizing our neighborhood association communication networks, routinely attend civic group and business community meetings, and hold virtual public listening sessions to maximize audiences. I will develop relationships with District 3 community, civic and business groups through a targeted outreach strategy in the first 3 months in office.**

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

**It is my priority that the City making good on the obligations for providing core services of water, wastewater, development, public safety, roads, and general municipal administration. To fund core services, non-core services and new initiatives need to be reduced or eliminated. This is a fundamental concept in times of scarcity. The City will need to make difficult decisions in the upcoming years, and it will take fortitude and dedication to fiscal stewardship to see us through. I have 20 years of experience setting and executing budget and operational priorities and being accountable to the public for those decisions.**

**In addition to the priority of core services we must also make strategic investments that we have confidence will produce a return on investment such as the OMSI District development, in which the City is looking at investing \$15 million in the Central Eastside that over the longer term, will potentially revitalize the City. I see similar redevelopment opportunities for several sites in Portland in the near term such as the Rose Quarter, the Lloyd Center, significant areas of downtown Portland, and Keller Auditorium specifically. These are opportunities to reshape, evolve, and define the City.**

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).

**Q - Do you support the newly established Office of Community Based Police Accountability?**

**A - I have no objection to measures of accountability for police agencies, nor for any other public service agency, however the measures and conditions put forth in the newly established City office causes me significant concern. There are several areas in which the redistribution of authority and decision making are problematic. Additionally, the funding approved by the measure for running this**



**new City function, 5% of the Police Bureaus' operating budget, is excessive and will have the effect of eroding other City services because it drains the General Fund.**