



## 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: Sarah  
Silkie**

**Campaign Contact: Sarah Silkie**

**Phone #: 503-867-6362**

**Email:  
[contact@sarahsilkie.com](mailto:contact@sarahsilkie.com)**

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

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1. Do you want United for Portland's endorsement and support?  
[Yes.](#)

2. What's your approach to ending unsheltered homelessness in Portland?  
[In a nutshell, we need basic shelter immediately, better shelter as soon as possible, and long-term a supply of deeply affordable SRO units.](#)

[We need to work with the County to provide enough shelter beds to meet all of the unsheltered need as soon as possible. While a room with a door is the gold standard, we need to treat this as an emergency, so that the first night someone finds themselves on the streets, there is a place for them to go without waiting. There are many different causes of unsheltered homelessness and there is no single one-size-](#)



fits-all solution and it does not help us to be dogmatic about what constitutes acceptable housing. It's time to think outside the box and put all options on the table and provide immediate shelter.

Long term, we need to focus on the fundamentals and get to the root causes of desperation and soaring housing costs. Creating more good jobs with benefits like healthcare for a wider swath of our community is part of this. We need the County and State to step up and do their part, especially with providing mental health and addiction services. Some people with long term mental health and addiction illness will need housing support and wrap around services for the duration. In addition to it just being the humane thing to do, it is also more cost effective to directly provide those services than to suffer the social and economic consequences of letting people live and die in misery on our streets.

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?

Increase housing downtown with more residential. It's where we already have the infrastructure to support it. We also need real permitting reform. I work in permitting. The main problem has never been that people aren't reporting to the right manager. The problem is that the codes themselves conflict and are overly complex. Everyone I work with would love to approve things more quickly. Many of the codes are written for the ideal situation and adjusting them to accommodate the real world is done through a "Design Exception" process, which is time-consuming, expensive, and subjective. We need to standardize the codes so that exceptions are the exception rather than the rule. Changes to these codes and true permitting reform will require legislation which I intend to champion on Council.

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 worked downtown through the pandemic (still do), and witnessed it empty, get downright scary, and start to reactivate, but too slowly. I've heard from Portlanders in other parts of the city concerned first about safety. To me, public safety means four things:

- a. The right response in an emergency. That's why I support efforts to make PSR 24/7 so other first responders can be freed up to focus on situations in which they are trained.
- b. Feeling safe, regardless of identity or ability for all Portlanders. We need the infrastructure to support that.
- c. Transportation safety – There were more traffic fatalities last year than homicides. I will support re-allocation of resources to traffic enforcement. One fatality is too many and nearly everyone I know has experienced or knows someone who has experienced a jarring near-miss.
- d. Fundamentals of more good jobs for more people. It won't work for everyone, but more people won't need a safety net if they can get a living wage and health care benefits

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

Thank you for this question. I feel it is still unanswered as a consensus in Portland. Growing up here, my parents worked at the Saturday Market and my sense is that we were already losing manufacturing and there wasn't a singular sectoral "engine". I would love to learn more about what others think and study the numbers, but I believe that is still the case. It may sound cliché, but the people and Portland lifestyle were big attractors. I don't think tomorrow will be different in that there will be many economic engines:



arts, professional services, technology, apparel, and maybe some manufacturing can be enticed to come back and grow here. I think we could lean into green technologies and make our future more climate friendly. For example, couldn't PCEF be used strategically to stimulate Daimler for R&D to electrify heavy-duty trucks on Swan Island? Then the City could be its first customer before exporting to others in the U.S. with the same challenges.

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 am committed to listening to everyone. I invite you to read the Bike Portland article for an example ([About Sarah \(sarahsilkie.com\)](#)). The short answer is I know how to gather all the important perspectives and information, build consensus, but also agree to disagree and move on to the next thing. Portlanders want their next Council to use their time efficiently (I'm also a mom of three – it is something I know how to do 😊)

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

It's important that we both listen to residents and lead for a prosperous Portland in the long term. These are usually in lock-step, but countless times while campaigning I have heard new perspectives that have made me rethink the right approach for the City. I want that growth to continue, and what I have heard is that basic services are essential: sidewalks, roads, bike paths, safe parks. These are what front-line workers deliver and those are the functions I consider essential. On the revenue side, we need to find a permanent, adequate funding source for transportation. Gas taxes by definition are not financially nor environmentally sustainable. I want to explore vehicle mile travelled fees more, in a way that is simple to administer.

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).

How are we going to rebuild trust in government with the youth in Portland?

By taking real action on the climate crisis before it's too late. By listening to all voices, modeling transparency, and empowering the next generation of leaders with opportunity.