Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the upcoming local election. In this guide you will find information on Portland’s mayoral candidates, Portland’s city council candidates, and ballot measures in Multnomah County. Candidates that did not respond to our questionnaire are not included in this guide. We encourage our community members to take a look at the voters pamphlet for a comprehensive list of candidates.

NAYA’s Advocacy Team is available to support you in making your decisions, mailing or dropping off your ballot, or to answer any questions you may have about the primary.

Happy voting!
Portland Mayoral Candidates

This information is gathered from a voluntary questionnaire that was shared with all mayoral candidates in mid-April. This is to inform the voting decisions of NAYA community members and does not serve as an endorsement or support for any candidate. **As a 501c3, NAYA does not endorse any candidates.** The questionnaire was developed based on community feedback and questions, with priorities of the urban Native American community in mind.

Questions and feedback can be directed to: Advocacy@nayapdx.org.
Mayoral Candidate
Ozzie Gonzalez

- Sustainability and diversity consultant
- TriMet Board member
- Read more at: Ozzie 2020
Mayoral Candidate Ozzie Gonzalez

Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

I’m running for Mayor of Portland because I believe Portland urgently needs a new kind of leadership. We need a leader who can bring our community together around a shared vision and who embraces the diversity of the City with joy and a genuine curiosity to learn from others.

As the only candidate with direct professional experience in the building design and construction industry, I have a deep understanding of land use policies and how they can be used for community good.

As the only bilingual and bicultural candidate, I have direct experience with marginalization and with the profound difference culture makes in how we perceive the world.

As the only candidate with a technical background in climate science and ecology, I can defend the need for urgency on climate action against greenwashing and false solutions in a way no other candidate will be able to.

I am the only candidate advocating against partisanship towards a collaborative future that invites all of us to stretch outside of our normal and join the table of people unlike us to resolve the toughest challenges this city faces. I have a track record of doing this throughout my career and I would be honored to do that in the City I call home as Mayor of Portland.

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I am Mexican-American—from the Jalisco Highlands and the Huichol region of Nayarit to be precise. My parents and their ancestors have lived on those lands for more than 100 generations. My wife of 20 years is from the same region and has the same history as I. We both represent the first generation of US born citizens in our respective families, but we both consider ourselves North American with a recent update due to changing boundaries. For this reason, I and my entire household feel connected to the Pacific NW region’s native American story in how our stories, our languages, and our way of life was buried (burned in our case) and how much we struggle to this day to find acceptance in a place that is the only home we know.

Beyond my personal connection to the Native American experience, I have taken a professional interest in indigenous traditions and had the benefit of connecting with the Native American community in the Pacific NW region on several occasions as a result. While an ecology student in the Humboldt Bay of Northern California, I worked with the Klamath and Yurok tribes on riparian habitat restoration initiatives.
Mayoral Candidate Ozzie Gonzalez

While a naturalist ranger for Glacier National Park in Northern Montana, I collaborated with members of the Blackfoot Nation on environmental education programs and immersed myself in the region’s tribes, customs, and stories spending many weekends with families on the reservation sharing meals and downtime. Locally, I am proud to acknowledge that I have made several friends in the twelve years I have lived here from the Native American community that I value to the present day. Those relationships span work relationships, social relationships, and family friends. It is not my nature to drop names as much as I feel you would value personal references. I am happy to provide them upon request, but respect that this is not about who I know rather who I am.

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

I am going to bring the community’s priorities and lived experiences to the front end of the problem-solving process by entering into service contracts with community leaders and community organizations for ongoing community engagement and envisioning processes. We rely too much on volunteer time from communities of color for the input and community engagement needed for the City to do its job well. The City needs to treat community input as it does professional consulting.

services—something worth investing in where expertise is available.

My personal story is one of being under-served, under-represented, and unseen. This is why my candidacy and my election are going to fundamentally change how minority groups are not only served—this is going to change how we are involved. I will bring the most culturally diverse and linguistically capable staff to my cabinet the City has ever seen. In the first year of my term, I will have a language access program available so that all City services and programs are accessible in the ten most spoken languages in the City including sign language and braille. I will also transform community engagement into a formative step in the establishment of neighborhood priorities instead of the mandatory report out model we see today. These ideas, combined with my plans for bringing services like childcare, bike valet parking, and virtual public forums to all public meetings, will make City government more accessible and more representative that it has ever been in its history. Our city requires these updates and we need a leader who puts a high priority on language access and cultural competency as essential parts of how the City serves its citizens. This will be a top priority for me.
Mayoral Candidate Ozzie Gonzalez

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

Displacement causes irreparable damage to established communities and the pressure to improve and invest in underserved areas comes with a well-deserved suspicion that displacement will closely follow those neighborhood “improvements”. Not under my watch. Whether it's through incentives, support programs, or penalties—preventing displacement is too important to ignore.

My transit-oriented development policy includes anti-displacement measures for housing infill projects and incorporates a support program for people and businesses at risk of involuntary displacement. The Residential Infill Project ballot measure, which lacks that language today, will also include anti-displacement policies under my leadership.

In addition to anti-displacement measures, my approach to housing policy expands the conversation from “affordable housing” to actually create housing at a price people can pay with today's jobs. My policy will broaden the focus to include senior housing, workforce housing, intergenerational housing, and co-housing—all options that are currently ignored by the housing policies our current Mayor proudly celebrates without acknowledging that more than 2/3 of the workforce is left out of the affordable housing formula in place today.

What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

We need to own up to a hard truth: letting people camp in the city streets without clear standards is dangerous to neighborhoods, problematic for businesses, and destructive to the people in the streets themselves. Addressing this issue means owning up to the fact that ending homelessness is not the problem we should be trying to solve. As Mayor, my goal for the City is simple: centralize the entry point for the region’s existing support services so that we can get people who have become homeless back into housing stability better. This is exactly what I have set out to do.

I have a plan to end camping in the streets by legalizing transitional emergency service sites and bringing a City liaison to the Housing Bureau for supporting homeless service projects so they are safe and legal without burdensome permitting timelines. My plan also includes starting a city-wide community service program for people without stable employment so people can have options for earning money with short term assignments such as park cleanups and community gardening projects. With the right leadership, a clear policy, and a centralized referral system, the city can activate sites throughout Portland for soup kitchens, food pantries, overnight shelters, personal services, and other specialized services.
Mayoral Candidate Ozzie Gonzalez

By eliminating the red tape involved in permitting and making it easy for community groups to focus on the services, the City could serve as a backbone structure for volunteer programs and other community initiatives. Portlanders want to help—the city can make it much easier on them. Visit my website for details: https://ozzie4pdx.org/policy-plan/.

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

I believe no-cause evictions must be defended against and I see room for improvement in how the Housing Bureau supports tenants in cases where no-cause evictions are occurring. These issues usually unfold quickly and there needs to be a hotline program for investigating no-cause evictions within 48 hours of a case being reported. I will work with local tenant rights organizations and community organizations representing different people from low income circumstances to ensure that the policies, response efforts, and rights of low income tenants are honored.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city’s previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

Systemic institutional racism is not new to the region nor is it contained to white nationalism. Dismantling the racist foundation that the state of Oregon and the Portland Metro Region were built on does not require waiting for the white nationalists to bait antifa into a media circus again by staging a demonstration. Dismantling the systems of racism requires an intentional proactive approach to representation, accountability, and the swift elimination of people with racist tendencies from positions of power over others.

As Mayor, this means I will not hesitate to take people acting on racist tendencies out of positions of influence. I will bring a mix of people into my coalitions and committees so that implicit bias is neutralized, and intercultural exchange becomes normalized as part of a sound public process. The avoidance and posturing of our current administration around this issue hides the reality that white nationalism is part of a broader network of white supremacy organizations that have roots in Portland. The notion that white nationalism is entirely a movement coming from the outside the city to demonstrate once in a blue moon is a weak effort to disguise the fact that it is still active in Portland every other day of the year. I am not blind to that reality and will fight every day of the year to ensure white nationalism is not harming the civil liberties and human rights of anybody who sets foot in Portland.
As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) In the near term, we need to focus on the immediate concerns—keeping people housed while not ruining everyone’s credit. I am for a moratorium on all residential and commercial rents and mortgages for every month we have a stay at home order and for three months after we return to full operations again. I will work with banks and lenders to ensure there are credit protections in place for Portland landowners and provide employment assistance programs for people who have lost their jobs and are not able to return to the job they held previously.

For small businesses, I will unlock the $25+ million dollar small business support fund that the City put into place five years ago and has not put into use for this pandemic yet. This money could be used to provide much needed payroll relief, financial assistance, and recovery assistance for local disadvantaged businesses. I would unlock this funding immediately and make it available for grants and recovery specific support services.

(b) For many, survival is what is at stake. This means taking care of their most basic needs—food, shelter, sanitation, medicine, protective equipment—are immediate concerns. As Mayor, I will work with local industrial manufacturers and community volunteer groups to initiate the production of critical supplies and the creation of a localized a food distribution system to ensure food is not wasted in one area while people are hungry in another. With so much need and so many people willing to help, getting people organized and creating a platform for goods to be exchanged safely between people in our city is going to make the biggest difference to protecting our most vulnerable in Portland.
Other information you would like to share:

I appreciate your interest in my campaign and recognize that as a first-time candidate and a candidate of color, getting coverage of my campaign has come with the added challenge of bias against candidates that look like me. It has also made public that people of color are held to a different standard than white people and to obtain the same level of credibility in a public setting our credentials must exceed that of our white counterparts. I have the experience to warrant a serious consideration yet have been largely dismissed by the local media. There has been more coverage of my candidacy in international press than all of the local press combined. This is what people of color experience in job interviews across Portland today; my experience happens to be unfolding in public view.

Despite this, I remain positive about my candidacy. There are many Portlanders who are frustrated by a city in dysfunction and are ready for a different kind of leadership. My credentials are solid, my track record demonstrates I can deliver on big ideas, and my interest in politics comes from wanting a city that works for all of us. I believe we have the talent and heart to do amazing things together in this region; we just need a leader who can bring us together around a shared vision.
Mayoral Candidate
Sarah Iannarone

- Teacher
- Small business owner
- Read more at: Sarah Iannarone for Portland Mayor
Mayoral Candidate Sarah Iannarone

Why are you running for this position?

Now more than ever, Portlanders need a courageous, compassionate mayor who can bring us together and rebuild our city toward greater equity and sustainability.

The incumbent promised experience and competence but has failed to solve our city’s problems. He’s asking for four more years, but the Portland we love could be unrecognizable after another term on his watch. **I’m offering Portlanders an alternative.** I put myself through school while running a small business and raising my family. I know anything is possible when we come together and work hard but we need a leader who believes in the power of community with the right values, professional experience, practical know-how, and optimism to see us through.

We’re facing serious challenges ahead, including deep budget cuts due to the COVID crisis. My small-donor campaign means that in office, I’ll fight for everyday Portlanders not corporate interests. At this critical time, Portland needs a climate champion guiding our precious stimulus dollars, someone with practical small business experience who can get more done with less, and leadership that won’t balance the costs of our recovery on the backs of workers.

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I grew up in a union family in a small factory town in Upstate New York near Lake Ontario not far from the Onondaga Reservation on the unceded land of the Haudenosaunee peoples (also known as Six Nations and Iroquois). When I was growing up, public school students like me in New York State received a relatively thorough (by U.S. standards) curriculum in the Native history of our place, including the Iroquois Confederacy’s often underestimated formative influences on U.S. democracy. It’s also where I learned about the violence of social inequality and displacement that Europeans, their descendants, and the U.S. government have perpetrated against indigenous peoples since colonizing this continent.

Arriving in Oregon in 1998, I learned that the Lewis & Clark expedition and the Oregon Trail were perhaps more recent but no less devastating scars of colonizer expansion than were evident where I grew up. I recognize that the City of Portland is a government operating on the traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other Tribes and that our city is home to a diverse, vibrant, and growing Native community that is multicultural, multi-ethnic and descended from hundreds of tribes and includes members with varying degrees of Tribal affiliation. I recognize that Native residents of our city face serious systemic and structural inequities and disparities which I am focused on remediating, including poverty, education, homelessness, joblessness and health disparities including diabetes, mental illness, and addiction.
Mayoral Candidate Sarah Iannarone

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

As a working-class, able-bodied woman of European descent with an education and secure housing who benefits from the legacy of colonialism and white supremacy undergirding contemporary U.S. society, it is my responsibility to leverage my privilege toward dismantling systems of oppression that continue to undermine the health and well-being of non-white Portlanders.

As the city’s highest elected official, I will be explicitly committed to eradicating white supremacy from our leadership and governing structures; anything short is both immoral and definitionally undemocratic in our changing city. My aim is to move beyond the rhetoric of equity and inclusion to measurable deliverables with clear timelines. I do not see this as a burden, but rather an opportunity to invest in our city’s overall resilience and economic prosperity.

I plan to keep the Office of Equity and Human Rights in my portfolio and to work closely with the City’s Tribal Liaison particularly but Portland’s Native communities and residents more generally as we move through the mandated upcoming City Charter Review Process to intentionally craft more equitable governance structures and processes including rethinking the weak mayor commission form of government, participatory budgeting, and neighborhood-level civic engagement.

I will also make intensified investments in homelessness services, affordable housing and economic development with a focus on BIPOC Portlanders.

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

To become an inclusive, sustainable city, Portland must prioritize anti-displacement, anti-racism, anti-speculation, and climate action ahead of profits in land use decision making from now on. For too long, Portland’s exclusionary single-family neighborhoods have inhibited our city’s vibrancy and climate action goals. It’s clear that to thrive and prosper, we need to promote socioeconomic diversity in every neighborhood of our city even as we work to maintain the unique characteristics that keep our various neighborhoods appealing, special, and healthy.

Anti-displacement needs to be a priority rather than afterthought. Portland is making progress re-legalizing a range of affordable, multi-family housing options across the city. Unfortunately, the anti-displacement aspect of these policies (driven by frontline community organizations) was considered too late in the process. If Portland values equity and inclusion, we need to prioritize anti-displacement, putting it at the top of the agenda from the beginning in all public policy discussions and infrastructure investments.

I’m particularly thankful for the work that AntiDisplacement PDX (ADPDX) as undertaken in the past two years to build strong relationships with other housing advocates to ensure that stronger measures are in place to protect Portland’s working class communities and communities of color from further displacement and gentrification. I look forward to partnering with them and other community groups rooted in neighborhoods vulnerable to displacement (Rosewood Initiative, Unite Oregon, APANO, etc) to ensure that the substantial new housing growth we need in Portland is benefiting communities, not perpetuating our patterns of displacement.
Mayoral Candidate Sarah Iannarone

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

Bolstering tenant protections and empowering Portland’s renters to enjoy more stability is a crucial part of my aforementioned Housing for All plan; I received the endorsement from Portland Tenants’ United thanks to my demonstrated support for the 40% of Portland residents who rent. Ensuring that the rental registration platform currently being explored by the Portland Housing Bureau is open, effective, accountable, and fully funded is explicitly included in my housing plan. I testified at Portland City Council in support of an additional $900,000 in the fall 2019 budget bump on behalf of this effort. I intend to be an enthusiastic ally in the joint efforts of the advocates and city bureaucracy in establishing this entity. I look forward to being the “third vote” on the Portland City Council that can help shepherd in a new era of tenant protections.

As Mayor, I can direct the city’s lobbying team to prioritize resources towards passing further statewide tenant protections, and use the bully pulpit of my position to ensure that Portland-area legislators are appropriately prioritizing tenant rights in their legislative work. I’m heartened by the victories for housing that passed through Salem in 2019, and I hope we can continue to find ways to improve upon them and apply the appropriate pressure to avoid bills from continually getting watered down as they make their way through committee.

I am eager to learn more about the bills prioritized by organizations including the Community Alliance of Tenants, Portland Tenants United, and the Stable Homes for Oregon Families coalition in the upcoming 2021 legislative session, and I pledge to offer my support to advance these causes.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city’s previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

Make no mistake about it - white nationalism is on the rise in our community, our city, and our country. Portland needs leaders willing to put their bodies on the line in solidarity with efforts to combat the abhorrent rise of white supremacy and fascism. I am proud to run for Mayor on a campaign of identifying as an “Everyday Antifascist,” (we’re even printing it on bumper stickers) because in 2020 no one should be pro-fascism, period.

Hate speech is not free speech - it certainly isn’t free to the numerous nonwhite and queer communities that face increased rates of harassment and threats to their safety in the wake of these destabilizing, dangerous rallies. I have deep concerns with how our current administration has directed law enforcement to respond to these hate groups that threaten vulnerable Portlanders. As Mayor, I won’t merely offer platitudes of support for our immigrant communities - I pledge to continue to be on the front lines with groups organizing for justice for immigrants, refugees and Portland’s non-white communities, literally and figuratively, as I have been throughout this entire campaign and as a resident of the Mt-Scott Arleta neighborhood.

Inclusivity and community connectivity go beyond morality to economics: at the core of my plans are the principle that Portland cannot sustainably prosper without them.
Mayoral Candidate Sarah Iannarone

What is your plan to address Portland's housing and homelessness crisis? how do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native American community within this crisis?

The prologue to my “Housing for All” plan which I released this past January reads: "Portland has a housing problem. For too long, we have allowed the whims of the market and the drive for corporate profits to outweigh the public's interest in promoting diversity, equity, and opportunity in our city. We've had our heads in the sand about what housing is “affordable” to whom. This has left us with a shortage of the housing that our people actually need. The taxpayer costs of this laissez-faire approach are staggering: the City of Portland is spending record amounts responding to homelessness without making a dent in the problem. We must come together as a city at this critical time to combat the gentrification, exclusionary zoning, segregation, disinvestment, and speculation that harms our communities."

Investing in upstream resources to prevent homelessness is simply the right thing to do, both morally and economically. We have an obligation to do everything we can to help Portlanders on the edge of housing precarity to stay in their domicile and investing in this stability is a significantly more cost-effective use of public resources considering the public health and social services costs associated with letting families slip through the cracks and end up on the streets. In my Housing for All plan, I have proposed increases to lodging taxes for a Rental Subsidy Reserve Fund to help us address these needs.

Commissioner Eudaly’s Renter Relocation Assistance policy was a good start but we must do more. Eviction fuels expensive problems, such as homelessness, truancy, and poverty. It’s an often overlooked aspect of the problem, but we must actively track and reduce the number of evictions in public and subsidized housing as well as in the private rental market. In addition, we should explore funding mechanisms to provide low-income people the right to counsel in housing disputes.

I personally monitor the performance of City of Portland bureaus closely as well as our intergovernmental relationships, including the Joint of Homeless Services. I plan to maintain this active, critical eye as mayor, including requesting help as needed from the independent city auditor of our expenditures and investments as they relate to our stated goals and outcomes. I have committed to reallocating money in the city budget currently dedicated to policing people experiencing poverty and homelessness toward prevention and services.

I have also called for a Five-Year Strategic Plan for Ending Portland’s Housing State of Emergency (2021-2025) led by a Progressive Task Force for Housing All Portlanders. This multi-stakeholder, cross-sector, cross-bureau task force will convene to assess housing inventory and needs of Portlanders across the income spectrum; evaluate existing and explore new revenue streams; and propose a coordinated plan to close Portland’s housing gap by 2025 through a combination of good governance, political courage, and fiscal clarity. Partnership with community organizations representing frontline groups, including NAYA, is absolutely imperative to ensuring that the housing we build meets the needs of marginalized Portlanders. NAYA would certainly be invited to participate in these discussions and help ensure that the unique housing challenges faced by Native Americans could be addressed in our plans.
As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) On March 10, weeks before the Mayor and the Governor started taking this crisis seriously, my campaign rolled out my “Covid 19 response” plan. I proposed the city should immediately place a moratorium on evictions and sweeps, while also fully investigating potential hate crimes unfortunately on the rise for our Asian-American neighbors. I’m grateful for the leadership of organizations that have been shaking the gates of city hall over the past month to make explicit the need for urgent, immediate action to protect vulnerable communities. As a former renter and a former small business owner myself, I immediately understood the significance of April 1st as a day in which the rent would be due for tens of thousands of Portlanders (both residential and commercial) who had suddenly been put out of work or lost the ability to run their business. It’s crucial that we develop public policy thoughtfully to ensure that renters burdened with either an infection or a layoff - as well as landlords caught in their own financial crisis - are given public support, so long as the public funding doesn’t subsidize profit.

(b) The news about the disproportionate impact that this outbreak has had on marginalized communities makes my stomach churn. From meat packing warehouses in South Dakota, African Americans in St Louis, reservations in New Mexico - communities of color and low income communities are particularly vulnerable to this disease because of the abhorrent, pernicious structural flaws in our economy, society, and democracy. With our federal and state governments in chaos and disorder, cities need to be stepping up to the plate to protect our vulnerable communities and to plan for an economic recovery that centers those who have lost the most income and stability. I’ve declared support for a moratorium on evictions, involuntary displacement and criminalization of unhoused Portlanders, policy ideas to provide basic needs for the unhoused, and stated my intention to actively enforce hate crimes legislation and Sanctuary City policies. You can read my plan in full on my website: https://sarah2020.com/en/policies/covid-19.
Thank you so much for putting together this thoughtful and engaging questionnaire. I want to close by acknowledging my participation in Portland's Open and Accountable Election program. For the past nine months, I have been able to run my campaign listening to community advocates because of the grassroots support I have received. My campaign has received over 2000 donations, with the average size around $30; I have refused any donations above $250 and I have received zero donations from landlord lobbyists or other special interests - this has allowed me to focus on housing policies that best meet our city’s actual needs, and not those of the wealthy and connected powerful interests that have historically stood in the way of housing reform. Because of my participation in this program and my thoroughly grassroots campaign that I have run, I will be accountable to everyday Portlanders as Mayor of Portland, and not to the wealthy businesses and downtown corporate interests that have historically been able to buy access to the levers of power. I am asking for your vote this May 19 and look forward to serving as your next Mayor.
Mayoral Candidate
Teressa Raiford

- Trauma informed advocate
- Community organizer
- Read more at: Raiford 2020
Mayoral Candidate Teressa Raiford

Why are you running for this position?
What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

First of all, we are very grateful to be receiving this questionnaire and are very supportive of NAYA and the work you do in all of our communities. We acknowledge the land on which we sit and which we occupy. The Portland Metro area rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River creating communities and summer encampments to harvest and use the plentiful natural resources of the area. We take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land.

I’m running for office because people are looking for a public servant that understands and shares their values. As the landscape in Portland continues to change, it is important that we re-develop the way we see community members by prioritizing public safety and housing for all. Having the first Black Mayor would be an affirmation to dismantle white Supremacy in Portland. I know people like me don’t feel safer today than we did 4 years ago and our community is pitted against each other to fight amongst ourselves. No one wins in this type of environment. I plan to rigorously work within affected communities to educate them about supremacy gangs, propaganda etc. We will also support the filing of complaints for investigations to agencies like the Southern Poverty Law Center until we are sure that retaliation has been identified and dismantled from Oregon systems of process.
Mayoral Candidate Teressa Raiford

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

When I began this campaign I asked my comrades in the Native community to heal my body and to help me gain the support of Elders. I received prayers and even attended ceremonies and river gatherings in Washington. Time spent learning through research and friends building movements brought me closer to my ancestors as well as helped to identify an illness I had that was not diagnosed by medical doctors. After my surgery I continued connecting with Native communities in our local territories and eventually had a lead for my campaign, Special Lovincey, a Native woman born in Portland referred to my campaign by my friend Maria Garcia. She led our early efforts to build outreach and establish a blueprint for our committee. Special is mixed race with Black and Native parents. Her experience on reservations mirrored mine in inequity, displacement, addiction and suicide in our communities and no familiar resources or strategies. Those shared conversations have given me access to a better understanding of how violent systems and policies can be when they are not accountable in the process of distribution to those in need humanely, I also learned they will not provide equity unless we lead.

As a lifelong Portland resident I know too well the “discrimination” faced by non-white people in this city and surrounding areas. Our city lacks accessibility in their current process of government outreach. This is why it’s important to build a public safety platform that protects people who are vulnerable to discrimination, hate crimes, gender and religious bias.

Our government does not see us. We need leadership that uses our shared experiences to mandate the centering of our communities without segregating or exploiting us. Oregon was based on segregation and that’s exactly how it functions. Our generation must bring our values to a new administration to create social change.
Mayoral Candidate Teressa Raiford

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

I will continue to vigorously support our minority communities by implementing oversight and accountability for harassment and discrimination affecting housing, jobs, educational or healthcare access within our bureaus. I also plan to criminally enforce those who commit hate crimes in our communities. We need to create better opportunities and develop leadership in our communities that will provide innovative approaches to moving Portland forward.

What steps will you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

Mandate a rent strike, end current development and quantify the scope of an audit so that we can define equity and then redistribute within policy that helps support it.
Mayoral Candidate Teressa Raiford

What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

Houseless people account for less than 3 percent of Portland’s overall population, but in 2017, they accounted for 52 percent of police arrests. Our resources are not being used appropriately and as someone who works closely with our cities auditors, I know these are all connected to a pattern of abuse. I opened a legal clinic in a traditional Black neighborhood to assist in expungements, housing displacement and job placement in order to address these failures of the criminal legal system. The time that I’ve had working with people in our criminal justice system has given me great insight into the work it’s taking to dismantle Measure 11 and other mass incarceration policies. With Multnomah County leading the state in this regard, it’s going to take civic participation citywide to instill the changes we need.

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

We have a plan for working with current zoning and permitting requirements to better serve the population, creating more housing opportunities for those in need and ensuring more affordable options for people across the city. A review of state rent control legislation will allow us to audit these relationships between landlords/property owners and the city. A strategic restructuring of local business models to reach marginalized communities, a reassessment of corporate responsibility in the city of Portland, Section 8 vouchers and the possibility of incentivizing property management companies to accept them. We must build more low-income housing and cap rental costs. On the city level, we need strategic rezoning to create more housing. Single-family zoning will not work until we genuinely invest in our houseless population. More oversight and accountability for city contractors are needed.
Mayoral Candidate Teressa Raiford

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city's previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

I think we need to do more by educating families on what white nationalism is while also making sure we are fully prepared to enforce laws against hate crimes. After sitting in two trials over the last two years with families affected by white supremacy and violence, I did not witness any leadership showing up to console them, I saw a severe lack of resources to provide for them and an overall lack of support for our entire community. This made me realize these efforts must be led by those most impacted, and I am ready to lead that charge.

As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

As we see in the COVID-19 response from cities and their demands of the federal government to provide immediate services for the health and welfare of people, that is the same need unhoused people have had. There are so many people dying on our streets everyday; from disease to criminal violence. It should not have taken a pandemic for us to focus on this. In my opinion, poverty is also a pandemic.

The first thing we must prioritize is building communication with bureau directors for housing and the agencies we partner with to provide this access to services. I would do this because they are the direct contact between our most marginalized community members and our federal agencies. By contacting these agencies, I will develop a strategy for distribution of immediate health resources and necessities for families that are housed in our federally funded facilities and are also managed by the city of Portland's housing bureau. In this same measure, I would find out who was on our waiting lists and direct our partners to seek direct housing solutions as well as seeking federal funds in an effort to immediately house those waiting. Again, because the bureau has direct contact with these applicants, this communication should be utilized in order to provide immediate services.
Mayoral Candidate
Mark White

- Read more at: Mark For Portland 2020 | Building bridges for real change
I am running for Mayor because the Mayor is the person on City Council best positioned to ensure government reforms happen. And unlike other candidates, I have no interest in being a part of government, only fixing it. I believe Portlanders have the sole right to determine the structure of their government so that it not only reflects their values and goals, but is also efficient, practical, and provides the best results with the least amount of money. My time as Mayor will be focused on making sure you have the government you want and deserve.

Making sure Portlanders have complete control over determining our government's structure is actually quite easy for someone who is authentic in their desire to make it happen. It only takes a Mayor who will ensure the next Charter Commission has all the time, support, and funding necessary to engage Portlanders in discussions on the changes they wish to see.

Out of all the candidates running for Mayor, I am the only one with direct experience with the Charter Commission. I know first hand of its potential to bring to Portland voters the tectonic changes necessary to ensure all Portlanders have equal representation and opportunities for prosperity. I also have direct experience with the efforts of government to try and sabotage the 2011 Charter Commission and interfere with its efforts to identify and ensure government reforms are voted on by Portlanders. No other candidate will protect the independence of the next Charter Commission and provide it with any and all support needed for their efforts more than I will.

I am also running because Portland's government is fiscally irresponsible and does not reflect the progressive values and goals of Portlanders as previously implied. I intend to reconstruct the concept of being progressive, specifically with a fiscally progressive approach to spending. I believe the foundational element of being progressive is the empowerment of individuals. To do this, we need programs and tools that help Portlanders thrive and live their best life possible. Programs and tools cost money and every dollar wasted diminishes the ability of government to provide the best tools and broad-based programs for those it serves.

My plan to change this is to keep all Bureaus and Offices under the Mayor's office, but have the entire City Council provide oversight as a team. Oversight would be conducted in Council Chambers, open to the public with opportunities for public testimony, and recorded for public access viewing similar to what is done at City Council meetings. Each Bureau and Office would be dissected for effectiveness, appropriateness of programs, gaps in needed support and services, staffing requirements, and actual funding requirements. My hope is to find millions of dollars of funding that can be applied elsewhere to strengthen our direct services that focus on empowerment and/or to reduce our long term debt to free up that money for direct services to Portlanders.
A fiscally progressive approach to spending is especially important now because of the impacts of COVID-19. The City’s long term debt is about $3.3 billion with annual payments totaling about $500 million to service the debt — https://katu.com/news/on-your-side/city-of-portland-33-billion-in-debt-ranks-near-bottom-of-national-fiscal-health-index. This means we are probably paying over $400 million in interest to banks. While I would love to make some serious headway on paying down our long term debt so we could use the money going toward interest as well as the actual debt toward programs and services, the new water filtration plant will increase our long term debt by about $850 million without federal financial help. This, coupled with the direct financial impacts of COVID-19 — a substantial reduction in business tax revenue, lower tax revenue from likely property devaluation, and the requirement to guarantee PERS participants a 6% annual increase regardless of the devaluation of the investment fund if reduced by significantly lower stock valuations — makes that effectively impossible. At the very least, I hope to reduce the long term debt to well below $4 billion and find a way to significantly reduce the interest payment component via a municipal bank or other mechanism.

All of these financial issues make it absolutely crucial that we redefine how government works. For example, there are many places in the City desperately in need of new parks. Currently, the cost of creating a new park can cost millions of dollars. However, if we define what components of a park that can be installed without an official planning process and provide the community with direction on what they can do and how, the costs can be lowered to as little as tens of thousands of dollars depending on the size of the park, the amount of donations of materials and equipment, and the number of volunteers participating in the installation of those key elements.

One of my program models is to provide a tuition-free two year online college degree to Portland youth ages 18-21 in exchange for community service. Once vetted and launched, the program can inject thousands of youth volunteers into our already sizable volunteer base. You can view details on this program model via this link — http://www.southofholgate.com/?page_id=151. This would allow us to dramatically reduce costs by increasing the number of volunteers needed for public programs as well as for schools and other public efforts while providing our young people with a real-world education to supplement their academic education in addition to cutting in half the cost of a four year degree.
Mayoral Candidate Mark White

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I have no direct experience working with Native communities, just personal interactions.

I would be honored to work directly with Native community members — whether or not I’m elected to office — to construct a public program that would provide a self-determined pathway to improving the lives of Native communities.

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

I have a program model ready for vetting for a City-level Reparations effort. It can be accessed via this link — http://www.southofholgate.com/?page_id=154.

I also have a community economic development model I designed for my neighborhood many years ago that includes a community-owned mixed use development that features retail on the bottom floor, an international marketplace on the 2nd and possibly 3rd floor, and housing for veterans on the top floor. The description of this needs to be updated before being added to the campaign site. I can provide a copy of the original to anyone who is interested. The veterans component is best described in a paper on my campaign site titled, Veterans as Community Heroes, which can be viewed via this link — http://www.southofholgate.com/?page_id=224.
Mayoral Candidate Mark White

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

The community-owned program models above are both designed to reduce or prevent gentrification by allowing community owners to benefit as the surrounding area improves.

I also intend to incentivize affordable rents by providing tax credits to landlords and property owners who don’t raise rents or raise them 3% or less annually. Landlords and property owners whose rents are above average or raise rents more than 3% annually would incur business tax penalties. We need to make it more profitable for landlords and property owners to provide affordable housing and less profitable for overpriced housing.

In addition, I have a program model for greatly expanding our food industry that will increase employment opportunities as well as providing low income individuals and families with access to free fresh foods (mostly fruit from City-wide gleaning). That program model can be viewed via this link — http://www.southofholgate.com/?page_id=146.

What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

I have a paper on this issue on my campaign site. It can be viewed via this link — http://www.southofholgate.com/?page_id=29.

The specific needs of the Native community can be supported via the community-based economic development model above via participating as a community owner. Each individual project will be designed to serve the community around it. This means that if the surrounding community wishes to include access to NAYA services or other community-based organizations on property, it can do that.
Mayoral Candidate Mark White

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

I'm not sure I'm interpreting this question correctly, but if it is regarding evictions, I don't support one-size-fits-all approaches to most things. There are good and bad landlords, just as there are good and bad tenants. That being said, I would much rather provide a community-based mechanism for tenants and landlords to go for arbitration if tenants wish to challenge an eviction via a Housing Commission comprised of community stakeholders instead of relying on a set of finite rules that may or may not be applicable to a specific situation.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city's previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

This first amendment of the US Constitution does not guarantee the right to assemble. Specifically, it guarantees the right to peaceably assemble. There is a very big difference between the two. Clearly, violence is not a constitutionally guaranteed right. There is also Supreme Court precedent that allows government to require permits and other stipulations to ensure peaceful protests. The only caveat is that nothing can be done to prevent a citizen's right to free speech, regardless of how wrong, vile, or offensive it is.

I have no problem with the City suing any groups for the costs of police intervention when they incite violence. Supporting efforts of business owners for any damages caused is also something the City can do. While this may not impact their online presence, it still may be a successful tool to diminish or eliminate their public presence.

I would probably use a combination of tactics to prevent folks from being recruited by working with groups like Life After Hate that are led by former hate group members and pursuing efforts to increase the financial, social, and emotional stability of those most vulnerable to the recruitment efforts of hate groups.
Mayoral Candidate Mark White

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I would probably use a combination of tactics to prevent folks from being recruited by working with groups like Life After Hate that are led by former hate group members and pursuing efforts to increase the financial, social, and emotional stability of those most vulnerable to the recruitment efforts of hate groups.
As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

This is an incredibly difficult question to answer at this time. Mostly because we still know very little about COVID-19. However, the initial information coming out is deeply concerning, especially as to its ability to remain viable for weeks on surfaces and other mechanisms of transmission and the impact it may have on organs and clotting. The impact of the virus on individuals is wide ranging and has very little pattern to it making it even more difficult to understand and come up with options to fight it. We must prepare as if it will be around for a long time whether that be constantly or annually during flu season.

I believe the role of government can be whittled down to two things — protection and empowerment. Most City services will fall into one or both of these categories. And despite the massive number of progressive thinking individuals living in Portland, our government is far from progressive and I would say it is dangerously close to being authoritarian.

We must change this. We no longer have the luxury of assuming that an elected official is going to do the right thing. We need safeguards and firewalls in place to ensure transparency and accountability and we must remove politicians from local government and replace them with elected public servants. This will go a long way to ensuring that basic human needs and rights are vigorously pursued in order to be available to each and every Portlander.

Other information you would like to share:

I strongly encourage NAYA and Native community members to take an active role in the upcoming Charter Commission. This can be done in several ways. Have NAYA members submit themselves for consideration as potential Charter Commissioners, have representation at all meetings and make sure Charter Commissioners have information specific to the Native community on all issues being discussed or considered for inclusion in the Charter. Any issue of concern has the potential for being included in the City’s Charter. We need to construct a government that works for everyone. We can’t allow elected leaders to continue deciding on the rules for how they govern. Portlanders have the sole right to determine the structure of their government. As Mayor, I will make sure you do.
Portland City Council Candidates

This information is gathered from a voluntary questionnaire that was shared with all city council candidates in mid-April. This is to inform the voting decisions of NAYA community members and does not serve as an endorsement or support for any candidate. As a 501c3, NAYA does not endorse any candidates. The questionnaire was developed based on community feedback and questions, with priorities of the urban Native American community in mind.

Questions and feedback can be directed to: Advocacy@nayapdx.org.
City Council Seat 1 Candidate
Carmen Rubio

- Executive Director of Latino Network
- Former Senior Policy Advisor to Commissioner Nick Fish
- Read more at: Carmen Rubio for Portland City Council
City Council Seat 1 Candidate

Carmen Rubio

Why are you running for this position? What sets you part from other candidates running for this position?

I come from a hardworking Mexican family who came to this country seeking opportunities and a better life. My grandparents and family instilled in me the values of taking care of one another and respect for hard work. Seeing their struggles sparked a fire in me that never left. I learned at a young age about community, justice, and not settling for less because of who we were. This led me to work for progressive elected officials, and to build power in the immigrant and Latinx communities as a director of Latino Network. Throughout my career I’ve been a leader and advocate for youth, families, immigrants, and communities of color. And now, I am running because I believe that communities in every part of this city deserve to be heard and have a voice on City Council, not just those who can afford access or have power. Every person deserves dignity, and should know they matter and are valued by their government - regardless of where you live, what language you speak or how much money you make.

And in these times, we need leaders who can hit the ground running. Right now things we stand for are under attack, and the coronavirus pandemic has only crystallised the deep economic and racial disparities that have long existed in our city and nation. In this race, I’m the best choice for voters because with all that is happening we have no time to lose, and I can hit the ground running.

I have ten years experience running a growing organization - this means making hard decisions, addressing budget challenges, and holding a vision for equity and justice on behalf of our staff and the community. I also know how to get results. Under my leadership my organization has successfully led local and state advocacy efforts that have resulted in real changes in early childhood, K12 education, immigrant justice, and juvenile justice. I’ve led and participated in efforts to fundraise hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, managed a large workforce, and have the direct responsibility for multi-million dollar budgets, with outcomes accountable to the communities we serve.

I am committed to supporting communities building their power and driving change that will result in better public policy, better leadership, and a more prosperous, equitable, inclusive, and thriving Portland. I will work hard on my priorities of housing, racial, and economic justice: I will bring urgency to the issues of housing affordability, displacement, and gentrification, compassionate homelessness system of care, a more representative government structure + district elections, stronger sanctuary city policies that protect immigrants, tackling income inequality, and building a green economy. I stand out from my opponents because I am a proven leader with strong grounding in the community. I have the judgment, experience, and passion to get this done at City Hall. And when elected I will be the first Latinx to ever serve in the history of our city. It is my hope that we make history together on May 19th.
Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I have a long history of working in partnership with Native communities, with roots in coalition building in college at the UO during my time in MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Aztlán). We regularly worked and socialized with NASU (Native American Student Union) and built coalitions to tackle issues on campus calling for greater racial equity, student of color support, faculty of color, a student multicultural center, and ethnic studies major. I had the ability to work more closely with the Portland native communities during my time at City Hall under Mayor Potter and Commissioner Nick Fish, where in particular I built strong relationships with NAYA and Coalition of Communities of Color as a staffer. My role was to advise the Mayor and Commissioner on racial equity issues and ensure strong lines of communication and relationships with communities of color. In my role as the executive director of Latino Network I continued to deepen our partnership and knowledge of issues through advocacy work, philanthropy work, and the ability to support one another’s communities in various cultural and social ways.

At last year’s sobriety pow wow, I was presented with a Pendleton blanket from NARA for the years of work, friendship, and advocacy that our Latinx and Native communities have accomplished together, something that I was incredibly honored to receive. Throughout the years of partnership, relationships, and community friendship, it’s clear that our collective issues and histories are in many ways paralleled and intertwined, and we often refer to NAYA internally as our “primo-hermano” which means a very close cousin, like a sibling. That is how we feel toward our Indigenous brothers, sisters, and people: we are family.
If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

Areas I will prioritize the needs of historically underserved groups are:

**Racial Equity:** There is much work to do here - first, audit and use disaggregated data of staff demographics, representation across job classifications, positions, and bureaus, hiring and retention to assess the culture of inclusion and retention, as well as promotions of workers of color; audit of community-facing programs for frequency and demographic data of participants, including race, sex, and residence to surface program gaps, disparities, and over/underrepresentation of users; assess bureau work for cultural responsivity, and explore areas for community-based partnerships; ensure fair compensation to minority language workers for use of second language in their work; ensure representation of BIPOC and other marginalized communities in policy decisions, advisory, and appointed bodies, and ensure bureau and policy staff reflect the diverse communities served.

**Infrastructure Equity:** Neighborhoods in North Portland, Cully, East Portland, and even outer southwest Portland still lack sidewalks, paved roads, safe arterial crossings, bus shelters, and frequent and accessible transit options. Focus on responsible and balanced investments and infrastructure development in areas beyond downtown and the central eastside. I will advocate for increased and improved transit service, transportation infrastructure like sidewalks and bike lanes to support multi-modal, livable 20 minute neighborhoods on major arterials like SE Stark, Division and Powell.

**East Portland:** This region is the most racially diverse in the city, and despite strong advocacy from East Portland residents City investments still haven’t brought this region of Portland to parity in infrastructure and investments with the rest of the city. Strengthen the geographic diversity on Boards and Commissions, with EPAP as a critical partner to ensure equitable representation. I will push to utilize data and analyses of past investments when making decisions about any current investments to ensure geographic equity - something I also know EPAP is responsible for introducing to the City. I will advocate for local businesses, for infrastructure needs, preserve housing affordability, accessible and safe transit, and the creation and preservation of parks in East Portland. I’d also advocate for better access to the Columbia River industrial area, which has some of the best jobs in East Portland, but lacks reliable and safe public transportation.
Community-centered Development: To ensure diverse voices are at the table I will insist on community-centered development on city projects, so they will not be solely driven by developers and planners. We need community-centered engagement, especially in decisions about new development and zoning to prevent adverse impacts on residents of color. We need to also prioritize underserved and under-resourced areas and safety hazard areas first and uphold a people based approach to placemaking that supports and encourages positive development, businesses and neighborhoods, and avoids involuntary displacement. And we need to let community members have a real voice in these processes.

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

I am strongly committed to addressing displacement through policy interventions. Portland has changed very quickly during my life, and we find ourselves in an unprecedented time of housing instability and gentrification. That said, we know this housing crisis isn’t new. Black, Indigenous and People of color communities have always known what it’s like to not be able to live in certain neighborhoods in Portland. Displacement affected the Indigenous and Black communities long before it started to affect renters more broadly. We need to keep these historic injustices in mind when we put forward anti-displacement strategies, and be sure we are addressing the root causes and historic origins of displacement. I support the well thought out policies being proposed, including requiring advance 90-day written notice to a tenant if the owner plans to sell, demolish, or redevelop their home, granting a “right to stay” to existing tenants, requiring landlords to rehouse tenants they displace in their neighborhoods at a rent comparable to what they had been paying, or by helping the tenants to purchase a unit with down-payment assistance. There was thoughtful community work that went into developing them. The only caveats I want to note is that there are real reasons why someone might not be able to afford to develop two units on a site, and I would want to be sure that using CET revenue would be a cost effective use of those funds before committing them to single-dwelling zones.
What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

Portland’s housing crisis requires an urgent, multifaceted approach. Housing instability and homelessness are the result of decades of federal disinvestment, together with a growing income gap and a destructive presidential administration. These issues are personal to me. By fourteen years of age my family had moved 10 times before having the ability to settle permanently. I will bring urgency and focus to this crisis, along with an important racial justice perspective that will center BIPOC communities first. For the Portland Native community this means using disaggregated data in decision making, involving the Native community to build trust with local government and identify challenges specific to the Native community regarding issues of houselessness, develop policy ideas and solutions, and partnerships with culturally specific Native-led organizations to implement solutions and programs created for and by the Native community. We need to budget to our values in this homeless and housing crisis, and especially now. It also means generally directing more resources to the homeless crisis for supportive housing and services for the chronically homeless, and to prevent more families and children from falling into homelessness. Housing instability impacts children’s ability to learn, be nourished physically, and feel safe emotionally and physically. Great advocacy and work is happening in our community but it is still not enough.

As a City Commissioner I will bring urgency to these issues because we have no time to lose. I have seen firsthand that the City’s Joint Office, together with other local agencies and nonprofit partners are doing great, effective work, yet they are still outpaced by the need, and especially now. Moving forward, we need increased regional collaboration and joint investments by elected leaders in what works: such as permanent supportive housing, family stability services, rent and energy assistance, and public-private partnerships that move us toward paths to permanent homes. The ballot measure led by Metro and the Here Together Coalition presents an incredible opportunity for us all to turn our aligned values into aligned action.
Carmen Rubio

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

I will always lead with my values of social, racial, and economic justice - this includes housing justice. One of the biggest barriers I see in my work is that not all multilingual renters have a baseline of understanding of their rights. I know this capacity exists, but we need the City and state to resource this with education and training for tenants to ensure they understand their rights and their recourse in hard to reach communities. We should think about how we address tenant protections that prioritizes our most vulnerable and gives us the low hanging fruit solution while also looking at long term solutions to prevent homelessness. I also support better coordination across jurisdictions. Portland has not been a good collaborator with other jurisdictions and even needs improvement within the city itself. We should be using and sharing real time data, outcomes, and resources. We must improve communication between city departments and state, county, and city. I’ll also have renters forums/meetings in different places in the city (it’ll be like coffee with Carmen). I’ll do this on different issues, and possibly intersections but definitely on this issue to be hearing from community in real-time. I’ll bring commissioners, the mayor, community development corp folks, and other experts. I’ll even ask some of the landlords to come and listen to renters— they might learn something and might teach us something too. This sort of forum is in everyone’s interest.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city’s previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

I am very concerned about how routine it has become for white nationalists to descend upon Portland, or in other cases emerging from this community for these events. Equally concerning is any use of force on demonstrators - which includes using on those opposing the presence of white nationalists. Other legal tools exist for officers when intervening in a criminal act with specific perpetrators.

Our police force should be frontline in upholding our First Amendment rights, however should not endanger its citizens in order to protect them. We need ethical leadership from law enforcement in addition to transparent communication that does not favor groups. In protests with racist motivations I see hate speech as violence when its aim and clear intention is to harm or provoke harm to individuals or groups of people that are nonwhite, immigrant, womxn, or LGBTQ+. And I support the role of government to prevent and punish such hate speech. I am admittedly not a constitutional law expert, but I also believe very much that Ice-T, Tupac and other artists have every right to publish the songs they did/do (i.e., Cop Killer, Soulja’s Story) reflecting artistically the harm they think police and other systems are causing their communities. In other words, I recognize these lines of free and hate speech can be jagged, but I believe there are lines.
City Council Seat 1 Candidate

Carmen Rubio

When hate incidents occur while I am in office, I will adhere to my values and also use my position to address it immediately through public denouncement, and calling on other elected officials and community members to do so. I would also, if and when needed or able, call for enforcement of the law to protect communities victimized by hate speech and acts, seek ways to hold perpetrators accountable, and work on policies to prevent these from happening both within and outside my elected jurisdiction.

As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

The COVID-19 pandemic has crystalized and made more visible the deep racial and economic disparities in our communities, something that is not news to our BIPOC communities. Any post-COVID-19 recovery must absolutely address systemic issues impacting historically underserved populations or we risk repeating the same biased choices that create challenges in the future. As commissioner I will advocate for the following to be included:

- Resource efforts like the Oregon Worker Relief Fund to provide hardship support for impacted Portland immigrant and marginalized workers, low income workers and business owners that are ineligible for federal stimulus funds, business insurance or unemployment insurance.
- Strengthen and protect the housing stability and access of vulnerable Portlanders with expedited and long term investments in housing, shelter, expanded rent assistance support, and rapid implementation of permanent supportive services.
- Advocate for a comprehensive resilience strategy learning from our COVID-19 experience to better prepare frontline and BIPOC communities for an earthquake and other hazards.
These recommendations directly address existing gaps at a national and local level. As a city, we already are working toward affordable housing at all levels, homelessness prevention, and permanent supportive housing, so this is in alignment with our current policy direction as well as the needs of the community. While support for our uninsured workers may ultimately be a national issue, as a local government we have a responsibility to work with our state leaders and federal delegation to advocate for permanent changes and while exploring local solutions to equitably support impacted immigrant workers, most of whom pay taxes and yet are shut out of receiving benefits. Also, we know from COVID-19, Hurricane Katrina, and other examples in recent memory that historically underserved communities are impacted the most in disasters. We should leverage this opportunity to better prepare all members of our community and lessen the impact of future disasters through stronger resilience planning, ensuring the critical energy infrastructure hub in NW Portland and surrounding area are better prepared for an emergency, expanding Portland’s Neighborhood Emergency Team program to add more volunteers from historically underserved and BIPOC communities through partnerships with culturally specific organizations, and increasing emergency bureau staff multilingual capacity to engage with non-English speakers. There is some progress already being done, but it could be greatly expanded to better center BIPOC and more vulnerable communities with Council support.

I would be honored to earn your support. I have a broad community base of support and specific endorsements include APANO, UniteOregon, NW Oregon Labor Council, Community Alliance of Tenants, SEIU, Carpenters Union, IBEW 48, OLAV, UFCW, NARAL, Portland Association of Teachers, Street Trust, AFSCME Local 189, LatinoBuilt, Columbia Pacific Building Trades, Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, Congressman Blumenauer, Chair Deborah Kafouri, Former Commissioner Nick Fish, Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, Metro President Lynn Peterson, Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, Former Commissioner Serena Cruz, Former Commissioner Lisa Naito, Rep. Diego Hernandez, Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon, Sen. Michael Dembrow, Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Metro Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro Councilor Sam Chase, BOLI Commissioner Val Hoyle, Reyna Lopez (PCUN), Adriana Miranda (Causa), Phillip Hillaire, Zeke Smith (Foodcorp), Matt Morton, Jackie Mercer, Mayor Tom Potter and Karin Hansen, Nancy Haque (Basic Rights Oregon), Ronnie Herndon, Rukaiyah Adams, Tony Hopson, Joe McFerran, Lee Po Cha, Sophorn Cheang, Jenny Lee, Alan Hipolito, Marissa Madrigal, Mary Botkin, Ramon Ramirez, Avel Gordly, Andrea Williams, Raja Reddy, Ernesto Fonseca, Ron Herndon, Paul Lumley, Jeana Frazzini, Jenny Lee, Johnell Bell, Tony DeFalco, Jaime Rodriguez, Laurie Wimmer, Beckie Lee, Victoria Lara, and Toya Fick.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Cynthia Castro

- Former City of Portland Parks and Recreation employee
- Senior Policy Advisor to Commissioner Amanda Fritz
- Read more at: Cynthia Castro For Portland
Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

I am running for Portland City Council, Commissioner Seat 2 because I want to ensure that all Portlanders have their basic needs met including stable housing, economic security, clean air, and clean water. I want to protect the things that make Portland special like our award-winning parks and recreation system, creative community, and small businesses. I want to focus on safety. I know safety means different things for different people. We need policies that address safety no matter whom you are or where you live. And, I want to change City systems and structures that have perpetuated inequities. I will work alongside communities to co-create policies and programs that meet their unique needs.

I am also running because we need a City Council that is more reflective of the community we serve. Along the campaign trail, I have had people of color thank me for being courageous enough to run. I am mentoring students of color who have shared they now believe they can work in government. As a young kid, the words City Commissioner or campaign weren’t in my vocabulary. That will not be the case for my kids.

What sets me apart?

For the past six years, I have proudly served our community as a respected city leader within Portland Parks & Recreation (Parks), including as the Director of the Charles Jordan Community Center, and Senior Policy Advisor for Commissioner Amanda Fritz. I am uniquely qualified to complete the shorter two-year term and am ready to work on day one.

My lived experience as the daughter of a Korean immigrant and Mexican-American union worker means I have a unique perspective never reflected on Council. I will continue to use this experience to center all of my work in rectifying inequities in our system as I have for the past two decades. Equity isn’t aspirational for me, as this pandemic has shown, it means life and death for our most vulnerable. I intend to make sure Portland’s recovery efforts don’t leave people behind.

To help ensure the quickest recovery and a painless transition back to five commissioners, Portland needs a person with existing relationships across City bureaus and with community organizations that need support now. I will bring collaboration, competency and transparency to City Hall.
If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

As I mentioned above, I am currently leading a regional collaborative to develop an official regional land acknowledgement. As Commissioner, I will ensure we follow through with the following actions being brought forward along with the land acknowledgement: 1) a new mandatory training for City of Portland employees to better understand the past and present experiences of Native peoples, tribal sovereignty, and more (using Senate Bill 13 as a model), 2) strategies to improve recruitment and retention of American Indian/Alaska Native professionals (only 102 of current City of Portland employees self-identify as AI/AN), 3) work plans for each City bureau with commitment to actions that deepen partnerships with Tribal Nations and urban Native community and their inclusion in bureau business. I will also continue to strengthen relationships with Tribal Nations, the urban Native community, and Native serving agencies.

I am also leading the development of a language pay differential policy to compensate multilingual City of Portland employees who provide language interpretation services to our limited English proficient community members. The policy aims to improve recruitment and retention of multilingual employees, better serve and build greater trust with immigrant and refugee community members, and improve the City's compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. As Commissioner, I will ensure follow through with the implementation and ongoing monitoring of this policy.

I will build on my prior work to support youth of color, including Native youth, by continuing to invest in upstream approaches to prevent gun violence and gang involvement, as well as improve academic performance and workforce development, such as those offered through Portland Parks & Recreation's Teen Services Program and the Office of Youth Violence Prevention. I will also partner with youth serving agencies and culturally-specific organizations, such as NAYA.

As a City of Portland employee, my work has centered on racial equity. I will build greater trust with the Black and Native communities and other communities of color by engaging with them early and often in decision-making processes. Our communities have solutions to address their unique challenges, I will work alongside them to bring these solutions to fruition.
Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

Yes. When I worked for Portland Parks & Recreation, I supported the work of NAYA to keep youth off the streets by offering healthy, safe opportunities for recreation and identity enhancement through mentors who reflected their diverse cultural backgrounds. As a Senior Policy Advisor for Commissioner Fritz, I served as the Tribal Liaison to our City of Portland Tribal Relations Program. In partnership with the Tribal Relations Director, I am leading a regional collaborative to develop an official regional land acknowledgement as a first step to honor the traditional inhabitants of our area. To go beyond land acknowledgement, we are also proposing actions that will result in greater partnership with Tribal Nations, inclusion of urban Native community in City business, and greater representation of American Indian/Alaska Natives in our workforce. Part of our process has included engagement with Tribal Nations. This summer, I visited the Confederated Tribes of Siletz and Yakama Nation as a member of delegates for the City. In November, I presented our work at the 2nd Annual Tribal Summit and met with tribal leaders to elicit their feedback. We plan to engage with the urban Native community when we can gather in-person again. Our work also includes partnering with Native artists.

This is the second year that I am serving as a planning committee member for the City of Portland’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) education and awareness proclamation and community events. Because of COVID-19, we have shifted our plans from in-person events to virtual for this year.

With experience founding and leading our City of Portland’s Latinx PDX Employee Affinity Group (and growing our membership from 8 to over 100 employees) and my ongoing work with our Tribal Relations Program, I have been asked to help establish a City of Portland American Indian/Alaska Native employee affinity group.

I have also volunteered to plant first foods (camas and wapato) at the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge.
What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

The City of Portland adopted an Anti-Displacement Action Plan and Task Force. The Action Plan and Task Force will work to address displacement pressure put on communities of color who are facing rising rents, lack of affordable housing options, loss of cultural space, and barriers to economic opportunity. As City Commissioner, I would be committed to providing the resources necessary to implement the work outlined in the Action Plan and to ensure we are tracking outcomes so we know the impact of the work.

The City of Portland also offers living wage jobs with benefits. American Indian/Alaska Natives are underrepresented in these job types at the City. I will partner with the City’s Tribal Relations Program Director, and Bureau of Human Resources to improve recruitment and retention of American Indian/Alaska Natives.

I will continue to strengthen partnerships with culturally-specific organizations, such as NAYA, to engage communities of color in finding solutions to displacement and ensure they are educated about tenants rights and new housing policies or investments. I would also like the City to increase rental assistance and homeownership programs. We need to prioritize communities of color.

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

In the past couple of years, the City of Portland has adopted nationally recognized tenant protections such as the mandatory renter relocation assistance policy which requires landlords who serve their renters no-cause evictions or any other triggering events to pay them relocation assistance. I know this policy has helped people. I am supportive of continued implementation of this policy and tracking impact.

I support investing resources towards mediation services to avoid expensive legal fees that may be incurred by tenants when challenging decisions or actions made by their landlords. I would also like to protect tenant rights through education and enhanced inspections.
What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

The City of Portland has delivered on developing more affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless. The challenge is not being able to scale production to the level still needed to meet demand (29,000 units of affordable housing are needed in Multnomah County). I support continued production of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, as well as the preservation of existing affordable housing. I would partner with NAYA on projects that specifically serve the Native community.

The City needs to invest more resources to help Portlanders stay housed. I support increasing short-term rental assistance and homeownership programs and would prioritize the Native community.

Native community members experiencing homelessness, including those living on the streets or living with extended family and friends, should have their voices heard and be at the table when the City is talking about homelessness.

I am proud that the City passed the $15 per hour minimum wage a few years ago, however, we need to continue adjusting wages to keep up with inflation. COVID-19 has highlighted the economic vulnerability of Portlanders. I believe it is time to look at Universal Basic Income for Portland, so that our community members have a safety net.

I also support the Street Response Pilot Project which deploys a medic and crisis worker through 911 to respond to people in crisis in the Lents Neighborhood, rather than Police.
How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city's previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

Last year, I stood alongside community members and community leaders to condemn hate in our city and white nationalism. As a Senior Policy Advisor for Commissioner Amanda Fritz, I was part of a team to create the resolution adopted by City Council denouncing white supremacy and alt-right groups in Portland. This led to the development of a training by Western States Center for City Council and executive level City managers to better understand white nationalist groups in the Pacific Northwest and learn about actions other cities or states have taken to curtail them. The training was supposed to take place this spring. I believe these actions were important first steps, but there is more to be done.

As City Commissioner, I will have the opportunity to participate in the Western States Center training. I will work with my colleagues and partners to adopt strategies identified through the training. We will also expand the training to City employees at all levels.

The City of Portland has employees that are known to be very active in right-wing protests, such as those organized by Patriot Prayer. We need to improve our recruitment and hiring processes to vet employees who have such affiliations.

The City of Portland was founded on white supremacy. For the past six years, I have been working to change City systems and structures that have perpetuated racial inequities. I have been working with our Tribal Relations Director to take steps to decolonize our institution. As City Commissioner, I will continue to prioritize this work.
As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) COVID-19 has only exacerbated the already existing systemic failures towards our most vulnerable populations. Any steps the City takes towards recovery post-pandemic need to center with racial justice and prioritizing vulnerable communities. We cannot return to business as usual.

One of my greatest concerns is the financial debts accumulated during the pandemic due to rent and or mortgage relief or government loans waiting for Portlanders post-pandemic. With job and income loss and business closures during the pandemic, this will create a strain on Portlanders as they try to rebuild their lives and businesses.

The City of Portland received $114 million from the U.S. Treasury through the CARES ACT, but is still waiting for guidelines about how these funds can be spent. We need to continue centering equity as we look to disburse these funds. We must prioritize supporting small businesses, especially minority and women-owned, and give direct financial assistance to households that have been most impacted to help with paying rent or buying food.

Additionally, the City of Portland needs to invest more resources to help Portlanders stay housed. I support increasing short-term rental assistance and homeownership programs. City planning and capital projects need to include anti-displacement strategies as a standard practice.

(b) This pandemic has shown not only gaps in our safety nets, but has further highlighted the racial and socio-economic disparities in this country. We are seeing Native communities left void of support or access to necessary health care, poor Latinx employment outcomes, higher morbidity rates in the black community, poor people of all races suffering food instability, domestic violence survivors facing greater danger, and people with disabilities being denied services. One of my priorities is to change City systems and structures that have perpetuated inequities and work alongside communities to co-create policies and programs that meet their needs. For me, the pandemic has only reaffirmed the need for this work and the need to act with greater intentionality and sense of urgency. I also worry about the toll the pandemic is taking on our physical and mental health. We need to invest in more resources to help our communities cope with isolation, anxiety, suicidal ideation, depression; especially youth and elders. For example, for this year’s Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Awareness Week, we are planning activities for kids, beading, and yoga to offer space for self-care and community.

As City Commissioner, I will lift up our strengths as a community as we rebuild our lives, we are stronger together and we each have something to bring to the table.

Finally, we need to reinvest in safety nets that have been chipped away over time and improve systems and structures that have perpetuated inequities. I am proud that Portland passed $15 per hour minimum wage, but we need to increase wages to keep up with inflation. I support exploring universal basic income.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Sam Chase

- Former Chief of Staff to Commissioner Nick Fish
- Metro Councilor, District 5
- Read more at: [Sam Chase for Portland](http://samchaseforportland.com)
Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

With the coronavirus impacting all of us, Portland needs leaders more than ever with the experience to rebuild our economy, protect our most vulnerable populations and those impacted by job loss, and sustain our long term health and quality of life.

I will apply my executive public health leadership and deep experience in homelessness and economic development to address long term needs and immediate challenges of the pandemic.

I will lead Portland to take stronger action on housing and homelessness.

At Metro, I championed regional efforts to expand housing and shelter. In Portland, I will take immediate action on my plans to:

- Fund best practices to get people into safe, stable housing.
- Reduce cost and improve accountability to produce more affordable housing.
- Create living wage jobs that keep people from slipping into poverty and housing insecurity.

I will be a champion for a healthy, economically vital, and inclusive Portland.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate Sam Chase

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I have regularly worked with Native communities in my positions as an Executive Director for the Coalition of Community Health Clinics, as the Co-Chair of the Coalition for a Livable Future's Equity Atlas, as Commissioner Nick Fish's Chief of Staff, and as a Metro Councilor. In each capacity, I have sought to identify how we could empower Native communities in our decision-making processes, whether identifying the types of housing structures we would advocate for, the disparities that Native communities face in advocating healthcare needs, or the ways that we can structure our open space and environmental programs at Metro to respond to Native communities identified needs.

I have sought to engage Native communities not just by ensuring a place at the table. Stipends, day care and other support is needed, but is not nearly enough. I have advocated successfully that we must invest direct funding in our culturally specific communities to have resources and capacity to engage their entire communities—not just an individual to sit at a table. In that way we truly bring the needs of the community and their lived experience to the table.

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

I'll work to transform the city of Portland's structure to support culturally specific decision-making that leads with race. Every decision at the city must be informed with a deep level of culturally specific engagement. Here are the key elements that I'll champion:

- A new, centralized government structure that incorporates culturally specific decision-making directly in the governance structure.
- A committee on racial equity that informs the city council directly on the city’s most relevant budget and program decisions.
- On-going capacity grants that sustain culturally specific organization’s capacity to engage in city advisory bodies, as well as bodies outside city government that have impact on city services.
- I’ll bring my success driving strategies to lead with race with business investments in organizations that hire and employ people of color. One victory at Metro to fund innovations and business start ups in the solid waste and recycling sector is a model that has resulted in significant employment opportunities for the African American community.

I’ll champion this work as I have at Metro. We will take the successful models developed at Metro and Multnomah County to culturally specific communities in Portland and seek their guidance on a path forward.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate Sam Chase

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

Fighting displacement has been a central focus of much of my work as an advocate to address poverty and equity and later as an elected official. City resources have driven property value increases through investments under the guise of 'combating blight'. The efforts have perpetuated the displacement of communities of color into the 'numbers'. I led the Affordable Housing Now! Coalition's successful effort to reform urban renewal, by working with PCRI, Hacienda, NAYA and others to require that at least 30% of all urban renewal funds serve affordable housing and community service needs. Nevertheless, our work in urban renewal and at the city is far from done.

I will implement my Fair Share Housing and Homelessness Plan, which will require the region's cities and counties to build shelter and affordable housing in EVERY community throughout our region. I'll let culturally specific communities take the lead--communities of color are disproportionately affected by homelessness. I will set aside resources to invest in service providers to identify and implement programs that specifically lead with race as a determining factor on how to deliver services.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city's previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

Let’s be clear – hate speech is not free speech and can be identified legally as such. Speaking out against hate immediately and loudly is necessary in every case. I'll continue to join rallies, as I have in the past to show my concerns about hate speech. Just as the government can forbid language in airports banning threatening language, so can we in our sanctuary city. I will be sure to defend our rights to a sanctuary city, including our ability to ban hate speech.
What is your plan to address Portland's housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

Portland faces a growing homeless crisis. Incremental steps addressing homelessness and the equivalent of band-aids and duct tape are failing to get the job done. My plan will match the scale of our crisis with comprehensive, big solutions, and structural change that will apply accountability and research to invest in solutions that work. Portland will provide a model to inspire cities around the country on how to follow suit and truly address our nation’s homelessness crisis. My plan is to:

1. **Build and Expand Shelter and Housing Options**

   **Implement Nick Fish’s plan to create 2,000 Permanent Supportive Housing Units.** Our most vulnerable, chronic homeless populations can get off and stay off the street when they have housing with ‘wrap-around’ services like case management, mental health support, and addiction treatment. Some of this can be accomplished through approval of the May Metro Homeless Services measure. The remainder will be incumbent upon using existing and future resources to make these critical housing options available throughout Portland and the region.

   **Add 5,000 homeless shelter beds throughout the region.** Smaller shelters throughout Portland and the region—not gigantic overcrowded shelters that overwhelm residents and neighborhoods—will include services to ensure residents are successful in transitioning to long-term housing and support services that will keep them out of homelessness.

   **Prioritize access for those with the greatest need.** Affordable housing is a precious and unfortunately limited resource. Until we meet my goal of affordable housing for all, ensuring that the resources we have are serving those with the greatest need means getting the most out of what we have. I will implement a system that helps populations find the right housing to match their needs.

   **Increase the supply of affordable housing.** Portland’s population growth outpaces its housing production every year—making the crisis even worse year after year. While my plan calls for historic and unprecedented investments to match the scale of our homeless crisis, we cannot subsidize our way out of Portland’s housing crisis. I will implement strategies to encourage affordable well-designed housing types. I will champion well-planned housing along transportation corridors, in commercial areas where infrastructure already exists—like the Lloyd District, through the Albina Vision, and other areas where impacts to existing neighborhoods will be modest.

   **Implement my Fair Share Housing and Homelessness Plan** by supporting the region’s cities and counties to build shelter, affordable housing, and homelessness in every community throughout our region. Portland cannot fund the region’s homeless crisis alone. Portland’s homeless populations reflect our region’s population.
2. Expand Services and Implement Efficiently to Maximize Reach and Impact

**Homeless services** – I will champion investments in services that have high success rates in helping people get and stay out of homelessness such as case management, mental health support, addiction treatment, job training and other services connected to housing. Partnerships with the healthcare and service providers must be scaled up by investing in pilot projects and other programs that have the best proven outcomes.

**Sanctioned camping** – Like Dignity Village and R2D2 that create safe, self-regulated environments that have low impacts on neighborhoods and their surrounding communities. These types of safe, legal encampments also allow access for case workers, law enforcement, and specialists to access vulnerable populations and work toward shelter and treatment solutions.

**Livability and Transition to Shelter** – I will work to expand programs to reach out and engage people camping and living outside, helping direct them to available shelter and needed services. These programs also provide an opportunity to engage people in understanding how to be good neighbors by keeping camp areas clean and community minded.

**Let culturally specific communities take the lead** – Communities of color are disproportionately affected by homelessness – particularly Black and Native American populations. I will set aside program resources to invest in non-profit and other service providers to identify and implement programs that specifically lead with race as a determining factor on how to deliver services.

**Portland Street Response** – I have endorsed and will expand this program which sends medics and peer specialists to people living on the street with conditions such as mental illness and substance use disorder. That minimizes conflicts where the police are the first responders and establishes a better all-around relationship for everyone.

3. Invest in Intervention and Jobs Programs to Reduce Risk of Homelessness

**Prevention Services** – Keeping people out of homelessness is by far the most cost-effective strategy. Case management, support in finding services, and short-term rent assistance make sound, cost effective investments.

**Early Intervention and Treatment First** – We know that when factors that contribute to housing instability and are identified and mitigated early, lives are spared disruption, and we can break the cycles that too often lead to addiction, worsening mental health crises, criminality and other consequences of homelessness. Working with school counselors to provide training and tools to reach vulnerable youth, employers to better recognize the needs of low wage employees, and culturally specific organizations to serve populations too often at the margins of policy making and outreach, we can help people before they fall into homelessness.

**Living Wage Jobs** – help transition people out of homelessness and support services to achieve self-sufficiency. In turn, workers contribute to the tax base to support continued services for others.

I will ensure people living with homelessness or on the verge of homelessness are able to access job training services through effective non-profit, community college, and government workforce programs. Construction, healthcare, and other sectors face a dearth of qualified and trained workers. When people find a path to sustained economic success, we all win.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate Sam Chase

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

I will empower organizations that have direct relationships with tenant organizing to participate in the city’s processes. Specific past actions where I championed the inclusion of renters in policy decisions include successful efforts to:

- Organize renters to participate in neighborhood associations -- which are mostly dominated by homeowners.
- Reform urban renewal to win $350 Million for affordable rental housing.
- Win a regional bond measure for affordable housing -- the largest in state history and first regional bond in the nation.
- Propose a regional initiative to the May ballot that will be the largest resources initiative per capita in the nation for homeless services. Significant amounts, if not the bulk of resources will support short and long term rent assistance.

As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) I support a moratorium on evictions, a rent freeze, a contingency fund for rental assistance and legal aid, moratorium on utility shutoffs, and emergency stipends for low-income households.

(b) Jobs provide the long-term solution we need to truly address poverty. As a life-long champion for affordable housing, healthcare, and homeless services, I recognize that these critical tools only act as a safety-net for people who are unable to access living wages or are unable to work. I will bring my success winning major living wage jobs at Metro and in the nonprofit sector to the city. Prior to the current pandemic, our economy was thriving, and quality of life was exceptional--for many in our city. Yet for many others, jobs, services, and amenities like parks and more have been out of reach. We must support small business and living wage jobs to get our economy back on track as quickly as possible--that will support our tax-base and ability to pay for city services. I will expand Portland programs and identify state and federal resources for displaced service industry workers and others impacted by the pandemic.

Even when we re-build, many jobs in the health sector and construction will remain unfilled, our opportunity is significant. Building the supply of workers for health and construction helps everyone. Investing in culturally specific communities and services to create jobs, train apprentices, and secure contracts is one component that I’ll advance. I’ve been a champion for the Career Construction Pathways Project and will work toward its success at the city. I championed the Convention Center Hotel which will pay its full share of property taxes that fund human services in schools. Now in place, it will help bring back our tourism and convention economy more quickly.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate Sam Chase

Other information you would like to share:

I am proud to have the endorsement of APANO and leaders like Maxine Fitzpatrick, PCRI; Ernesto Fonseco, Hacienda; Dr. Erik Szeto, founder of the Asian Family Service Center; Jackie Mercer, NARA. Their support is much in part because of my insistence that culturally specific communities be in a leadership position in all our decision-making; and, that by leading with race in our budgets and programs, ALL of our community sees economic and livability benefits.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Julia DeGraw

- Nonprofit/policy consultant
- Read more at: [Julia DeGraw For Portland – "Our City Our Future"](http://example.com)
Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

I am running for this position because there are no other candidates who share my commitment to system change. While many in this race for Portland City Council Position 2 have started talking about how we must update Portland’s ineffective Commission form of government and elect City Council members from districts throughout the city, none of them have led on this issue before it was politically advantageous to do so.

Our current Commission system is innately inequitable, which explains why the vast majority of elected officials have been wealthy white men from the west side of town throughout Portland’s history. In fact, only nine women and three black people have ever been elected to Portland City Council. At-large elections, where elected officials have to win citywide races, have been found to be in violation of the Voting Rights Act, and it’s past time that we create City Council districts, with a majority representation from the east side of the city since a majority of the people live there. Electing people by districts ensures better representation and makes it easier for grassroots candidates and women, black, indigenous, and people of color to run for public office and win.

I ran for this same seat in 2018 on a system change platform because I recognized that, until we have a system that is structured in a more just, equitable, and representative way, we were never going to be able to seriously take on and solve our toughest problems. There wasn’t an amount of collaboration and good intentions that was going to make a structurally racist and inequitable system work for the majority of the people of this city, and the status quo certainly wasn’t going to work for those historically marginalized.

Once we elect Council members by districts, they could then focus on creating and passing policies and on serving their constituents, rather than spending 90% of their time running city bureaus. In the current system, City Commissioners are assigned bureaus by the Mayor, regardless of the person’s passions or expertise. The Mayor’s ability to assign and take away bureaus overly politicizes what should be a professional job of overseeing and managing governmental administration, a job better suited for a Chief Operating Officer or similar position.

This is why I support a fully-funded community engaged Charter review process in 2021. Every ten years, Portland has a Charter review process that gives us all the opportunity to update and improve the City’s Charter, which is kind of like the city’s constitution but at the municipal level. The Coalition of Communities of Color and it’s member groups, including NAYA, should play a leadership role in deciding what the future structure of our city government and elections should look like. Whether it’s how many seats comprise the City Council or whether we have multiple-member districts (which could help ensure more women, black and indigenous, and people of color can be elected), Portland’s communities and culturally specific organizations need to be leading this process.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate

Julia DeGraw

As the only candidate who has led on system change for the past three years I am the person you want in this seat as we head into a historic charter review process, you want someone well equipped to operate in the system as it is, but who is not beholden to it.

Until we can successfully reform Portland's dysfunctional government, I promise to serve the people of this city with every decision I make and every action I take. This means consulting and directly engaging impacted communities in decision-making and policy-making throughout the entire process. This means hiring diverse staff. This means engaging communities in direct democracy with far more public hearings and public input before making decisions and building big projects. I am also deeply committed to Community Benefits Agreements and other similar tools to ensure we build out a strong local workforce by hiring and training members of Portland's BIPOC communities as we build more affordable housing and create a just clean energy future. Long-term, though, it's not good enough to work collaboratively within this broken system; I am ultimately committed to creating a more democratic, just, and equitable Portland City Council in which BIPOC people are in the seats of power and making the decisions. I want to support creating that city.

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I worked closely with Native American tribes in my nine years at Food & Water Watch. Specifically, I worked most closely with members of the Warm Springs and Yakama Tribes in the decade-long campaign to keep a Nestle water bottling facility out of the Columbia River Gorge. Our work culminated in a rally on the steps of the Oregon State Capitol, where members of the Columbia River fishing tribes, particularly from the Warm Springs and Yakama, including Yakama Chairman, JoDe Goudy, were supported by dozens of white allies. I recall an indigenous elder tearfully acknowledging that he couldn't recall a time in his life that a group of so many white people showed up in solidarity with indigenous people to protect our sacred water. It was an event led by indigenous people, and I offered support by helping arrange transportation, providing a P/A system, assisting with outreach to the press, and with turning out environmental and water activists in solidarity. The threats of lawsuits, first from the Yakama Nation and later the Warm Springs tribe, as well as opposition to the water bottling proposal from the Nez Perce and Umatilla tribes, played a big role in the ultimate victory of the campaign to Keep Nestle out of the Gorge.
The Keep Nestle Out of the Gorge campaign was instructional for me. As sovereign nations, the tribes were not interested in participating in public comment periods and other tactics often used on the broader campaign, because those tactics are by and for the colonizing culture; they would only engage at the highest level of government, by threatening to invoke their treaty rights if the State chose to give precious water away for Nestle’s greed. When working with the tribes, I learned to be humble, sit back, listen, and show up/step up only when I could be helpful and bring needed resources to our collective cause.

I’ve learned not just from research but also from becoming friends with the tribal members I worked closely with on the Nestle campaign, that there is such an incredible amount of misconceptions about what it means to be a modern day indigenous person. White people often refer to Native Americans as though they are a relic from the past, when in fact there are over 70,000 indigenous people living in the City of Portland—one of the highest urban populations of indigenous people in the US. The assumption is Native Americans all live on reservations, but of course that isn’t true; to have the opportunity to make it in America’s capitalistic culture, to follow jobs and even the dream of opportunity, indigenous people move into urban centers. Once in urban centers, indigenous communities are often overlooked, essentially erased, and in order to instill restorative justice policies in Portland, it means we must do better at not only identifying the needs of indigenous communities, but actually putting resources behind the City’s status quo of lofty rhetoric around equity and justice with little action to match it.

I am aware, and will publicly state, that America has committed genocide against the indigenous people of this land. We all reside on stolen land. Now, hundreds of thousands of people live here, and we exist in a system predicated on structural racism. It will not be quick or easy to begin to right these historic wrongs or to heal from them, but I am committed to working together to create a more just and equitable city, where indigenous people are in positions of power, are supported, and have the resources they need to not just survive, but to thrive on this land once again. I know this process won’t happen overnight, but I am ready and willing to step back and create space when that’s the right thing to do, and to truly work with NAYA and other culturally specific communities and organizations to make our city a better place for those communities.
If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

I would start by making sure the City is partnering more with culturally specific groups, like NAYA, to provide affordable housing, first-time homebuyer assistance, and workforce development opportunities and other crucial services to lift people out of poverty and set them up to succeed and thrive in Portland. All publicly-funded projects should have Community Benefits Agreements that force the City to hire locally and a high percentage of members of Portland’s BIPOC communities. Rather than a $15 minimum wage in Portland, it needs to be $22 per hour as that has been determined to be the minimum living wage for our area.

I am totally inspired by and impressed with NAYA’s Generations affordable housing community, and I want to find ways to support more of that kind of development in the City of Portland. The City needs to do a better job of public-private partnerships with culturally specific organizations to provide culturally specific housing and services. I live on the edge of the JADE District, and I want to see a continued and even increased investment in supporting APANO and other groups that are making sure this area of the city remains diverse, even as the city grows and develops. This means having strong and enforceable anti-displacement policies as Portland transitions into the big city we, in so many ways, already are and are becoming.

As policies and projects are created, the City must engage directly with the impacted communities from the start of the process, and those communities must have real power in guiding policies and projects that are supposed to be designed to help marginalized communities in Portland. For too long, these kinds of projects and policies were made with little or no meaningful input from impacted communities, and we ended up with well intended but poorly executed policies and programs. Everyone in the city will end up with better results and a better investment of public resources if communities are directly engaged and empowered in the policy-making and decision-making processes. This may seem like a small thing, but it’s essential that the City provide individuals that serve on governmental committees or commissions with a stipend, child care, and meals at meetings. Asking poor or working-class people to donate substantial amounts of their time and energy for no pay and without any assistance means that those individuals are, by default, prevented from meaningfully participating in decision-making. I’ll make sure the City adequately compensates and supports people asked to serve on these committees designed to improve our public policies/projects.

The City must take actions to end racial profiling, particularly in public safety and criminal justice (I’ve discussed this in-depth in another section of this questionnaire).

Lastly, I will reiterate that changing Portland’s form of government and electing City Council members by district will help create a more representative and democratic system that better serves all the people of our city, but particularly those historically underserved and marginalized.
What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

As is so often the case, the City of Portland has some very good anti-displacement language in its Comprehensive Plan. However, it’s not so strong in actually acting on that language. What needs to happen is, working closely with groups like NAYA, Causa, APANO, Unite Oregon, and others, it must invest in deeply affordable housing that is culturally specific to all of the communities that live there. We also have to ensure that affordability is incentivized, as we build more densely (thanks to the Residential Infill Project), and that there’s affordable housing all around the city. This will help lower the cost of housing across the city. I support overturning the state preemption that prevents rent freezes, which is one of the most effective tools to prevent displacement. I will cover more on this in other answers, but having strong, well-funded and culturally sensitive first-time home buyer programs and training will also help ensure that BIPOC communities have more stable housing and are less vulnerable to displacement in the first place.

Furthermore, the local community should benefit from these big projects by being prioritized in the hiring process—as mentioned in other answers, Community Benefits Agreements requiring that we hire BIPOC contractors and apprentices for these publicly-funded projects, which will help create high-quality careers and family-wage jobs with benefits for historically marginalized community members.

Every time the City, County, Metro, or TriMet invests in a big capital project, whether it’s a park, road improvement, light rail expansion, or a housing development, there has to be strong anti-displacement measures built-in and enforced from the beginning of the project to ensure we slow or even stop gentrification from displacing the communities that currently live near these projects. Local communities should be engaged in the project planning and should then be ensured the right to stay in the community as it benefits from the new development.
What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

I’ve touched on this answer in response to other questions, but in addition to working closely with NAYA and other culturally specific organizations to create more culturally specific affordable housing, first-time home buying resources and training, and using the RIP to build more multiplexes and deeply affordable housing across the city, I am also interested in exploring land trusts, land banking, co-housing, cooperative ownership, and modular housing construction to help increase the amount and quality of deeply affordable and market-rate housing throughout the city. As we explore building deeply affordable multi-unit housing across Portland, we should be partnering with NAYA to identify places where we could be building housing by and for Native people. My commitment to building affordable housing includes streamlining the permitting process and creating incentives for building deeply affordable units, as well as possibly exploring land bank and land trust models to address long-term affordability issues.

As we address those currently living on the streets, we need to ensure there are case workers and service providers that are capable of being culturally sensitive to indigenous people struggling to stay housed. I am a huge proponent of intentional housing villages to address the immediate emergency of getting those currently on the streets into housing.

I would be very interested in partnering with NAYA to make sure there’s a tiny house village that’s by and for indigenous people, which could help ensure a stronger sense of community, safety, and support. As supportive housing comes online, there must be cultural specific assistance, including for indigenous people; this is another area where strong public-private partnerships are key to success.

This answer is relatively short because I’ve fleshed out these concepts rather extensively in other areas of the questionnaire. No matter what, I will be a strong partner with NAYA and other culturally specific organizations to ensure that our housing crisis is addressed in a way that ensures better outcomes for Portland’s BIPOC residents.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate

Julia DeGraw

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

Prior to COVID-19, my answer would be that we need to lower the maximum amount that rent can be raised per year and increase tenant protections. Rules to protect tenants should be better enforced and less reliant on tenants reporting complaints; the power dynamic between landlords and tenants, as well as the existing marginalization of BIPOC tenants, makes a complaint-driven system innately inequitable. I also support fully-funding the Office of Rental Services and creating a massive public education campaign that enables people to know that they can go to one place at the City to find out what their rights are as tenants and what assistance they can receive if they are struggling to pay rent or cover their utilities. Right now, there are multiple bureaus that renters have to navigate through to find all the various kinds of assistance that could potentially be available to them, and that’s not a tenable system for people who are struggling to have even their most basic needs met.

Additionally, we need to fully-fund and better implement rental assistance, and make sure we are matching rental assistance funds to members of the BIPOC community; this will help ensure people don’t become houseless in the first place. Longer term, as mentioned before, we must invest more in culturally specific first-time home buyer programs to get people out of the vicious cycle of renters having to fight for their rights as rents go up and problem landlords abuse their power.

We need to make sure we are hiring people in the Housing Bureau and Joint Office of Homeless Services who are from the indigenous community who will be able to ensure that indigenous people's needs are being met in our housing policies and projects. Generally, we need more staff and funding for both of these departments to better address our housing crisis, and we also need to partner better with other bureaus, jurisdictions, and organizations to pool resources and make sure we’re addressing housing as holistically as possible.
How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city’s previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

White nationalism has no place in Portland, or in America. I’ve been disappointed in the way the City has responded to white nationalists, especially the way the Portland Police respond to white nationalist rallies and the counter rallies that always emerge from the presence of neo-Nazi’s on Portland’s streets. I understand that, in a country with strong freedom of speech and assembly laws, there may not be a clear legally defined concept of what is and is not free speech. In the case of white nationalists, it is clear by how court decisions have played out in places like New York that their speech at these public rallies is hate speech and is used to incite violence, and, as such, should not be protected speech. Using public resources to protect hate speech on the streets of Portland is not a good use of our public resources. The City should not grant permits and protections to hate speech.

The Gun Violence Reduction Task Force also needs to end. If we want to be serious about reducing gang activity and keeping our youth and our communities safe from gun violence, we need to have more supportive programs for at-risk youth and a restorative justice and rehabilitation approach to make sure at-risk youth are getting support and assistance, not penalized and criminalized.

Black and indigenous youths are clearly being racially profiled by the police, and this has to stop. The fact that, according to the Portland Police Association’s own data, over 70% of Portlanders don’t trust the police, now is the time to create better independent citizen oversight of the police, more fair and transparent systems of accountability for racist officers and those who use excessive or lethal force, and to negotiate a more community-centered police contract.
Julia DeGraw

As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) As mentioned in previous answers, this was a priority of mine prior to the pandemic. Something both federal and local assistance is struggling to do is make sure the emergency funds are getting to those who need help most. This is challenging because they are weighing the need to disperse the resources quickly, but that is often at the expense of equity. So in the short-term, I would work to make sure that housing and financial assistance are distributed so that more resources end up in the hands of Portland’s BIPOC communities. The way the emergency funds from the Federal government were disbursed was through big banks and financial institutions, which have done a poor job of serving black and indigenous populations—we must do more to ensure that BIPOC-owned local businesses are getting matched to the emergency resources they need. We also need rent and mortgage freezes to help keep people housed and help keep local businesses afloat.

In terms of housing overall, this crisis should be used to treat actually housing people as the emergency it already was. This means using emergency funds and existing funding to create villages with tiny houses or similar structures for those currently living on the streets, where the City and County can provide sanitation, trash, laundry, mental and physical health services, and other resources. These need to be on public and private lands throughout Portland. The city government should no longer allow it’s fear of liability to prevent it from housing people immediately.

Longer term, we need to bring supportive housing online as soon as possible for those struggling with chronic drug addiction or mental health conditions.

At the end of the day, the City must incentivize and streamline the permitting process for multiplex housing units now made legal by the Residential Infill Project to build affordable and market-rate housing across the city to address the inadequate amount of housing stock in the Portland metro region. We must also invest in robust first-time homebuyer programs that are particularly geared toward Portland’s BIPOC communities by partnering with existing culturally specific organizations to match individuals to public resources and training/support to become successful home owners.
Lastly, longer term, I support the creation of a municipal bank. A municipal bank, often referred to as a public bank, would help ensure that historically underbanked communities are better served, and will make sure that all profits made are reinvested in the local community for the public good. It would also give municipalities an alternative to the big corporate banks like Wells Fargo and US Bank to get funding for big public projects. Instead of bleeding millions of dollars in fees and interest to Wall Street, municipalities could turn to the public bank for low-interest funding, which will reduce the costs of projects and will also allow the bank’s profits from those loans to be reinvested in the local community. Keeping money local is a huge step toward making Portland a more resilient city, and a public bank would also help free up financial resources for historically underbanked communities and businesses. I worked on legislation in the 2019 session that would have created a clearer path for cities in Oregon to create public banks, and I hope to see that bill pass in the next full session to help pave the way for a public bank in Portland.

Any indigenous family struggling to pay rent or buy food should be provided with timely assistance and rent forgiveness, not with a visit from Child Services.

I would again strongly encourage stronger investment in public-private partnerships with groups like NAYA to ensure that resources are making it to indigenous people in Portland in a culturally sensitive manner. I am also deeply concerned about the increase in domestic violence due to the shelter in place orders; we need to make sure that during this crisis, and as we start to transition into recovery, that there are culturally sensitive case workers and assistance provided to indigenous women struggling with domestic violence. We need to make sure there is funding for hotel vouchers and other safe living quarters for women who are able to seek those resources despite their incredibly dangerous home environments.

Ultimately, the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the deep and inexcusable inequalities and injustices that are baked into our systems. The emergency measures we take to help the most vulnerable among us during this crisis are measures that should continue well beyond it. It should never have been acceptable in the first place that thousands of people are living on the streets of our city, or that thousands of children go to bed hungry every night and uncertain of where they will lay their head down the next night. It’s unacceptable that anyone should have to choose between paying rent or having enough food or medicine. As we invest in supporting those who are impacted the most by this economic downturn created by the pandemic, we must use this as an opportunity to invest more equitably and justly in our communities, and we must continue to operate with those new priorities as we build a new, post COVID-19 Portland.
I want to thank NAYA for the opportunity to participate in this questionnaire process. I am grateful for all that you do and have done for the indigenous people of this area, and I sincerely hope to partner with you to make Portland a more just and equitable city.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Diana Gutman

- Veteran
- Sexual violence victim's advocate
City Council Seat 2 Candidate  
Diana Gutman

Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

I want to serve the City of Portland. I have been attending the Portland City Council meetings since June, 2018. The first time I signed up to give public testimony in front of the Council was on 9/26/2018 regarding agenda item 1014 for the charitable funds campaign. Since then, I have signed up to give testimony on numerous agenda items to express my support or concerns based off of the presentations being given. I have learned so much over the years since attending the Council meetings. In 2018 I proposed HB3117 for the 2019 legislative session. HB3117 helps Survivors of violence and abuse who are trying to maintain their protection order in the state of Oregon. I had this bill declared as an emergency because for the Survivor it will always be an emergency. HB3117 was signed into effect on May 22, 2019. This bill is for Survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and for people with disabilities who are being abused. Over the last year I have been working hard here in the City of Portland; working with community partners and Oregon state legislators on establishing ways to help the residents and constituents of Oregon and to keep them safe! I have put a lot of thought into the steps that we can take here in the City of Portland. My approach to addressing complex situations is through active engagement and open dialogue with our community. Seeing the Council’s advocacy and action taken on behalf of our community is why I am running for Portland City Commissioner position no.2. As a human rights activist, a victims advocate and your prospective Commissioner I will continue to work with community partners and legislators to advocate for inclusive policies and legislation to serve our community. I want to be a supportive voice on the council and work with the community in addressing the needs that we as a city are facing.
Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I identify as an Indigenous woman, but I grew up not knowing much about my Native heritage. For generations my family experienced racial discrimination and because of this trauma my father was taught to suppress and deny his Native heritage by my grandfather who learned this from his father (my great-grandfather). The only time I "learned" about Native history was from my public school textbook. I wondered why I couldn't learn about my heritage from my family. As an independent adult I started to educate myself on my Native heritage and learned about the trauma my ancestors experienced. It was then that I understood why my family was taught to suppress their Native heritage. Hurt people, hurt people and my family has been hurting for generations. I am proud of my Native heritage. In 2019 I attended the public hearing in Salem Oregon and gave public testimony to express my support for HB2625A (this bill was passed on May 6th, 2019). This legislation helps unify the Oregon state police and our Indigenous community by providing funding to support the investigations for Murdered Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. This subject is very near and dear to my heart! As a member of the Portland City Council I will continue to advocate for our Native communities.

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

This is more than a one note answer. The proven bias toward minorities and people of color is a troubling trend. I believe that it is time for us to address our racist history. I support the Tribal Sovereignty proposal and the Anti Blackness proposal from the 2020 Legislative Action Plan. We must advocate for members in our community who are being subjected to discrimination and racial profiling.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Diana Gutman

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

I was homeless for two years due to displacement, I had less than 30 days to move out of my home because the property was sold. During my time of being a homeless Veteran, it was very difficult. I was forced to sleep in my car, and when given the opportunity, stayed with those who opened their home up to me; it was not always safe. I will always support anti-displacement policies and affordable housing. I support Cully’s anti-displacement program to prevent the displacement of low-income residents and people of color from the Cully neighborhood. I believe that the Residential Infill Project can have a positive impact in our community and the City of Portland. As the city works with the community to address this issue it’s crucial for the city to review the recommendations from the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission and Portland Neighbors Welcome to find a way to implement these recommendations. They are influenced by a broad coalition of groups. This is what community is all about, people coming together from diverse walks of life to find ways to advocate for our community and share their firsthand experience. It is this experience that we as a city must lean on in order to address these pressing issues. Everyone should have access to safe, secure, inclusive shelter. We as a city and community need to help the people who are in need of stability.

What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

We have outdated racist policies that have been plaguing our city for over the last 20 years that we as a city have never addressed as a whole. Combating our homeless crisis requires the advocacy from the Council. Working with community partners and landlords to create housing programs for our vulnerable communities in addition to working at the state level with legislators on establishing concrete solutions. Homelessness is an immediate threat to the individual’s wellbeing. I support a citywide moratorium on evictions during the three coldest months of the year, as Seattle recently adopted. Because of the coronavirus pandemic we have learned that the standards we have lived under were unnecessary and made living in society more brittle and unequal. This is an unprecedented opportunity to not just hit the pause button and temporarily ease the pain, but to permanently change the standard so that people aren’t so vulnerable to begin with. As we set up provisions and policies to help our communities it’s crucial to think of the long term impacts of these policies that we set in place.
What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

By making housing policies inclusive we can ensure that housing is accessible to everyone that calls Portland home. A rent assistance program is a quick and proven way to stabilize families straining under the weight of housing costs. Missing a rent payment can lead to eviction and even homelessness. Rent assistance is an investment in Portlanders with a big payoff. Establishing a statewide rent assistance program would help ensure everyone has a safe and stable place to live and improve the economic security of families and their well-being. Everyone in Portland needs a place to call home. I will always advocate for inclusive housing policies that will benefit everyone.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city's previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

Without dignifying certain problem groups by acknowledging their existence, I would push to change how their rallies are treated. I think the optics of our police and government seemingly protecting the hate groups over the groups advocating for a healthy and diverse community is disturbing. Our approach needs to be adjusted.

It's no secret that Portland was built off of colonial violence and racism. My ancestors originally inhabited and took care of these lands before the City of Portland had its name, the host peoples of these lands are the Chinook, the Kalapuya, the Clackamas and the Tlatskanai. The City of Portland, Oregon was issued a territorial charter in 1851, incorporating 2.1 square miles of land. In 1913 The Natives Land Act was the first major piece of segregation legislation passed by the Union Parliament. (It was replaced in 1991.) The act decreed that whites were not allowed to buy land from Natives and vice versa.
While the commission system flourished in United States cities during the progressive reforms of the early 20th century, it has been replaced in most major cities for more favorable systems of government. Portland is the last city with a population greater than 100,000 to use this format and has not changed it since it was first approved by voters in May of 1913, the same year the Natives Land Act was passed. In order to heal from trauma and move forward, we must first acknowledge our city's failings and take action in our government to heal our community. As an Indigenous woman and your prospective Commissioner I will push to amend outdated racist policies and implement new inclusive policies that will enrich our communities and allow our city to thrive.

As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) I see the two as related issues. I support the Basic Needs proposal in the 2020 Multnomah county legislative action plan. If approved this proposal will help combat the housing crisis that we are experiencing by building affordable housing for people and families with zero to moderate income. While affordable housing is a crucial component to addressing the housing crisis, I believe that it is vital to designate transitional housing for specific transitional needs. Whether you’re from the homeless community or a Survivor of abuse trying to flee an abusive situation. Safe housing is a human right! I believe that if we were to come up with programs to further help our community partners and landlords; we could bridge that gap and identify ways that we can actually protect those in need and serve our community. Public safety is a community effort.
Additionally, I consider our land as part of our vulnerable community. I believe that the condition of our land and wildlife is a direct reflection of the human condition. Advocating for our land and wildlife is our responsibility as stewards of these lands. I support the Natural Resources proposals in the 2020 Multnomah county legislative action plan. The Natural Resources proposal aims to reduce Oregon’s greenhouse gas emission to net zero by 2050. I believe that we can achieve this by working together. I want to work with our community partners. I want to work with our Indigenous communities, and I want to come up with a way to really help heal our land, because it’s sick. I am running for Portland City Commissioner position no.2 because I want to be a supportive voice on the council and work with our community in addressing the needs that we as a city are facing.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Tera Hurst

- Executive Director of Renew Oregon
- NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon Board Member
- Read more at: [Tera Hurst for Portland](#)
City Council Seat 2 Candidate

Tera Hurst

Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

I have the leadership, experience, and heart that Portland needs to tackle the challenges facing our city. My personal experience recovering from addiction and alcoholism, being a single-mom, and my professional career. I have worked alongside Mayor Hales in the city budget office creating and implementing city budgets, and passed critical policies that help Portlanders. I have extensive management and coalition building experience and the relationships needed in all levels of government to get real results for our community. I know how to navigate city hall to get things done.

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I have a long track record of working with and centering Native communities. While I was Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Charlie Hales, I worked closely with tribal leaders in the city whom I learned so much from while we worked together to establish a Tribal Liaison position for the City of Portland. This was a critical step in our City’s history. For the first time, we finally recognized Tribal sovereignty and the need for early consultation with Tribal governments on policies impacting the urban tribes in Portland as well as our Federally recognized tribes. I am extremely proud of this work and that the position is now a critical and integral part of the city of Portland.

Through my work as Executive Director of Renew Oregon, I invited Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians to join our Steering Committee and their participation in policy development helped center our bill on tribal sovereignty. Through our work together we were able to ensure that the clean energy jobs bill included explicit language acknowledging Tribal sovereignty and included a dedicated fund for tribes. I fought to ensure that tribes were at the table and centered in all discussions. I have learned so much from these experiences and will continue to center our tribes in the work I do as Portland City Commissioner.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate

Tera Hurst

I am one of the founding board members of Oregon Recovers. Substance abuse disorder disproportionately impacts Native Americans, especially youth. We must invest in culturally specific support for families and for people when they are ready to get help. For many, it starts with access to medical detox but that’s not enough. The support must continue for years to achieve long-term recovery. As someone who has relied on those services and tried to connect my family and loved ones I know how critical this is and how devastating it can be when they aren’t there, that is why access to support is a top priority for me.

I am proud to have the endorsements of key Tribal leaders for Portland City Council Position 2: Se ah dom Edmo, Executive Director of Mackenzie River Gathering, Don Sampson, Former Tribal Chairman and Executive Director of the Umatilla Tribe and Paul Lumley, Executive Director of Native American Youth and Family Center.

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

First, I don’t need to tell you that the needs of underserved minority groups in Portland are not being prioritized in our Commission structure of City government currently, and do not equitably represent communities of color in the City of Portland. I look forward to the upcoming charter review process and hope that we can make the change necessary for a much more representative form of government.

Secondly, there is an opportunity to make our government more accessible to communities of color throughout Portland. We need to make City Hall a safer and more approachable place for Portlanders to come to meetings and be on committees that impact how policy is developed. This means changing a lot of the ways City Hall currently operates, and how city meetings are structured, the times they are held at, and who is welcomed to the many tables City Hall builds to make critical decisions about what we need in Portland. I would work closely with community organizations to do specific outreach about what changes are needed in City Hall to help more communities of color in Portland feel welcome, so that we can advance racial equity within every decision the City of Portland makes about housing, transportation, etc. I also think that City Commissioners need to take a strong stance against the white supremacist hate groups that infiltrate Portland, regularly. It needs to be direct, and clear that people who hold overtly white supremacist beliefs are not welcome anywhere in Portland, and should not be protected by any of our City resources. Lastly, I know that I have a lot to unlearn myself, and I am committed to continuing to unpack my own internalized white supremacy so that I can better serve this City.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Tera Hurst

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

Strengthening our anti-displacement policies is a critical thing we must do to address our housing crisis, and ensure that families aren’t pushed out of the City. We know that displacement disproportionately impacts communities of color, and we need to do everything we can as a city government to make sure people can stay in their homes, and stay housed. This includes, certainly, pathways to homeownership, particularly for communities of color, which is an important way to build generational wealth in communities that have experienced redlining and systemic racism.

What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

We can’t normalize people sleeping on the street. It’s shameful. I support the metro bond to provide life saving treatment for those struggling with addiction. The same I had access to when I was ready to get clean and sober 23 years ago. To address the needs of the chronically homeless we need permanent, supportive housing. As a city commissioner, I will make this a priority and I have the tenacity to keep on it. When I was Chief of Staff to the mayor, I fought really hard to set up the Kenton Women’s village, and I’m extremely proud of that. It is a model of public-private partnership where women have a safe place to sleep while connected to a caseworker to help connect them to services and ultimately permanent housing. We can replicate this success across the city. I’m committed to getting this underway immediately if elected. Next, I would expand the Joint City-County Office on Homelessness, which we formed when I was in leadership in the Mayor’s office. It’s done good work and so we need to double down on that. It has expanded our shelter capacity, it’s doubled the number of people served. Homelessness can be solved. It will take all levels of government and a concerted effort. Someday we can live in a city where if someone is homeless it is a one time event that ends quickly.
It is critical to work with and support culturally specific organizations like NAYA who know the needs of your community better than anyone. That’s where the solutions are my role is to help fund them. Native Americans are disproportionately represented in our houseless population and I am certain we don't have the full story. It is critical that we trust frontline communities have the solutions they need to solve the most pressing issues, it is my role as city commissioner to support those plans and help move them forward.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city’s previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

We need to hold our police accountable and keep hate speech out of our public discourse. Oregon has a deep history of white nationalism. The only way we can begin to do justice to the communities most impacted by historic racism and white nationalism is to recognize it as the threat that it is. There is a reason why white nationalists target our communities and travel from all over the country to rally in Portland. It is because they recognize that we are making important progress on rectifying the historic wrongs in our culture. I think that we need to continue to stand up to white supremacism and make it clear that white supremacism has no place in our city.
As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) Housing is a human right. I think we need to strategically use the city’s rainy day fund to plug gaps in federal and state funding for housing assistance. I will prioritize using funding to help people who are on the cusp of houselessness to stay in their homes. I think city leadership needs to actively reach out to urban tribes to bring them into the conversation around housing and financial assistance so that we can make choices that do right by them.

(b) We know that in times of crisis it is our vulnerable communities who get left behind. I think that during this recovery effort we need to be actively reaching out to vulnerable communities to make sure that they have a seat at the table during the budgeting and programming processes. It is my moral conviction that we do right by vulnerable communities, especially considering that they are disproportionately frontline workers and others who are keeping our society afloat during this crisis.

Other information you would like to share:

I am running as a person in recovery. This is an important and critical perspective that we need to have as we make funding decisions when it comes to preventative measures for houselessness. When I needed to get my son’s dad into housing after drug treatment there was a 6 month waiting period for sober housing. Long-term recovery is more achievable when there is supportive and stable housing. I have a unique voice as a public official and can help us move this critical conversation forward.
City Council Seat 2 Candidate
Dan Ryan

- Former CEO of All Hands Raised (formerly Portland Schools Foundation)
- Former Portland Public School Board Member
- Read more at: Friends of Dan Ryan for Portland - Politician, County Commissioner
City Council Seat 2 Candidate Dan Ryan

Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

I am a homegrown leader ready to take my life experience of getting results for people harmed by dominant culture and power to City Hall. In four years, I want people to be able to say this about me:

Through my leadership I want to be known for leveraging Portland out of the Covid-19 crisis and lead the charge to remove commissioners from the day-day operations of city bureaus and bring the entire group of commissioners together to focus on the top priorities for our city’s residents: housing, homelessness and transportation. In addition, Dan I have the skill sets to consolidate and merge overlapping city and county services that have confused many for decades. I know our government services are much better equipped to respond effectively when we face another crisis.

Portland government isn’t working. It wasn’t working before the pandemic and it most certainly will be worse as we recover. I am the only leading contender who comes with long-term tested leadership in the non-profit sector where advocating and holding the status quo accountable is the norm. I believe in inclusion, not check the box engagement, and I have proven this in my leadership at All Hands Raised and as chair of Portland Public School Board. I am a fierce ally for communities of color and others government has failed. Our leadership speaks of lofty proclamations, but are weak on accountability and accomplishment.

An example of how I build bridges between diverse stakeholders to get results: Picture a room of leaders talking about where Portland’s high school graduates go after high school. Across the country, with pressure from a major national funder, we are told to focus on college. That wasn’t right for Portland. So, I set a table that included leaders in the trades and manufacturing with leaders in higher education. We had a lot of initial tension and conflict to land on the wise decision that our youth should have improved access to both trades and college. I lost the grant from that national funder. But in the long-term, others across the country followed our lead and began to focus on career and college.

It’s time for a leader who will include ALL people, not just those with vested interests. It’s time for a leader who will ensure we design our work and measure our results to actually change the outcomes for the diverse communities of this city. Fundamental to that is disaggregating our data by race, gender, income, and immigrant status. When you measure the city’s efforts by targeted populations, release the information for transparency, and reset action to improve based on metrics, then you are actually serious about success and equity.

I have bold community goals. I lift up and support leadership from the diversity of our communities. I build a shared model of responsibility and accountability. I believe equity is a verb and I am frustrated with it being a proclamation for most. The City of Portland is a poorly run $5.6B enterprise and I am ready to make it a City that works for everyone.
Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I have a long history of solidarity with the Native American community including members of my own family who are of the Siletz Tribe. My cousins, niece and in-laws were quick and responsive when I was ignorant, tone deaf and just plain wrong with my white privileged point of view. Most of my knowledge about Native American history is based on teachings from my Native American family and friends since my formal education was biased and inaccurate. I have remained open to all racial injustices and question the source of my dominant culture teachings in our public schools and this was shaped in my childhood. Again, I was fortunate to have access to these family members to gain deeper understanding. This ally-ship with the Native American community continued when I was elected to the PPS Board in 2005. I questioned the confusing data from the district that ultimately undercounted your population. That frustration served me well as the CEO of All Hands Raised. I insisted that we insert and explanation of this undercounting, and as my influence grew I would share this data injustice to others. In the very first chapter explaining our cutting edge racial equity work, I asked to include one page on the topic of undercounting. Many powerful people surrounding me wanted the section cut because it was complex and different than the rest of the report. I calmly used my CEO privilege to sustain that section. Many Native Americans across the national Cradle to Career network reached out to acknowledge their appreciation for this amplification in the report.

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

I place an equity lens on all the work that I do. I begin with data. I seek the baseline data, broken down by race, and then track results over a period of time. If an organization is not measuring racial population data, and being transparent about the outcomes, they are not doing racial equity work. I am proud of leading an effort that finally made progress with High School graduation rates. After decades of proclamations with ceremonial policies that lacked transparent implementation and basic accountability, I built a system where that could not longer hide. The work is messy and challenging. We must be persistent with a steady, methodical commitment to accelerating equity. After six years with a community wide focus from education, trades, nonprofits, communities of Faith, and business we built momentum. All students improved their High School graduation rates by 11.5 % and for the first time accelerating African American and Latinx students by 15.5 %. Placing extra attention and support on our priority populations over a period of time allowed us to experience better results. I have explained the difference between equality and equity for years and it was satisfying to see that outcomes can accelerate if our priority populations receive extra support. I am grateful some of my opponents from environment and housing sectors have learned the language, now they will need to learn how to operationalize equity. Move from lofty popular rhetoric to steady, methodical and courageous action.
What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

I don’t want Portland to be another San Francisco, with the very rich and the very poor and nothing in-between and COVID-19 will further disparities if we don’t take action.

Portland doesn’t have enough affordable housing – and that’s a failure of our current political leaders. Housing is yet another issue where our citizens have had broken promise after broken promise. We vote for affordable housing, yet the units don’t appear fast enough. Not enough units have been built for over two decades and the math of supply and demand has triggered escalating cost and now we must embrace demand with affordability and access.

I would prioritize who can’t be displaced with two priority groups putting an equity lens on both groups 1) Elders who have been in their neighborhood for years, allow them to age in place. 2) Families with school aged children. Housing mobility for children and youth in our school system is a top factor in why those in poverty fail to achieve. Students who face poverty at home need more structure, consistency and routine from their teachers in their neighborhood school.

PROTECTIONS: using an equity lens provide protections and financial support to help the elders who deserve to age in place after giving so much to our community, and parents with children who need stability for their children to have a successful education experience.

What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

I break them into two strategic focused work; Affordable housing for our working class residents who are spending too much of their income on housing, and those who have multiple diagnosis and are harming themselves and others with their behaviors. Both are personal. I spent much of my 20’s in New York as a member of the creative class and was barely able to pay rent in my before gentrified apartment. The housing stock was not suited for working class people and the homeless crisis was escalating. In Portland, we have failed to provide adequate affordable housing for years. Even when the state made exclusionary housing legal, our City has failed to pass policy that is complementary to add mixed used affordable housing in walkable neighborhoods near frequently running transit. When the purity of policy is not providing the intended outcomes because willing developers can’t receive a loan to dig dirt and build, then admit the mistake and recast a new policy to get the hard working residents the housing they need. The homeless person who suffers from multiple diagnosis of untreated mental health and addictions is personal to me, as my brother Tim passed away 6 years ago on the streets. He was not willing to be housed by anyone my family, he wanted to use drugs and needed intensive services in one setting. As such, it is puzzling to watch Portland elected officials reject an opportunity to repurpose a facility that we already built that remained empty for these complex wrap around services.
The community has stepped up and filled the void of common sense and has now secured financing and support to make WAPATO a provider of the multi layered services that someone like my brother required. Finally we need a more dynamic table. Portland has a tendency to have tables with only those receiving the contracts from Government and those with elected authority. I call this a, “kiss the ring” meeting. Nothing creative happens when everyone is playing nice. You need creative tension. Invite the business person who has compassion for those suffering from a variety of complex issues and yet, they themselves are suffering as they spend an increasing amount of their slim profits on cleaning up a mess each night. Or the arts leader who has lost revenue due to season subscribers dropping out due to feeling unsafe after several altercations with those suffering over the past few years. They are part of the enterprises that bring in revenue for our services, we need them. They are denied access to helping build a community solution. As a bridge builder I will include the creative tension so we fully activate to build more robust, creative and humane solutions for our residents. I will partner with groups like NAYA to listen to the adaptable solutions that are helpful to your community. One size does not fit all. Influencers from all culturally specific communities will be at the new and improved table. Many business owners, whom I mentioned above are people of color and will offer keen insight.

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections?
How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

I support the work that is quite prominent, and progressive in Portland for tenant rights from organizations like that from Portland Tenants United.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city’s previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

The election of the current president has unleashed the ills of white supremacy, they seem to have all come out of the closet. Portland can never tolerate hate speech. We must work with police to ensure they are keeping order and protecting us from these hate groups using our city as a backdrop for their agenda. I think we were not prepared for the aggressive behavior of groups such as the Proud Boys and we spent too much time comparing them with ANTIFA. The efforts by the Mayor and the Police finally seemed to be equipped to manage the violence and I hope that playbook continues to be refined to stop the warfare on our streets. Once again, our downtown small business suffered with loss of revenue and mounting expenses for security and damage repair.
As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

(a) Please see my response above on displacement.

(b) The aftermath is probably a couple years away. As a person who has had to manage the complexity of science most of my life, I will first adhere to public health guidelines as we experience shared sacrifice to survive this pandemic. Currency will be much lower as we adapt to a slowed down flow, yet we must keep the flow going. Most in the private sector of our highly proportional small business economy already fell of the economic cliff and soon this will hit those resourced by government. Now is the time to accept this shared experience and recognize that nothing will be the same.

This crisis is an opportunity to rebuild the city we deserve to be: one that is finally equitable and just. With a commitment to shared reliance we must keep people in shelter, keep people safe, keep people fed and yes, keep people working, even with lower levels of revenue and yes, expenses. We don’t need to burden people with loans, we need a radical acceptance that the financial curve is lower than before. We need to offer this relief to residents and to leases of businesses. The private sector provides the vast majority of revenue to our services to those in need and this crisis can remind people of that relationship.

We are moving into a new model for our market and economy. The extremes at the top and the bottom reached a point of no return decades ago. This is an opportunity to reset our economy and Portland’s shared creativity and prosperity can lead the Nation. We have plenty of baseline information on the plight of our vulnerable communities based on race and class, we must be transparent to track this data and make it a goal to eliminate those extremes and walk the talk of being a fair and equitable.
City Council Seat 4 Candidate
Mingus Mapps

- Community organizer
- Former employee in the City of Portland’s Office of Community and Civic Life
- Read more at: Mingus Mapps for Portland City Council
Why are you running for this position? What sets you apart from other candidates running for this position?

I’m running for City Council because I love Portland, and I am concerned about the direction our City is heading in. Homelessness is out of control. Housing costs are too high. Too often politics in City Hall are toxic and disconnected from the world Portlanders actually live in. The race to fill Position 4 on City Council comes down to a clear choice. The candidates in the race represent the past, the status quo, and the future.

I am the future focused candidate in this race. I am a transparent, evidence-based policy maker. I am a good listener and an eager learner. I support neighborhoods, community policing, electing members of City Council through neighborhood based electoral districts, and directing City Council to hire a city manager to coordinate city programs and spending.

When I am on City Council, my top priorities will include: Competently leading Portland’s recovery from the Covid crisis, reducing homelessness, increasing the supply of affordable housing, changing the way we elect members of city council - it is time we choose our city council representatives through neighborhood based districts, instead of at large elections and hire a city manager to coordinate city services across bureaus.

Do you have any history working with Native communities and/or knowledge of Native American history and issues surrounding the modern Native experience? Please explain.

I have a long history of working with Portland’s native communities. I have served on the board of directors for Jim Pepper Native Arts Council. I have been a member of an informal brain trust, which has been working for years to bring a fish market operated by Native Americans to East Portland. And in my role of Executive Director of Historic Parkrose Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative had the opportunity to partner with NAYA on many community development projects.

I am also deeply aware of the Native American history. I have a PhD in Government and have spent much of my career teaching and researching issues related to race, ethnicity, identity and American politics. I have studied the Native American experience. I know that the Federal Government has broken more than 500 treaties with native peoples. The social and economic consequences of these breaches of faith have been devastating and long lasting. Poverty rates among Native Portlanders are triple the rates seen among their white neighbors. Native American unemployment rates are 70% higher than Whites. The average Native American household cannot afford to rent in any neighborhood in Portland. And half of Portland’s Native American kids did not graduate from high school in four years.
City Council Seat 4 Candidate

Mingus Mapps

If elected, what specific actions do you plan to take to prioritize the needs of communities of color and historically underserved minority groups in Portland?

I am deeply committed to fighting for economic, gender and racial justice. That commitment comes from my experience as a black man, who has lived much of his life in Portland. I know Oregon’s troubling history of discrimination and unsteady march toward social justice. Oregon repealed the last of its black exclusion laws fewer than 100 years ago. And today, I am on the verge of becoming only the third black man to be elected to Portland’s City Council. Those milestones are both a sign of both how far we come, and how slow our progress has been.

When I am on City Council, I will be a champion of equity and inclusion. I will challenge the City to think meaningfully about what equity and inclusion mean. I will hold my Bureaus accountable for developing and implementing meaningful equity plans. I expect my Bureaus and all of City Government to hire women, people of color, indigenous folk, people from the LGBTQ+ community, the differently abled, and other historically marginalized groups. I will hold government accountable for people like that to positions of real power. I will measure our progress toward equity goals by demanding that the City tracks things like service delivery to historically marginalized groups. And I will closely follow the City’s practices on hiring, promoting, and disciplining employees from marginalized groups.

What steps would you take to support communities of color in resisting displacement?

Because of high housing costs and low wages, the average Native American household is at risk of displacement in every one of Portland’s 95 neighborhoods. This is unacceptable and unfair. That’s why I have developed a package of proposals to halt displacement of economically challenged Portlanders. When I am on City Council, I will push for the following displacement policies:

- Dramatically increase funding for temporary rental assistance.
- Preserve affordable housing in neighborhoods undergoing rapid economic development.
- Build enough affordable housing to stabilize housing costs in neighborhoods undergoing rapid economic development.
- Demand that the Residential Infill Project be halted until an anti-displacement plan is added to the project.
- Expand community non-profit home repair and rehabilitation assistance programs to cover a greater number of households.
- Property tax exemption for any regulated affordable units built on-site, for the duration of the affordability restriction.
- Require advance 90-day written notice to a tenant if the owner plans to sell, demolish, or redevelop their home.
What is your plan to address Portland’s housing and homelessness crisis? How do you plan to address the specific needs of the Native community within this crisis?

Portland must do better at preventing and ending homelessness. The most efficient way to reduce homelessness is to prevent people from losing their housing in the first place. In addition, we must help get the mentally ill and those in need of medical care off the streets and the help they need. We cannot police our way out of the homelessness. Instead, we need smarter and more humane solutions that address the myriad of challenges to our housing crisis.

Portland also needs more affordable housing. Multnomah County has a shortfall of 29,000 units of affordable housing. Several factors are behind this deficit. In recent decades, Portland’s population has grown dramatically, driving up the demand for housing. Wages for Portland’s working families have not kept up with rising housing costs. Despite enacting a housing emergency, Portland city government has done little to make it more affordable to build in Portland, protect renter’s rights and ensure the current housing stock meets the needs of the general and underserved populations.

Here are some of the steps I will take to solve Portland’s affordable housing crisis:

- Create policies that incentivize the building more affordable housing, including fee reduction, quicker inspections, and streamlining the building permit processes.
- Preserve our existing stock of affordable housing.
- Protect the rights of renters.
- Build more densely, especially along commercial corridors with good access to public transit.
- Expand partnerships with community development corporations to build more low-cost housing for individuals and families.
- Find ways to incentivize local builders who have a long-term interest in seeing Portland grow and thrive for all.

Finally, displacement is a major problem in Portland’s Native American community. The average Native American household, which has an annual income of $29,859 and can afford about $746 in monthly housing payments. That means there are no neighborhoods in Portland that have affordable one- or two-bedroom apartments for a typical Native American household. The lack of affordable housing is one of the reasons Native Americans are over represented among Portland’s homeless population.
That's why when I am on City Council, I will fight to bring more affordable housing for Native Americans to Portland. I am excited to partner with NAYA to build more projects like Kah San Chako Haws, Generations Project, and Nesika Illahee. I love these projects because they meet an urgent public need and embrace innovation in both financing and service delivery.

What is your plan to ensure effective tenant protections? How do you plan to ensure the security of low-income tenants?

With the economy in a free fall, strong tenant protections are more important than ever. When I am on City Council, here are some of the policies I will push to help protect tenants:

- Ban residential evictions during the COVID crisis
- Dramatically increase the amount of funding the City of Portland provides for emergency rental assistance.
- Require 90-day written notice to a tenant if the owner plans to sell, demolish, or redevelop their home.
- Preserve affordable housing in neighborhoods undergoing rapid economic development.
- Expand partnerships with community development corporations to build more low-cost housing for individuals and families
- Create policies that incentivize the building more affordable housing, including fee reduction, quicker inspections, and streamlining the building permit
- Property tax exemption for any regulated affordable units built on-site, for the duration of the affordability restriction
- Build enough affordable housing to stabilize housing costs in neighborhoods undergoing rapid economic development.
- Make anti-displacement a priority in setting policy.
- Pay attention to the quality of life issues that deter Portlanders from spending time and money in distressed neighborhoods.
City Council Seat 4 Candidate  

Mingus Mapps

As you know, many Portlanders are concerned about the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of COVID-19, how will you prioritize (a) Housing and financial assistance and (b) Protection of vulnerable communities?

The Covid Crisis not a “normal recession.” We are at the beginning of what is likely to be once in a century economic collapse. These extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. Portland’s working families need federal relief and assistance from the federal government. No renter should be evicted during this time of turmoil. No homeowner should lose their home to foreclosure. And city, state and federal authorities should sponsor grant and loan programs, which will enable small businesses to survive this crisis. And in the midst of an economic and public health crisis like this, the City’s core mission must focus on public safety and public services. The City also needs to take a leadership role in helping to navigate the new challenges posed by the pandemic.

How do you plan to address the threat of white nationalism in Portland? What is your perspective on the city’s previous responses to the presence of white nationalism in our city?

My perspective on the City’s response to racism is shaped by my experience as a black man who has lived much of his life in Portland. When I am elected to Portland City Council, I will be only the third black man to serve in that capacity. I am enough of an local historian to remember than less than 100 years ago, Oregon repealed that last of its Black Exclusion laws, which forbid African Americans for being in the state of Oregon. In 1988, I was a student/journalist in Portland and covered the murder of Mulugeta Serwa. Decades later, I am the African American dad of two young brown boys, who keep my kids at home on summer weekends because white nationalists are marching the streets of Portland. I am proud of Portland for the progress we have made, but I also have skin in this game, and know we have more work to do. I am disappointed with too many of the City’s responses to racist incidents. I recognize and respect free speech rights. However, in recent years, the City of Portland has been inexplicably tolerant of violence during protests. When I am on City Council, I will demand that the Police Department protect free speech rights and enforce laws surrounding hate crimes, violence, and property damage. I will hold the District attorney’s office accountable for prosecuting those arrests. And I will mobilize political and community leaders to vocally and visible denounce hate.
And there is a wind rage of new needs which the City much help satisfy during the post COVID era. This includes:

- Develop an infrastructure and systems for
  - COVID Testing
  - Contract tracing
  - Quarantining those with COVID
  - Serving the homeless during a pandemic
  - Protecting medically vulnerable Portlanders
  - Making sure every hpo
  - Increased gun violence
  - Stabilize our local health care system

Other information you would like to share:

It is worth recognizing that NAYA and I are at least superficially on different sides of the Code Change debate. NAYA supports changing the Code. I disagree. Or more accurately, I suspect that NAYA and I largely agree on what Portland needs from Code Change. The problem here are politicians, who try to force us into false choices. I see no conflict of interests between NAYA and neighborhood associations. In fact, when I am on City Council, I will make sure NAYA is at the table when policy is getting made, and I will do my best to promote collaborations among community development groups.
Multnomah County Ballot Measures

The following slides discuss the ballot measures that will be found on the Multnomah County ballot, although some measures involve multiple counties. We made this decision based on our team’s capacity. If you live outside of Multnomah County and have questions about your ballot feel free to reach out.

Questions and feedback can be directed to: Advocacy@nayapdx.org.
Measure 26-210
Supports Homeless Services Through Higher Earners’ Tax, Business Profits Tax

- **Jurisdiction**
  - Metro Region – Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties

- **Summary**
  - Provide funding for supportive housing services to reduce homelessness
  - Prioritizes services for people experiencing or at risk of long-term homelessness
  - $250 million to be distributed by each county with support of regional oversight committee

- **Funding Mechanism**
  - Personal income tax of 1% on households with taxable income over $200,000 or taxable income over $125,000 for individuals
  - Business profits tax of 1% with an exemption for small businesses that have gross receipts of $5 million or less per year

- **YES vote**
  - Approving the tax to provide $250 million for homeless services
  - Funding available to NAYA to expand our supportive housing services

- **NO vote**
  - No new tax
  - No new funding for homeless services

- **NAYA endorsement**
  - NAYA has endorsed this measure and recommends a YES vote on measure 26-210
Measure 26-209
Renew Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax for Street Repair, Maintenance, Safety

● Jurisdiction
  ○ City of Portland

● Summary
  ○ Renews Portland’s fuel tax that was approved by voters in 2016
  ○ Funding would continue to be put toward street repair, maintenance and safety projects

● Funding Mechanism
  ○ 10 cents per gallon fuel tax
  ○ Estimated to raise $74.5 million over 4 years
  ○ Average Portland resident would pay $5 per month

● YES vote
  ○ Continued fuel tax at the current rate
  ○ Funding to keep streets in good condition and improve safety

● NO vote
  ○ Fuel tax would end
  ○ Less funding available for street repair and safety projects

● NAYA endorsement
  ○ NAYA has not taken a position on this measure
Measure 26-208

Authorizes General Obligation Bonds for School Security and Facility Improvements

- **Jurisdiction**
  - Centennial School District No. 28jt
  - Includes parts of Multnomah and Clackamas County

- **Summary**
  - $65,000,000 in bonds for school security and facility improvements
  - District would receive $7,494,690 matching grant from the State of Oregon
  - Funding would be used for capital improvements including repairs, safety system upgrades, adding gyms, etc.

- **Funding Mechanism**
  - Payable from property taxes
  - Would not increase current tax rates

- **YES vote**
  - Funding allocated for capital projects at schools
  - District would receive grant from State of Oregon

- **NO vote**
  - Bonds would not be allocated
  - Grant funds would be allocated to another school district

- **NAYA endorsement**
  - NAYA has not taken a position on this measure