

## UNITED FOR PORTLAND, 2024 Portland City Elections Questionnaire

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1. Do you want United for Portland's endorsement & support? **YES!!**

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

*If this is an emergency then we need to act like it.*

*We need to use every tool available to the City to stand up shelters as quickly as possible. The TASS or Safe Rest Villages are best but a continuum of options is needed. (I am not opposed to having small tent camps outside neighborhoods and outside the downtown core as they do in other cities but they must be regulated. Bybee Lakes might have room for one.). We need better alignment with Multnomah County and our other regional partners. The entire housing eco-system needs better coordination through the Joint Office (metrics, homeless count, nightly shelter availability, etc.).*

*During WWII, Portland put up emergency housing around the City not just in Vanport. Portland had an epic in-migration. In order to maintain a stable war time workforce, Portland was targeted for "defense rental areas" including my own neighborhood. Temporary "war dwellings" were constructed with temporarily lowered building standards and forced neighborhoods to accept the housing. The National Housing Agency launched a campaign titled "Share Your Home" where Irvington homes were divided into apartments! Portland was targeted for rent control by the government (Office of Price Administration). Today, we need to respond like it's an emergency!*

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?

***Remove barriers to production now. Change the approach & culture at City Hall to “can do” and return to the “City that works”. This is a culture change that must come with the City reorganization and new bureau of planning & permitting. It will require invoking the 120 day policy in permitting to reduce permitting time and complexity, changing zoning to permit more multi-family housing, possibly removing other requirements like the 3rd level design review. We need more housing at every income level and incentives for multi-family housing. We need a housing bureau that has a rapid response team and locate abandoned or foreclosed housing to land bank.***

***We need to create an environment that is friendly to the housing development community. Housing developers need certainty in decisions and a predictable process from City Hall. We must overcome our legacy of a city culture not working with the business community.***

***I began my career as an advocate for affordable housing and lobbied for a more aggressive state housing agency. Much of that has come to fruition but we need new strategies to incentivize all levels of housing. We need to lobby the federal government for a more robust housing program briefly mentioned in VP Harris’s acceptance speech.***

***Underneath all of this is a recognition that we must attract the capital investments necessary for housing development. If we are in a nationwide competition for these dollars, we will need to turn around both our economy and our image.***

***A last note: Portland will be a climate refuge so increasing our housing supply is paramount now and in the future. As the EcoNW presenter mentioned, inclusionary zoning and the UGB are not the problems.***

**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?**

*It means I feel safe. That we all FEEL safe. That I can walk downtown without looking over my shoulder.*

*Public Safety is the **BOTTOM LINE** function of government.*

*It means more police presence. We are at .9 officers per 1,000 while the national average is 2.4. According to Chief Day and PPA's Sgt. Aaron Schmautz, we don't need the national average but we do need 300 more officers. We need to grow the cadet program, reaching into the schools and grow our own since recruitment is not going well. Growing our own force to reflect our population will spur innovation and change the police culture.*

*It means we need to bolster Portland Street Response. PSR needs more authority to transport and provide other services.*

*Public safety means that if I call 9-1-1, someone will answer! And, if they answer my call, someone will come to assist me. We've made some progress at Multnomah County but this issue remains at a critical stage.*

*Public Safety means we need to look seriously at the 2022 study of our Fire Department regarding the need for more firefighters and possibly open more stations. We are woefully under the national average in both these categories and do not have a city response time policy. Even the Fire Department is having trouble recruiting firefighters. The CHAT program may relieve some of the burden but it needs on going funding.*

*Public Safety means safe neighborhood streets with traffic calming and police presence.*

*I would like to see the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council do what it was designed to do (an approach from the first Kitzhaber administration) by aligning all the pieces of our public safety eco-system to pull in the same direction. Currently, it has been Multnomah County staff-driven only focused on "restorative justice". It needs new leadership to increase the coordination and impact of our current public safety agencies.*

*Lastly, Public safety means that people with serious mental illness or addiction issues are dealt with properly, taken off the streets. There must be adequate access to treatment and, when appropriate, law enforcement mandates treatment. As I learned from Dr. Andy Mendenhall at Central City Concern, the acuity level on our streets has never been worse; there are people who will never be able to care for themselves and civil commitment must be considered as an option.*

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

*We may be entering a "new normal". The answer regarding our economic engine is multi-faceted. There is not one silver bullet but rather silver buckshot. While we know Multnomah County/Portland is not recovering as quickly as other areas, we have strong potential in technology, sustainability and arts & culture.*

*Beyond Nike (and the apparel cluster) and Intel (and related companies) we need to recruit more headquarters. It was a sad day when The Standard and Columbia Sportswear moved out of downtown Portland well before the pandemic. What headquarters can we lure into or back into Portland? What will it require?*

*We've had a technology hub with well-established companies and start-ups. We will continue to be attractive due to our access to nature, our walkability and great public spaces. But remote work's influence has been a mixed-bag. At one point, bay-area firms were re-locating here.*

*I believe that the Green Economy has promise for us — renewable energy, clean energy, etc. We could be a leader in the green sector. When I toured the Ironworkers facility, they were preparing to work in the clean energy field, renewable energy and green technology. We will need to support education and training in clean energy technology.*

*We have also been a center of the creative economy with a vibrant arts and culture scene. Our music, art, and food scenes have terrific appeal to tourists. That can return!*

*The leisure/hospitality/tourism sector will come back when we restore our reputation as a safe community.*

*We were once a center of manufacturing but this has suffered and needs to be brought back. Our economy is sensitive to and influenced by global trade. The information sector, knowledge economy and high tech will benefit from the CHPS act but it will take time to ramp back up. We've had an apparel cluster also that we can still build upon.*

*Small business has a very important part to play throughout the City and its neighborhoods. The City of Portland is working on an office of small business assistance which can partner with our community colleges to help start-ups, small business expansions and possible targeted tax incentives.*

**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 spent my career building coalitions and forming the relationships necessary to get results. I have also been able to work across the aisle with ease, often in hostile environments on difficult issues for results. Whether housing, the environment, transportation, or the relationship between state and local governments, I have brought people together to find solutions. I am a collaborator but I am not afraid to be direct and go it alone. I have learned to be comfortable with ambiguity and find the middle ground in order to make incremental progress towards a goal.*

*In order to work with constituents and interest groups, I will make myself available by scheduling regular meetings and have an open door. Being responsive to constituents is a high priority. There is always much to learn from various groups (ranging from the Chamber to the Labor Council) that advocate for particular policies or budgets. I will also reserve the right to always be smarter tomorrow.*

*Working with 12 new Councilors will be an interesting challenge. While some candidates are forming alliances and friendships before the election, the relationships between*

*those 12 electeds will be facilitated by an excellent on-boarding process. Not only should the on-boarding teach new members about their role under the new charter, the laws governing elected officials, it should also include outside assistance to facilitate the Council members to identify their shared values and priorities. As disagreements arise, it will be important to maintain collegiality, to respect our differences and work to do what is best for the operation of our City government. While consensus is preferable, it will only take 7 votes to move an issue. And the Mayor will be there as the tie-breaker.*

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

*Portland has aspirations that outstrip it's revenue. It is time to get back to basics. These basics mean safe streets in good condition, protecting our source and delivery of clean water, processing our sewage appropriately, creating a community where everyone feels safe, where there is rapid emergency response, well cared for public parks and city assets, a City that is prepared for disasters and the unpredictable weather that comes with climate change.*

*We must learn to live within our means and stop the proliferation of tax measures dedicated to the hot issue of the day. We need to take a comprehensive view of the tax/service system in our region including a comparison to like cities. Recent tax increases have focused on narrow issues to the detriment of basic services. We need general revenue to meet our basic operations and become once again the "The City that Works".*

*Only when our basics are met should we consider other issues.*

**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).**

*Beyond our immediate issues of ending homelessness, increasing our housing stock, building back our economy and ensuring our public safety, I want to be sure that the City*

***bureaus are ready for extreme weather events and potential disasters that may come with climate change. Are the infrastructure bureaus (water, BES/sewer, PBOT/streets) as well as our emergency management systems redundant and resilient? For example, if during a disaster the drinking water gets cut off in my neighborhood, does the City have a plan for how I will get water or have my water restored? It is our responsibility to insure we are prepared. The City can also work more closely to train and support neighborhood-based emergency response teams.***