



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: MOSES ROSS

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Candidate Signature: Moses Ross

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

Yes I would like to be endorsed and supported by United for Portland.

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

To end unsheltered homelessness in Portland, we need to actively fight the long-term causes of housing insecurity and general affordability. That process will take systemic and inventory changes, possibly in partnership with County, Metro, State, and Federal governments.



We have been starting and restarting this approach for most of the last decade, helping lead to the current crisis of unsheltered living. While I fully believe that these systemic changes are the only sustainable evidenced based policies that will be effective long term, we have to admit that there are two separate crises going on in Portland in regards to unsheltered residents. First the long term problem of ending homelessness and second, the drug addiction crisis. These two issues are creating untenable conditions on our streets and in our neighborhoods. So, while we MUST continue the work that has been started with other governmental partners to end homelessness in general, we must also admit that the crisis of unsanctioned street/sidewalk encampments MUST also be addressed.

As chair of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, I worked with Commissioner Dan Ryan as the City was setting up a new Safe Rest Village (SRV) in our neighborhood. It was essential to me that our community was involved in the process to learn and share their concerns. I held community forums, inviting all the stakeholders together to have a frank and honest conversation about the facility. This then allowed me to bring local residents (stakeholders), the City of Portland, JOHS and the SRV service provider together to the table and we negotiated a Good Neighbor Agreement. It was all about transparency and listening, learning and respecting the residents in the neighborhood.

We need more Safe Rest Villages, and we need more neighborhoods to go through the public vetting process similar to what we did in Multnomah. This means having a robust public debate as well as a clear rule making process about what we, as a City, want to do about that small percentage of unsheltered folks that do not want services, help, or to live anywhere other than outside.

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?**

We need a multi-faceted approach. Since the Pearl District was developed, our private development has focused on luxury apartment buildings with the mandated amount of "affordable" housing to help get subsidies and an easier permitting process. Market forces are important for some sections of housing, but we



have seen as Portland has grown, a huge loss of low (but not low enough for assistance) income and middle income inventory.

I think the public sector and non-corporate organizations have a role in filling in that gap where there is less profit but good social returns. Lifetime and generational wealth is still tied to property ownership for most folks. I think that there could be a role for multi-income multi-family buildings in that the tenants, after a period of time, own their units outright.

Our housing mix should be varied amongst standalone single family dwellings, du/tri/quad-plexes, and all sizes of multifamily units. I would prefer new developments to further increase density in the urban core, and along current transportation options, but we will need to extend public transportation to develop and redevelop less dense parts of the city.

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 a large complex concept. It can range from the most common thought, Police and other first responders, but it also has an environmental and emotional component. For me, at its most basic level, Public Safety is buy-in from individuals and communities. A sense of ownership, pride and confidence. It's kids riding their bikes and catching the Max or Streetcar, without worry. It's families moving into and visiting downtown Portland in the fall and winter. I think that by removing the major pressures that cause crime and homelessness we will be able to foster and keep that sense of safety going forward.

To me, it comes down to community, economic and environmental revitalization of Portland. As such:

Community revitalization: I propose a Portland "Clean and Green" city-wide program to clean up our city at the neighborhood level as well as in the downtown core. I propose a Portland "Open for Business" program to stimulate small business development and retention with a specific focus



on the downtown core. I also propose a Portland “Live in Downtown” program that will fast track the conversion of downtown office buildings into diverse and affordable housing.

Economic revitalization: We need to reinvigorate the arts and entertainment industry as areas with high foot traffic, or trendy neighborhoods/scenes will attract small businesses such shops and other industries. I support the renovation of the Keller Auditorium and efforts by Portland State University to establish a South Portland based entertainment/hotel complex.

Environmental revitalization: The city must support the development of the transition to clean energy options. The city can, at the same time, create economic opportunities that can expand employment. For instance, city wide (and statewide) distributed electric production facilities need to be built to fully support an electric car charging infrastructure to support the expedient conversion to electric vehicles. We can be on the forefront of this conversion at the City of Portland.

Finally, we need to build a community Police force ([exciting testimony at Council about local recruitment by Chief Day on 8/29](#)), a robust Street Response team, that doesn't require officers or PSR team members working countless hours of overtime. Tired first responders make mistakes, and we shouldn't put our public servants at risk. That means expanding the PPB staffing levels to parity with peer cities and committing long term funding to PSR.

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

I feel the downtown core is the key component to Portland's economic engine. It is the starting point, in my view, of the entire process of revitalizing Portland. The downtown core needs to be clean and safe and inviting to tourists and residents. Currently, people don't feel safe in downtown Portland. I believe in the theory of broken windows, in that if you allow things to go unkept and



undone, chaos and other things will follow. So, it's important that residents see that we care. We can change these perceptions with a concerted and coordinated bureau wide effort, what I have named "Clean and Green PDX", modeled after a very successful program in Philadelphia, where we partner with the neighborhood associations, the business community, and community and faith based organizations to clean up Portland.

At the same time, we must improve the business environment and encourage and stimulate small business development throughout the city, with an emphasis on the downtown core. My proposal is to create a Portland "Open for Business" program to stimulate small business development and retention with a specific focus on the downtown core. We will need testimony and aid from the business community to help locate bottlenecks, and help eliminate those duplicate or contradictory city regulations that are stifling business growth.

I also propose a Portland "Live in Downtown" program that will fast track the conversion of downtown locations into diverse and affordable housing. We need to convert all available office space to living space, understanding that according to recent reports, only about 10 to 20% can be converted, which represents thousands of housing units.

I will communicate, collaborate and cooperate with the local business community to achieve these goals.

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 chair of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association (MNA) for over eight years, I have been a part of bringing Portlanders together towards common goals and values. For instance, the Multnomah Safe Rest Village was placed in our neighborhood and I facilitated the development of a Good Neighbor Agreement with the City and County and all the community



stakeholders. This positive experience illustrated to me the need to bring all community members to the table when it comes to issues directly affecting their livability.

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

We need to reassess our spending priorities as well as make sure we are creatively seeking new revenue sources. For example, PBOT has billions of dollars of deferred maintenance and we can not depend on fossil fuel based tax revenues to pay for our needed maintenance.

We, (as Oregonians, County Residents, and Portlanders) need to also have a conversation about what qualifies as high, mid, and low income. According to [KOIN](#), for one person to live comfortably in Portland you need over \$110,000 in annual income, but Multnomah County Preschool for All (targeted only at the wealthy) starts with incomes of \$125,000. If you need \$110k to be comfortable then an additional \$15,000 does not make you wealthy.

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).