



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:

Eric Zimmerman

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Candidate Signature: /s/ Eric Zimmerman (can be electronic or signed).

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

Yes, please.

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

First and foremost, opening the remaining Temporary Alternative Shelter Sites (TASS) is our number one priority. The shelter capacity gained by opening all of the planned TASS sites allows us to reasonably enforce camping restrictions across the city and it allows us to better understand who is seeking shelter and social services and who is choosing to make the streets of Portland a lifestyle. Right now those populations are intermingled and it's been dangerous for everyone involved. Our first TASS site is the most successful shelter in the community- we need 5 more.



Secondly, regular and ongoing enforcement of camping regulations will change the perception and permissive environment Portland has created over the last decade which is an important message to send. Our permissive approach to camping and our permissive drug approach post-2020 has created a market desire and place where people feel free to resist services and engage in harmful behavior for themselves and the greater public. We need to regularly and reasonably enforce camping regulations and return public space to the public.

Third, the city has a ton to do to make the development of all types of housing quicker, cheaper, and more practical in our community. In particular, I want the city to use public funding to help develop our most difficult unit-types and our permanent supportive housing units. We need to enable the market to develop at all levels of housing but we must specifically invest public dollars in the most difficult-single room occupancy (SRO) and three-bedroom units. These will need public funding assistance to create them in the affordable housing market. There are no types of units off the table in my approach for ending unsheltered homelessness on our streets. We have turned our back on less desirable developments over the last decade and a half but there is no unit and no development less desirable than the streets and I believe SROs and studios need to be a first stop unit type across the community when coming out of 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?

Maximize units, minimize aspirational requirements. That's my guiding principle for my approach to housing development to meet our needs into the future. I want a streamlined, 90-day or less, permitting process for all permanently affordable housing developments above 50 units and I want to eliminate aspirational design and code requirements that exceed the basic fire-life-seismic safety needs.

For credible developers with a solid history of project delivery, I want to move us toward a "permit upon review" standard and the assignment of a permitting and inspection liaison for projects over 100 units. Credible and successful developers can tackle and reduce timelines in order to deliver and economize projects to make them more feasible and this is important across all types of housing.

I want to reform and streamline the affordable funding "buckets" that projects contort themselves to meet today. To maximize units, we should reduce specialty requests for access to funding and increase unit creation as much as possible within the affordable funding mechanism. The creation of a consolidated affordable funding package for application should be accessible to those interested in such projects and we should make it as easy as possible. We need to align city and state requirements for affordable units.

In my district we have to contend with the Design Review Commission and I want to reform the Design Review Commission and limit its scope and the delay it can impose on projects. We also need to improve the residential in-fill project to be achievable, understandable, and navigable by everyday people and not just the development industry. The program will not achieve the desired effect if no one knows how to take advantage of their single family lot opportunities.



Lastly, I believe deeply that while we increase our unit development at all levels, we must start investing in ownership models as well. Mixed-income neighborhoods and buildings are the best and healthiest neighborhoods. If we create a community that only builds rentals, it will drive the residential real estate market into a have and have-not system and limit some very traditional ways families have been able to grow wealth and remain housed through good and bad economic situations. We are heavily lacking in this type of development. I want to establish an SDC grant program over 5 years for market and affordable, non-luxury, ownership model developments. If developers build ownership model housing for local residents then I want the city to use funding to backfill the SDCs waived on the housing, up to a certain point. And I want to expand the property tax abatement for 10 years across all neighborhoods for new developments selling to 125% MFI buyers. This is a direct workforce, middle income approach that helps locals achieve home ownership.

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 to me means that I have a reasonable expectation that anywhere I go in our community I will be free from harassment and violence and that if I do find myself in a situation where I need help, 9-1-1 is responsive, quick, and there is no question about whether or not the police and ambulance will show up. But today, none of that is true in Portland. Depending on the neighborhood you live in, the time of day you call 9-1-1, and the type of emergency you have, you cannot reasonably expect the most basic needs of public safety.

I think every public safety facing employee and organization should be rowing in the same direction. Police, park rangers, community safety officers, ambulances, firefighters, Portland street response and our enhanced service district security should all be aligned under our new city government. Portland has created a patchwork under the old commission form of government to meet the special interest needs and it has left us disjointed. I see a lot of opportunity for alignment under the new deputy city manager for public safety.

I want to expand and directly tie the police Neighborhood Response Teams to our Neighborhood Main Streets as a strategy for addressing the needs across all the business and cultural hubs in the city. I am endorsed by the Portland Police and the District Attorney-elect Nathan Vasquez because of my background on these issues and my approach moving forward. Some of the items I'm specifically listing as priority; 1) Confiscation of drugs every time a citation or deflection encounter occurs, 2) Expand the Neighborhood Response Teams inside the police bureau, 3) Expand the patrol and investigation units and consider short-term reduction in other support roles until staffing is achieved, 4) Expand the Portland Police Bureau beyond 1000 sworn officers as soon as possible, 5) Full implementation of the Body Worn Camera program, 6) Allow Portland Street Response to transport patients, particularly to sobering centers and psychiatric emergency care, 7) Expand the Focused Intervention Team (gun violence reduction) 8) Fund innovative gun buy-back programs, 9) Re-introduce the police cadet and reserve officer programs to Portland 10) support the District Attorney's prosecution of property and livability crimes, 11) Reform the Community Service Officer and Park Ranger programs to integrate,



operate as, and extend the first responder network for non-emergency needs, and 12) work to expand enhanced service district across more business districts to provide cleaning, security, and promotion of the neighborhood main streets all over Portland.

Lastly, we must do everything we can to ensure Multnomah County opens a Sobering Center with high bed capacity to create a space for people who are too intoxicated to be in public and are dangerous to themselves and others. Our closure of our previous sobering center has created a dangerous situation on the streets of Portland and we are just accepting overdose and erratic behaviors as a part of life in Portland today. That is not safe for users or the general public.

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

I think Portland is bolstered by our hometown industries, including those in our suburbs. Our clusters of athletic apparel and outdoor, computers and electronics, and food and beverage are clusters we have grown up with in Oregon and they are much of the fabric we identify for our economic engine. I think we need to create the conditions for those homegrown industry clusters to remain in Portland and to grow competitively as a cluster here.

In the future I think we must support our familiar industry clusters but we should also create the conditions for more clean tech development and the metal and manufacturing industry in Portland. We need to increase the number of industrial jobs in our community. They generally pay higher and diversify our well-paid workforce better than service jobs and they should be part of our strategic plan to grow Portland in the future with home ownership possibilities bolstered by traded sector jobs.

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'm known to have a fairly straight forward leadership style, I'm unconcerned with what has been and more concerned with describing the reality we want and going after it. In our current era in Portland, that approach has been welcomed by those who feel the city has been flat footed and it's been jarring to those trying to protect the status quo of the last 4 years.

I work well with constituents and I view my role in elected leadership as important to hearing constituent concerns and finding how to translate their needs and concerns into government outcomes. I have shown that over and over again leading the central city recovery in our Problem Solver and Expediting committees for City Hall. I demonstrated my focus and ability to work with bureaus and neighbors during my facilitation of the Central Eastside 90-Day Reset, and in the negotiations and advocacy for the first TASS site Good Neighbor Agreement.

Generally I find interest groups helpful given how many topics the public expects city councilors to be experts on, but I also prioritize and make choices about where to spend my time, influence, and



action and not all interest groups are on my top priority list. There are some basic foundations that inform much on my decision making but over time issues pop up and I really like engaging with groups even if I need to tell them I'm not their champion but I can be supportive if someone else is able to help move their issue forward. Given the crisis we are facing in Portland, I'm not going to try to be all things to all groups, I have a few short-term items I will need to focus on for the first two years to help us prepare for Portland's future.

With respect to disagreements on the city council, I think there are some of us in this race who have a lot of experience working on a variety of community issues and our experience will help us navigate the inevitable differences and disagreement. Records matter and I think a city council who is working on the most pressing items for our city will serve us best. We have seen that already in how the city approached camping regulations, compromise can get us to solutions. But there are others who are not running to work on our most pressing and immediate crisis and I think it could be hard to get solutions if some folks don't recognize the problems and challenges we face. I'm running for District 4 and the media and general consensus is that my district is deeply different from District 1. But I see a tremendous amount of alignment in how our voters have cast their vote the last three elections, about how our residents have been impacted by Portland's crime and livability issues this past four years, and how we get lumped in with certain aspects and micro-neighborhoods of our districts that don't reflect the entirety. We are the two districts with the most unpaved streets, lack of sidewalks, dangerous and non-existent transit. We have a lot to align on and I think looking past where people think we can work together will serve the entire council well.

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

I believe in the agreement the Mayor and Governor released last year for a three year moratorium on any new taxes. I have worked far too long in local government to believe with a \$7.8 billion budget that we are short on funds. I feel very strongly that going through an exercise about core services is something the city needs to do to reduce programs and mission creep that aren't aligned with core services.

As we streamline permit processes in the city, we also need to examine where the bureaus have overlapping workforce costs and redundant services. The bureaus have grown far outside their core service model. I have aligned budgets in the past at the other two cities where I served as the Deputy City Manager, and when all bureaus are working for the same executive, as ours will soon be, there is a right sizing that will occur and I think this will help align revenue and spending.

Portland should lead on reforming how our property taxes are applied and how they are allocated. Measure 5 and Measure 50 have on the one hand created some certainty in our system while on the other introduced nearly 30 years of patch work funding solutions that are poorly designed and very inequitable. I think we should strive for the predictability of our property tax system, strive for better equality across values and geographies, and ensure Portland taxes come back to Portland services, including our schools. We don't have to return to our old system to achieve a better system, but what we have today is not good government.

Lastly, I think the district representation on projects and initiatives that will occur within our new city districts could help us reduce spending funds on projects that need to be scrapped or re-done shortly after completion because of poor planning and local considerations. We see this in transportation



so often, where special interests drive the bureau toward certain projects that cost a ton of money but fail the local neighborhood and then need to be fixed. As a former Deputy City Manager, I have faith that when all bureaus are working for the same executive we will execute less projects in vacuums which will lead to better budgeting and better outcomes.

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).

Question: We lost a lot of community connection during the pandemic and in our slow recovery. Portlanders feel less connected to their surroundings. Can the city impact this?

I talk a lot about returning our public spaces to family friendly spaces- parks, libraries, plazas. It also means finding opportunities to bring pro-social events and organizations into our neighborhoods. Our Parks and Recreation Bureau can make sure every public school student who wants to participate in sports, theaters, music, and other activities is able to regardless of cost and access to equipment. We need to consider what neighborhoods will need in terms of community centers, fitness centers, and free accessible recreation as we grow in our most urban neighborhoods. The benefit of widely accessed community spaces, senior centers, senior housing, music venues, and parks is how we can achieve the housing growth and density I advocate for in my district neighborhoods. We need to start responding as a City government with the word "yes" far more than we do with "no" and meet the needs of our neighborhoods and less of the internal city bureau pet-project teams.