



## 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).

**Candidate Name:** Eli Arnold

**Campaign Contact:** Eli Arnold

**Phone #:** 971-255-3681

**Email:** [eli@eliforportland.com](mailto:eli@eliforportland.com)

**Candidate Signature: (can be electronic or signed).**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eli Arnold". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

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

Yes.

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

Homelessness is not monolithic. The desire to describe this solely as a housing affordability issue has gotten in the way of progress. People who are experiencing economic difficulties and who are ready and able to receive help should get it. The more difficult side of the problem are people who are suffering from severe addictions or mental health issues.



We need a triage level response. We're nine years into focusing on housing and we've never been farther from ending unsheltered homelessness. We need rapidly deployed basic shelter, or designated campsites, and then we need to broadly enforce our camping ban. When we bring people into shelter we can identify them, know where to find them, deploy and track interventions, and create the surrounding structure that will make our spending be effective. A doctor can't treat a patient they can't find and they need the diagnosis.

If Multnomah County continues to be unwilling to spend money on basic shelter then the city needs to look at withdrawing from JOHS. With those funds we can meet this need and improve conditions on the ground.

There is nothing compassionate about allowing people to suffer in camps on sidewalks. It harms the surrounding community and most of all the person experiencing homelessness.

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?

The majority of housing production is going to be produced by the market. We need to make Portland an appealing place to build housing. Permitting needs to be as fast and predictable as possible. Funding for staffing needed for permitting should not be tied to permit fees. We need to staff based on what is needed to maintain efficient throughput so we don't strangle our own recovery.

We need more multifamily housing, from triplexes to ten story apartment buildings downtown. I believe we should look for ways to incentivize production such as a pre-approved ADU program. Bend and Eugene both have programs that sign off on ADU designs so that residents can readily contribute to building housing supply. I would like to see a similar program for multifamily housing.

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've spent the last seven years working as a police officer in Portland. Every day as a bike cop I deal with the realities of drug issues, mental illness, unsheltered homelessness, and crime. I know these systems up close and see where policy fails to capture the reality on the ground.

We have to increase the number of police officers working in the city. There is a minimum reasonable police to population ratio in a city and we are well below what is needed in Portland. When someone calls 911 they need to know that call will be answered quickly and help will come quickly. We're failing to meet that standard. Ending street camping will ease the burden on all of our public safety systems. A very large percentage of ambulance, fire, and police calls are tied to unsheltered homelessness.

We cannot tolerate open air drug use and we need to be vocal about the need for compulsory drug treatment for those who cannot help themselves. Our addiction treatment system is inadequate



and it is harming the city. We also need to apply pressure on the state to create sufficient civil commitment beds and to reform commitment laws so that we can get people in desperate need of serious mental health care where they need to go. I've written countless mental health holds and know that most of the time the person will be discharged back to the street within a few hours.

As a former military intel analyst and helicopter pilot I have some experience dealing with disasters. We must prepare for an earthquake. We need to get ready and there won't be any good excuses for failing to prepare for an anticipated disaster.

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 is a growing skilled work force. We need to staunch the outflow of residents and particularly families. We need diverse economic activity and we need to compete with other cities in the region for it. The city must be an economic partner and not an economic obstacle

The transition to remote work and some of the chaos which has played out on our streets has resulted in a hollowing out of downtown. We need to fix our public safety situation and restore our reputation to hang on to residents and businesses who have invested in our core. We also need to reimagine downtown as something more than just office buildings. I believe downtown can be a very appealing tourist hub. Improving our waterfront and partnering with organizations in the arts will be important.

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 understanding of leadership is rooted in my experience rising through the ranks in the Army, from the very lowest enlisted rank, to becoming an officer. Leadership isn't comfortable. We have leaders so that they can provide guidance in difficult times and situations. Real leadership is rooted in radical accountability. There are difficult things that must be done and a leader pushes into that challenge.

The military also taught me about teamwork. We don't always get to choose our team, but you have to fully embrace the team to find the value. The twelve people chosen for council will be the spokespeople and the negotiators sent on behalf of tens of thousands of real Portlanders. They deserve to be heard and worked with. The new council design guarantees a wide range of viewpoints will be represented and we need to find ways to get to seven votes without being surprised or upset about the inevitable disagreements.



I believe that constant communication with constituents will be very important in the new system. To that end I will continue my weekly social media discussion on important issues. I will also continue to make myself available in different neighborhoods on a rotating schedule.

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

First we have to plug the holes in our budget and fully fund our basic services. I support reducing PCEF to the original projected size of approximately 30 million dollars per year. The remainder of that money should be used to properly size our public safety agencies, address deferred maintenance, and invest in development that helps make Portland draw talent and capital again.

We have to be a competitive place for working and doing business and recent experiments in taxation have hurt that reputation. As we recover from projected budget short falls we need to reassess our entire taxing and spending strategy.

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).