

The League of Women Voters of Portland

Voters' Guide Question Bank

2000 through 2020

(updated December 2021)



Oregon State Senators and Representatives

General election, 2020

1. Six bills concerning police reform were passed in the state legislature's June special session. Please comment on how effective you feel these reforms will be. What, if any, additional specific measures would you support in order to enhance police accountability and transparency in our state?
2. The COVID-19 crisis is putting extreme stress on the state budget and may do so for several years to come. How would you prioritize expenditures? How would you best preserve essential services?
3. What do you consider to be the most pressing issue for the 2020-21 session and what legislation would you propose and/or support to address it?

Primary election, 2020

1. Share your views on lawmakers walking out on legislative sessions. How do you suggest that lawmakers more effectively work together, especially on contentious issues?
2. Describe your one or two most pressing issues for the 2021 session. What legislation will you propose and/or support to address them?
3. Voters are concerned about the influence of money on legislative decision-making. Describe reforms, if any, that you would support.

General election 2018

1. Ninety-five percent of Oregon's liquid fuel flows through the tank farms on the Willamette River. In a large earthquake the soil beneath them may liquify. What measures will you take to protect against this disaster?
2. What should be the role of the state in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a level 85% below 1990 levels by 2050? Describe your views on the Cap and Invest bill and other approaches.
3. With the coming 2020 census, redistricting will become an urgent issue. What are your thoughts on changing to an independent commission?

Primary election, 2018

1. What steps will you take to ensure more Oregonians are qualified and hired for Oregon jobs?
2. Oregon traditionally has a budget shortfall. How will you address this challenge?
3. What do you recommend to make Oregon's infrastructure and population more resilient to seismic, flood and wildfire disasters?

General election, 2016

1. If Measure 97 does not pass, how will you address the predicted budget shortfall, especially for education and social services, including homelessness and affordable housing?
2. What are your legislative priorities for improving gun safety?

3. How can the legislature ensure there are adequate funds to address deficiencies in our transportation infrastructure?

Primary election, 2016

1. Oregon is nearly \$2.5 billion short of what the state's Quality Education Model tells us we need to adequately fund our schools. How would you address this shortfall?
2. Should the Legislature give additional tools to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to improve its ability to protect our air quality? Please explain.
3. Do you think the balance between individual and corporate taxes is appropriate? Please relate this to your vision of an ideal Oregon tax structure.

General election, 2014

1. Given the changing health care landscape, what do you see as key health care opportunities and challenges for Oregon in the next few years?
2. Of the many tax reform suggestions currently circulating, which, if any, would you support and why?
3. The State Office of Economic Analysis estimates that population in Oregon will grow 24%, to 4,249,700, by 2030. What measures should the state take to mitigate the burden this will place on our natural systems?

Primary election 2014

1. What are Oregon's next steps for increasing sustainable funding and helping schools to achieve measurable goals in Pre K-12, college and vocational education?
2. Property tax inequality among homeowners has risen dramatically in many cities and counties. What reforms would you recommend to our property tax system and to the state's tax system overall?
3. What changes are needed to successfully build state government's information infrastructure, including Cover Oregon?

General election 2012

1. Does the Oregon tax code need changes to improve revenue stability and fairness, while remaining competitive with other states in attracting business? Please explain your ideas.
2. What will you do to address water shortages in Oregon?
3. Considering the State's role in mental health services, what additional steps should the State take to coordinate, regulate, and finance mental health services?

Primary election 2012

1. In 2011 the Oregon Commission on Public Safety reported that Oregon can increase public safety at lower cost by investing in more cost-effective programs than incarceration. How do you think the State should make the most effective use of its corrections dollars?

2. The new Oregon Education Investment Board calls for annual achievement compacts with schools. Given our chronic underfunding of schools, what results do you expect from the compacts?
3. What factors will you consider in deciding the fate of the proposed Columbia River Crossing?

General election 2010

1. What ideas do you have for structural reforms to stabilize State expenses and revenues?
2. Do you support annual legislative sessions? Please explain.
3. Describe a critical issue facing your district and how you will address it.

Primary election 2010

1. What modifications to Oregon's "kicker" law would you support?
2. Can Oregon continue to afford the long sentences required for Measure 11 and other crimes, or are there more effective ways to handle convicted criminals?
3. Do you consider the privatization of institutions of higher education an acceptable alternative to adequate public funding? Explain.

General election 2008

1. What are the key elements to be addressed in health care reform in response to the Oregon Health Fund Board study?
2. How will you tie Oregon's Climate Change Initiative to economic development and employment opportunities?
3. What ideas do you have for reforming the initiative process? Should ballot measures be required to identify funding sources? Explain.

Primary election 2008

1. Changes to the federal definition of taxable income have a significant impact on Oregon tax revenues. How would you address this continuing problem?
2. What should the Oregon Legislature do to address global climate change?
3. How should Oregon coordinate, regulate, and finance adequate mental health services?

General election 2006

1. What can the legislature do to make health care affordable and accessible?
2. How can we make Oregon more attractive to businesses that want an educated and highly trained work force?
3. Many proposals have been made for improving and stabilizing Oregon's tax system. Would you comment on the need for change and how it could be done?

Primary election 2006

1. What is your top priority and how will you accomplish it?
2. We have a funding crisis affecting both human services and education. What solutions do you propose?

3. Recently, extreme partisanship has obstructed the legislative process. How will you address this problem?

General election 2004

1. How can the legislature provide stable, adequate, long-term funding for public education?
2. How would you balance private property rights with existing land use regulations?
3. Explain your top three legislative priorities.

Primary election 2004

1. Do you favor a state rainy day or reserve fund? If yes, how would you fund it? If not, why not?
2. What are your positions on Oregon's Land Use Planning Laws? Should they be strengthened or weakened?
3. What kind of budget proposals would you support to balance the 2005-07 General Fund?

General election 2002

1. A recent study shows that Oregon has the highest rate of hunger in the nation. What role should the legislature play in addressing this, especially considering the state's budget problems?
2. The state budget is out of balance. As a legislator, would you reduce spending or increase resources to meet needs? Explain your position.
3. What is your plan for developing stable, adequate, long-term funding of education in the state of Oregon? Be specific.

Primary election 2002

1. What are your ideas for adequate, stable funding for K-12 and higher education?
2. Our Oregon Constitution requires that we provide adequate funding to meet basic needs. How would you meet that requirement?
3. Last year the state refunded over \$253 million in "kicker" checks and returned several months later to make significant cuts to schools and other state services. Is it time to reconsider the policy of "kicker" refunds? Explain.

Primary election 2000

1. What would you do to facilitate bi-partisan cooperation and problem-solving in the Senate [House of Representatives]?
2. How would you convince fellow legislators that schools in Oregon are not adequately funded?
3. Would you recommend any changes to the Term Limits Law? Explain.

Metro Council President

Primary election 2018

1. How would you evaluate proposals for Urban Growth Boundary expansion?
2. Given China's new policies limiting the types of materials it will accept for recycling, what other options would you recommend for reducing the amount of solid waste going to the landfill?
3. Of Metro's current or proposed projects, which do you think are the most important and why?

Primary election 2014

1. How should Metro ensure an adequate supply of housing affordable to all income levels throughout the region?
2. Metro's primary function is planning for the region. How can Metro improve its collaboration with local jurisdictions to strengthen regional cooperation and plan implementation?
3. How should Metro respond to opposition to light rail extensions, such as concerns about cost-effectiveness and security? Are there other ways to improve our regional transportation system?

General election 2010

1. What is the most critical issue facing Metro and how will you address it?
2. What is your evaluation of Metro's implementation to date of the 2006 Natural Areas bond measure?
3. Bridges in the Metro region and owned and managed by multiple jurisdictions. Should a regional bridge authority be created and, if so, should it be administered by Metro? Please explain.

Primary election 2010

1. Does the Regional Transportation Plan adequately address peak oil and climate change? Explain.
2. How can Metro and other jurisdictions ensure that industrial lands are used as designated?
3. What distinguishes your policies from those of other candidates?

Primary election 2006

1. What steps would you recommend to enhance livability in the metropolitan region?
2. Do you support a tax on the increased value of land as it is brought inside the urban growth boundary? Do you agree it should be shared, using part for infrastructure in the expanded area, and part to pay Measure 37 claims? If not, how would you use this money?
3. How can Metro increase public understanding of its purpose and functions?

General election 2002

1. What are your qualifications for the office of Metro Council President?

2. In your opinion, which Urban Growth Boundary expansion areas best support the Metro 2040 Plan vision?
3. More time and money is spent on commuting from home to workplace. What suggestions do you have to alleviate this transportation problem?

Primary election 2002

1. How do you visualize the operation of Metro changing with implementation of the new Metro Charter Amendment, which eliminates the Director position?
2. How would you resolve the conflict between the state's requirement to maintain a twenty-year supply of land available for housing with the urban growth boundary and the proposed ballot measure 26-11 (to remove housing density requirements)?
3. How can Metro balance natural resource protection goals and the economic interests of property owners?

Metro Councilor

General election, 2020

1. What have you learned from the COVID-19 crisis that will inform your decisions and advocacy while serving on the Metro Council?
2. How will you ensure that the infrastructure promised by Metro's current transportation measure is adequately funded and supports all residents, including those most in need? If the measure fails, what should be Metro's first transportation priority?
3. If funding generated by the 2020 Metro homeless measure is less than expected, how would you recommend that Metro meet goals that the measure laid out, especially given the urgency of current need in the region?

Primary election, 2020

1. How does the proposed ballot measure to address homelessness fit into Metro's mission?
2. What can Metro do to expand opportunities for consumer recycling?
3. How does Metro's proposed transportation investment ballot measure impact its carbon reduction goals? What elements would you recommend including as the plan develops?

General election 2018

1. If the Metro affordable housing bond passes, what steps would you recommend to ensure the money is spent as intended?
2. How can Metro improve its collaboration with local jurisdictions to strengthen regional cooperation and plan implementation?
3. Based on Metro's draft 2018 Regional Transportation Plan, which projects would you prioritize to alleviate congestion and improve transportation to outlying areas?

Primary election 2018

1. How would you evaluate proposals for Urban Growth Boundary expansion?
2. Given China's new policies limiting the types of materials it will accept for recycling, what other options would you recommend for reducing the amount of solid waste going to the landfill?
3. Of Metro's current or proposed projects, which do you think are the most important and why?

Primary election 2016

1. What criteria and priorities would you use to choose among the alternative methods and facilities proposed for disposing of the Metro region's trash after 2019?
2. How do the need for family wage jobs and the evolving nature of the economy affect Metro's responsibility to identify industrial/employment lands in the region?

3. What is Metro's role in protecting housing affordability in high opportunity areas? Is there more it could do?

Primary election 2014

1. How should Metro ensure an adequate supply of housing affordable to all income levels throughout the region?
2. Metro's primary function is planning for the region. How can Metro improve its collaboration with local jurisdictions to strengthen regional cooperation and plan implementation?
3. How should Metro respond to opposition to light rail extensions, such as concerns about cost-effectiveness and security? Are there other ways to improve our regional transportation system?

Primary election 2012

1. Homelessness and housing insecurity are increasing throughout the Metro area. What role should
2. Metro play in increasing housing options for low income and homeless families and individuals?
3. How would you balance transportation spending among mass transit, cars, bikes and sidewalks?
4. How should Metro work with local communities to curb greenhouse gas emissions?

General election 2010

1. What is the most critical issue facing Metro and how will you address it?
2. What is your evaluation of Metro's implementation to date of the 2006 Natural Areas bond measure?
3. Bridges in the Metro region are owned and managed by multiple jurisdictions. Should a regional bridge authority be created and, if so, should it be administered by Metro? Please explain.

Primary election 2010

1. Does the Regional Transportation Plan adequately address peak oil and climate change? Explain.
2. How can Metro and other jurisdictions ensure that industrial lands are used as designated?
3. What is your position on the Columbia River Crossing?

Primary election 2008

1. What do you see as available funding sources for infrastructure improvements within areas recently brought in to the urban growth boundary?
2. What would be your priorities for funding the Columbia River Crossing project as compared to other transportation improvements?

3. What changes in the regional economy warrant a different look at industrial lands, and how can we accommodate these changes?

Primary election 2006

1. What steps would you recommend to enhance livability in the metropolitan region?
2. Do you support a tax on the increased value of land as it is brought inside the urban growth boundary? Do you agree it should be shared, using part for infrastructure in the expanded area, and part to pay Measure 37 claims? If not, how would you use this money?
3. How can Metro increase public understanding of its purpose and functions?

General election 2004

1. What changes are taking place in the regional economy that would warrant a different look at industrial lands?
2. Metro's primary function is planning for the region. How can Metro now assist the local jurisdictions in plan implementation processes?
3. What further steps can Metro take to ensure that jurisdictions comply with Metro's Title 7 (Affordable Housing) of the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan?

Primary election 2004

1. Metro's primary function is planning for the region. How can Metro now assist the local jurisdictions in plan implementation processes?
2. What further steps can Metro take to ensure that jurisdictions comply with Metro's Title 7 (Affordable Housing) of the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan?
3. Given the mixed messages Metro is receiving regarding the future of the regional economy and how that relates to land use, how should Metro address future industrial land needs?

General election 2002

1. What are your qualifications for the office of Metro Councilor?
2. In your opinion, which Urban Growth Boundary expansion areas best support the Metro 2040 Plan vision?
3. More time and money is spent on commuting from home to workplace. What suggestions do you have to alleviate this transportation problem?

Primary election 2002

1. How do you visualize the operation of Metro changing with implementation of the new Metro Charter Amendment, which eliminates the Director position?
2. How would you resolve the conflict between the state's requirement to maintain a twenty-year supply of land available for housing with the urban growth boundary and the proposed ballot measure 26-11 (to remove housing density requirements)?

3. How can Metro balance natural resource protection goals and the economic interests of property owners?

Primary election 2000

1. What funding sources are needed for the Metro Government?
2. What do you see as the major function of Metro?
3. Would you support a regional business income tax? If so, would it be dedicated to low income housing or dedicated to schools?

Metro Auditor

General election 2018

1. When designing an audit of a program, how would you decide on the scope of the audit and what aspects of the program to focus on?
2. What would you do if your audit recommendations are not implemented?
3. How would you determine when your investigation is sufficient to report audit findings and recommendations?
4. What are your top priorities for county functions that should be audited?
5. Why should voters choose you instead of your opponent?
6. What is your experience in management? Describe your management style.
7. What would cause you to change your audit schedule of priorities?

Primary election 2018

1. What criteria should be used in choosing programs to audit and who should be consulted?
2. What measures should the auditor take to make audits and agency responses to audits available to the public?
3. How should audits be used to improve Metro government?

Primary election 2014

1. What criteria should be used in choosing programs to audit and who should be consulted?
2. What measures should the auditor take to make audits and agency responses to audits available to the public?
3. What performance measures do you believe are appropriate in order to maintain Metro's accountability?

Primary election 2010

1. What should an effective auditor's relationship be to other Metro elected officials?
2. What criteria should be used in choosing auditees and who should be consulted?
3. What measures should the auditor take to make audit results available to the public?

Primary election 2006

1. Define the responsibilities of Metro Auditor.
2. How should audits be used to improve Metro government?
3. Do you consider Metro's current financial controls adequate and cost-effective? Explain.

Primary election 2002

1. What performance measures do you believe are appropriate for the Metro in order to maintain accountability?

2. How would you prioritize your efforts for the audit function to produce maximum improvement in local government?
3. Do you consider Metro's current financial controls adequate and cost-effective? Explain.

Oregon: Circuit Court Judge

General election 2020

1. What reforms in sentencing would you recommend?
2. What life and professional experiences do you bring to this position? How might these experiences influence your work as a judge?
3. How could the court system be assessed for unintentional racial bias? What should be done if evidence of bias is discovered?

Primary election 2020

1. Describe the particular qualities and experiences that you would bring to the Court to advance the ideal of equal justice for all.
2. A 2019 report commissioned by the Office of Public Defense Services was critical of Oregon's public defense bureaucracy. What reforms would you support to ensure all persons have equal access to legal help and to the legal system?
3. What is your philosophy about alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders?

General election 2018

1. What alternatives to incarceration do you support for nonviolent crimes?
2. Conflicts can be perceived when judicial candidates accept donations from corporations and large influential law firms. What solutions might be considered?
3. How can the courts improve fairness in bail proceedings for low income defendants?

Primary election 2018

1. What will you do to reduce racial bias in the court system?
2. What, for you, is the central goal of sentencing in criminal cases? Please explain your answer.
3. What is the area of greatest need in Oregon's justice system, and how should state government respond?

General election 2016

1. Should the courts be monitored for unintentional racial or other bias? What should be done if evidence of bias is discovered?
2. What alternatives to incarceration do you support for non-violent crimes?
3. What is the area of greatest need in Oregon's justice system, and how should state government respond?

Primary election 2016

1. Should the courts be monitored for unintentional racial bias? What should be done if evidence of bias is discovered?
2. What, for you, is the central goal of sentencing in criminal cases? Please explain your answer.

3. What is the area of greatest need in Oregon's justice system, and how should state government respond?

General election 2014

1. What is your vision for the future of Oregon's judicial system?
2. What, for you, is the central goal of sentencing in criminal cases? Please explain your answer.
3. What is the area of greatest need in Oregon's justice system, and how should state government respond?

Primary election 2014

1. What is your vision for the future of Oregon's judicial system?
2. What, for you, is the central goal of sentencing in criminal cases? Please explain your answer.
3. What is the area of greatest need in Oregon's justice system, and how should state government respond?

Primary election 2012

1. What three key qualities do you bring to the Circuit Court?
2. How does the work of the courts, both trial and appellate, affect the lives of Oregonians?
3. Do you have a strategy for reducing recidivism, lacking the resources to combat underlying problems such as mental illness and substance abuse?

General election 2010

1. How does the work of the courts, both trial and appellate, affect the lives of Oregonians?
2. In your opinion, what is the central goal of sentencing in criminal cases? Please explain.
3. What is your vision for the future of Oregon's judicial system?

Primary election 2010

1. What three key qualities do you bring to the Circuit Court?
2. Do you have a strategy for reducing recidivism without the resources to combat underlying problems such as mental illness and substance abuse?
3. What factors would you consider in deciding what penalty to impose on a person in cases where a penalty has to be imposed but the most obvious penalties are inappropriate? As an example, a penalty for a non-violent offense is a money fine that the person cannot pay or a brief imprisonment that causes the person to lose his or her job.

General election 2008

1. Do you feel judges should be elected or appointed, and why?
2. Some citizens feel that Measure 11 limits too severely the ability of judges to treat offenders in the manner most likely to rehabilitate them. Do you agree or disagree, and why?

3. What are your views on community courts and other specialty courts such as a mental health court?

Primary election 2008

1. How has your experience prepared you to be a judge of the Multnomah County Circuit Court?
2. What, for you, is the central goal of sentencing in criminal cases? Please explain your answer.
3. What is the area of greatest need in the Oregon justice system, and how should the courts respond, if at all?

General election 2006

1. Do you feel judges should be elected or appointed, and why?
2. Some citizens feel that Measure 11 limits too severely the ability of judges to treat offenders in the manner most likely to rehabilitate them. Do you agree or disagree, and why?
3. What are your views on community courts and other specialty courts such as a mental health court?

Primary election 2006

1. What qualities do you have that make a good Circuit Court Judge?
2. How do you assure that each person appearing in your courtroom will receive fair treatment?
3. What role should public opinion play in the decisions a judge makes?

General election 2004

1. What are the attributes of a good Circuit Court Judge?
2. How can judges lead in providing for both rehabilitation and punishment? Should they?
3. What are your views on community courts such as a mental health court?

Primary election 2004

1. What do you think are the most important effects of Measure 11 on judicial responsibilities?
2. Do you feel judges should be elected or appointed, and why?
3. How can judges lead in providing for both rehabilitation and punishment? Should they?

General election 2002

1. What are the attributes of a Circuit Court Judge?
2. How can judges lead in providing for both rehabilitation and punishment? Should they?
3. Are there any changes to the court system that you would like to suggest?

Primary election 2002

1. What are the attributes of a Circuit Court Judge?

2. How can judges lead in providing for both rehabilitation and punishment?
Should they?
3. Are there any changes to the court system that you would like to suggest?

Primary election 2000

1. In your opinion, what are the attributes of a good Circuit Court Judge?
2. The 1998 legislature merged the district court into the circuit courts to form a single, unified trial-court system. What has been the effect of this consolidation?
Are there additional changes you would suggest to the legislature?
3. What will you do to build public trust and confidence in the justice system in Multnomah County?

Multnomah County Commissioner

Primary election 2020

1. The need for mental health and drug addiction services in Multnomah County has exceeded capacity. What more can the County do to address this need?
2. The County has forecasted a budget gap of \$35 million over the next five years. What are your thoughts about reducing this deficit?
3. What justice system reforms do you propose to address racial disparities?

Primary election 2018

1. What is your assessment of employee concerns over structural racism within Multnomah County operations? What will you do to address the issue?
2. What will you do to deal more effectively with the connected issues of mental and physical health, domestic violence and substance abuse?
3. What additional steps would you recommend to provide housing and shelter for individuals and families with housing insecurity?

General election 2016

1. How can the County address more effectively the connected issues of mental and physical health, substance abuse and homelessness?
2. How would you evaluate the effectiveness of the "Home for Everyone" plan to end homelessness in Multnomah County?
3. What lessons learned from the Sellwood Bridge project could be applied to other major infrastructure projects?

Primary election 2016

1. How should the County Commission respond to the recent reports showing evidence of racial disparity in incarceration rates and use of force in Multnomah County jails?
2. What improvements would you recommend to mental health programs in Multnomah County?
3. What issues would you like to see the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee consider?

Primary election 2014

1. Commissioners are elected by district; however, decisions affect the entire County. How do you propose to serve the County as a whole?
2. How can the County address the connected issues of mental and physical health, substance abuse and homelessness more effectively?
3. How should the County implement locally the state sentencing reforms passed by the 2013 legislature and make the most effective use of its \$3.165 million allocation? How will you measure success?

Primary election 2012

1. How will you involve the community in achieving sound public decisions?

2. A 2011 City Club report cited serious problems with the county's mental health system and called for significant change. What steps would you recommend for improving the system?
3. Multnomah County passed Resolution A nearly 30 years ago leading to a division of responsibility between cities and the County for urban services and social services. What is your assessment of the agreement? Would you recommend any changes?

General election 2010

1. What is your opinion of the potential new downtown Portland urban renewal district and its impact on County funding?
2. Ballot Measure 26-114 would allow the County Commission to pursue a special library tax district to fund library services. Do you support this idea, and what impact will that funding mechanism have on other services?
3. How do you propose to improve and fund the County's animal control services?

Primary election 2010

1. Should the County Charter be amended to create a Department of Corrections independent of the County sheriff? Explain.
2. What are your ideas for meeting the projected disparity between funding critical services and County revenue?
3. When funding social services, how does the County equitably address the geographic distribution of people experiencing poverty?

General election 2008

1. How would you ensure proper oversight of county contracts?
2. Commissioners are elected by district; however, decisions affect the entire county. How do you propose to serve the county as a whole?
3. What state of regional changes would you propose that would help the county's ongoing budget short fall?

Primary election 2008

1. What are the shortcomings in Multnomah County's emergency preparedness and how should they be addressed?
2. What is the best way to fund needed improvement of infrastructure?
3. What are your priorities for funding social services under the current budget restrictions?

General election 2006

1. What are your ideas for improving the public's trust in the commission?
2. Commissioners are elected by district; however, decisions affect the entire county. How do you propose to serve the county as a whole?
3. Discuss the current level of emergency preparedness in Multnomah County.

Primary election 2006

1. How can the divisiveness among County Commissioners be put aside and a better working relationship developed?
2. In light of budget constraints, what are your priorities for delivery of services to citizens in all parts of the county?
3. How can the county deal with the connected issues of drug use, homelessness, and mental health more effectively?

General election 2004

1. Given that voters defeated the operating levy for Wapato jail, how would you fund an adequate number of jail beds?
2. What are your ideas for improving the public's trust in the commission?
3. What are your priorities and how will you fund them?

Primary election 2004

1. The county does not always seem to speak with one voice. Given this perception, how would you improve communication among members of the county commission?
2. The charter review committee is looking at possible changes in county government. One issue is whether the county chair should have both legislative and executive powers. What is your position on this issue?
3. What will you do to continue the changes that have been made in the county mental health system?

Primary election 2002

1. What are your funding priorities, considering the county's current revenue shortfall?
2. County roads are in need of repair while new roads are needed to accommodate growth. How would you prioritize these needs, and how could they be funded?
3. What is your assessment of the recently reorganized county mental health system. What changes would you make, if any?

Primary election 2000

1. What issues facing Multnomah County are most important to you? Explain.
2. How would you address the increasing problem of the mentally ill in Multnomah County Jails?
3. How would you improve the service delivery system for homeless youth in Multnomah County?

Multnomah County Chair

Primary election 2018 [same as commissioners' questions]

1. What is your assessment of employee concerns over structural racism within Multnomah County operations? What will you do to address the issue?
2. What will you do to deal more effectively with the connected issues of mental and physical health, domestic violence and substance abuse?
3. What additional steps would you recommend to provide housing and shelter for individuals and families with housing insecurity?

Primary election 2014

1. How can the County deal with the connected issues of mental and physical health, substance abuse and homelessness more effectively?
2. How would you improve coordination, close gaps and remove duplication between the many local agencies, bureaus, boards and governments?
3. How should the County implement locally the state sentencing reforms passed by the 2013 legislature and make the most effective use of its \$3.165 million allocation? How will you measure success?

Multnomah County Auditor

General election 2018

1. When designing an audit of a program, how would you decide on the scope of the audit and what aspects of the program to focus on?
2. What would you do if your audit recommendations are not implemented?
3. How would you determine when your investigation is sufficient to report audit findings and recommendations?
4. What are your top priorities for county functions that should be audited?
5. Why should voters choose you instead of your opponent?
6. What is your experience in management? Describe your management style.
7. What would cause you to change your audit schedule of priorities?

Primary election 2018

1. What criteria should be used in choosing programs to audit and who should be consulted?
2. What measures should the auditor take to make audits and agency responses to audits available to the public?
3. What performance measures do you believe are appropriate in order to maintain the County's accountability?

Primary election 2014

1. What criteria should be used in choosing programs to audit and who should be consulted?
2. What measures should the auditor take to make audits and agency responses to audits available to the public?
3. What performance measures do you believe are appropriate in order to maintain the County's accountability?

Primary election 2010

1. Do you advocate forming an advisory committee to the auditor? If so, how would you recommend that the members be selected?
2. What criteria should be used in choosing auditees and who should be consulted?
3. What measures should the auditor take to make audit results available to the public?

Primary election 2006

1. Define the responsibilities of County Auditor.
2. How should audits be used to improve county government.
3. Do you consider the county's current financial controls adequate and cost-effective? Explain.

Primary election 2002

1. What performance measures do you believe are appropriate for the Metro in order to maintain accountability?

2. How would you prioritize your efforts for the audit function to produce maximum improvement in local government?
3. Do you consider County's current financial controls adequate and cost-effective? Explain.

Multnomah County Sheriff

Primary election 2018

1. Describe the policies and training guiding the County Sheriff's interactions with federal immigration authorities and assess their adequacy.
2. A recent Disability Rights Oregon report described the alarming conditions experienced by people with mental illness in the county jail. How can the sheriff's office respond and how will progress be reported?
3. As sheriff, what will you do to address racial disparities in the county's justice system?

General election, 2016

1. How should the Sheriff's office respond to recent reports showing evidence of racial disparity in incarceration rates and use of force in Multnomah County jails?
2. How would you address the needs of the mentally ill in Multnomah County Jails, including referrals to outside services at the time of release?
3. The Sheriff's office spending on overtime has been controversial. How will you manage the balance between overtime and additional staffing in the Sheriff's Department?

Primary election 2014

1. How would you address the needs of the mentally ill in Multnomah County Jails, including referrals to outside services at the time of release?
2. What changes, if any, do you hope to implement in the way the Sheriff's office functions?
3. Overtime hours for Deputy Sheriffs have increased 16% over the last 4 years and the overtime costs for 2013 were over \$4 million over budget. What should be done to decrease overtime for deputies?

Primary election 2010

1. Should the County Charter be amended to create a Department of Corrections independent of the County Sheriff? Explain.
2. Do you support continuing the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel in the County jails? Explain.
3. What would you do to enhance public confidence in the Sheriff's Department?

General election 2008

1. How will you improve public confidence in the Sheriff's office?
2. What changes, if any, are needed in how the Sheriff's Department interacts with mentally ill persons?
3. What are your priorities for the Sheriff's Department?

Primary election 2006

1. How do you propose to work effectively with the other members of county government?

2. Is there a need to reorganize the sheriff's department? Explain.
3. What are your plans to open and operate the Wapato Jail facility?

Primary election 2002

1. With the closing of the Troutdale Correction Facility in 2001, the release of low-risk prisoners, and the lack of jail beds, how do you anticipate handling future prisoners until the Wapato correction facility opens in 2003?
2. What is your position on alternative sentencing?
3. What changes, if any, do you hope to implement in the way the Sheriff's office functions?

Multnomah County District Attorney

Primary election, 2020

1. What is your philosophy regarding charging juveniles as adults when prosecutors have discretion?
2. The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has been challenged by years of staff reductions. What strategies will you employ to avoid negative impacts to public safety because of these reductions?
3. Opponents of the cash bail system say that it is biased and one of the main drivers of disproportionate incarceration of poor people and people of color. What are your thoughts about changing the cash bail system?

Portland Mayor & Council

General election, 2020

1. If the mayor is police commissioner, what role should the council play in overseeing police bureau policy?
2. How can Portland address homelessness in our city in a way that helps the people who are houseless, while keeping our public spaces safe and accessible for everyone?
3. Given the economic hit the city budget has taken, what criteria would you use to determine the size and target of potential cuts?

Primary election, 2020

1. How would you describe the City's progress in meeting the goals of the Climate Action Plan? What additional steps does Portland need to take in order to meet them?
2. How can the City government better represent and serve the growing and increasingly diverse population of the City?
3. The City has taken a number of important actions to reduce the number of people experiencing housing instability, yet throughout Portland there are too many people without a safe and stable place to call home. What more can the City do to address the problem?

General election 2018

1. Concerns over the mayor's ability to monitor the activities of police officers assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force led to the city's 2005 – 2011 withdrawal. In light of concern that federal agencies are threatening immigrants and civil liberties, what is your position on the city's current participation?
2. What do you recommend to make the city's infrastructure and population more resilient in the event of a major earthquake?
3. In addition to increasing the housing stock, what steps can the city take to protect rent-burdened households?
4. What specifically would you do to improve cooperation, collegiality and collaboration among city council members?
5. How should the city respond to the recent Oregonian report documenting the disproportionate rate of arrests among the homeless population?
6. Is city service delivery equitable? Please explain. What, if anything, would you do to change service delivery?

Primary election 2018

1. Portland has a severe shortage of housing units affordable to our lowest income residents, a significant factor in the homeless crisis. How would you address the shortfall?
2. The Compliance Officer overseeing the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement with the Portland Police Bureau cites concern about use of force and poor de-escalation practices. What is your assessment of the Bureau's progress in meeting the terms of the Agreement, and how should the Bureau respond?

3. How should the city best support economic development?

General election, 2016

1. How can the City preserve land zoned industrial for industrial uses? Discuss the proposed use of Terminal 1 as a homeless shelter in your response.
2. What is your vision of the public's role both as participants and as observers in oversight of Portland's police accountability system and in the implementation of the U.S. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement?
3. How can Portland support the anticipated increase in population without destroying the character of Portland's historic neighborhoods and without reducing the affordable housing stock.

Primary election 2016

Primary election only:

1. What will be your priorities in negotiating the Portland Police Association contract next year?
2. How well do you think the 2016 Portland Comprehensive Plan will maintain/improve Portland's livability? What are your plans for implementing it?

Councilors only:

1. How should the city address the housing needs of people earning below 30% of median family income?
2. What should City Council do to ensure the Auditor's work is independent, adequately funded, and that its advice is heeded by all bureaus?

Primary election 2014

1. How can you structure the regulatory climate for business and industry to foster economic development while protecting Portland's environment and neighborhoods?
2. Recent data show that Multnomah County has a deficit of over 20,000 units of housing affordable to very low-income households. How should this influence the way Portland spends its housing development dollars?
3. What strategies do you have for funding the repair and development of our transportation infrastructure, particularly in East Portland?

General election 2012

1. The City Auditor has found: "The City's overall financial position has lost ground due to the growing debt, unfunded liabilities, and funding gaps in maintaining infrastructure." How will you address these concerns?
2. What are your ideas on how we might change the ways we create, extend and use urban renewal districts in Portland?
3. What will you do to support business and industry in Portland?

Primary election 2012

1. A recent city audit raised concerns about the city's growing debt, with urban renewal debt increasing significantly. What influence will the city's growing debt burden have on your financial decisions?

2. How will you address the inadequacy of services and amenities the City provides to East Portland?
3. Clean-up of the Portland Harbor Superfund site involves a number of parties, both public and private, including the city. What role should the city play in providing direction on how the clean-up proceeds?

Primary election 2010

1. Given current concerns about Portland police, what changes would you support in policies and training, the union contract, and/or the oversight system?
2. Large cities, by their nature, attract people from all walks of life, including the homeless. Strategies ranging from enforcement to addressing the underlying societal problems have been tried. What approaches do you recommend?
3. What are your priorities for transportation in light of the City's recently-adopted Climate Action Plan?

General election 2008

1. How would you assure good working relations among the commissioners and their respective bureaus?
2. What is your assessment of the Voter Owned Election system?
3. What is the appropriate use of Urban Renewal Funds?

Primary election 2008

1. Eleven Urban Renewal Areas (URAs) used around \$70 million in 2007 that otherwise would have gone to the city, county and schools. What are your criteria to extend, create or terminate URA's?
2. Is the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness sustainable? What are the challenges going forward?
3. As Primary electionor [or City Commissioner], what is your role in police policy issues? i.e. racial profiling, the police oversight system, use of force ...

Primary election 2006

1. What does it take to make Portland attractive to business?
2. What programs/ordinances are needed to address the diverse populations of street people?
3. With limited funding, how can we enhance park programs and facility use?

General election 2004

1. Considering the continuing discussions regarding Portland General Electric, what is your position on city ownership of the utility?
2. Explain your position on the proposed Clean Money Campaign Finance System for Portland, a voluntary campaign finance system for candidates who collect a defined number of \$5 contributions, reject private contributions, and limit spending.
3. In terms of long range planning and economic development, describe the appropriate roles of the Planning Bureau and the Portland Development Commission.

Primary election 2004

1. A 2002 report on food bank users in Oregon found that 22 percent spent over three-fourths of their income on housing and 47 percent spent over half their monthly income on housing. Considering the importance of housing affordability, what would you do to increase Portland's supply of affordable housing for our neediest residents?
2. Some citizens and neighborhood associations feel the city is not responsive to their concerns.
3. Considering recent controversial city decisions (e.g. the reservoirs, the tram), how would you involve citizens in a more meaningful way?
4. Five out of nine volunteer members of the Citizen Review Committee resigned in protest because they felt city staff was unsupportive of their mission to review complaints of police misconduct. Do you support the current system of police oversight? If so, why? If not, what would you do to change it?

General election 2002

1. The city offers many financial incentives and subsidies to companies thinking of locating business in Portland. Do you think it appropriate to attach conditions to such incentives, and if so, what sort of conditions would you recommend or endorse?
2. What input should the City of Portland have in the selling-off of lands by the Portland Public Schools? Explain.
3. The legislature may reconsider the statute prohibiting the collection and maintenance of police files on individuals engaging in lawful political, social, and religious activity. Portland's refusal to participate in the FBI requested post-September questioning was based on this statute. What position should the city of Portland take on this issue?

Primary election 2002

1. How can the public/private partnerships of the city (such as PGE Park) be made more open and accountable?
2. What local solutions would you recommend for maintaining and improving our transportation infrastructure?
3. What would be the best form of city government for Portland?

Primary election 2000

1. Portland today reflects the vision and planning of the 1970's. What is your vision for Portland in 2020 and what steps will you take to implement that vision?
2. In light of the projected decrease in city revenues, where would you make budget cuts?
3. What is your strategy for providing leadership in reaching Portland's density goals?

Portland Auditor

Primary election 2018

1. The City Budget Office analysis of Portland's new campaign finance program stated that the logical location for the program is in the Auditor's office. Why or why not should the program be located in the Auditor's office?
2. As Portland's Auditor, the Independent Police Review (IPR) is one of the divisions under your supervision. There has been growing concern over reduced public access to the IPR and its Citizen Review Committee. In light of these changes, please describe your views on transparency and public access.
3. Voters recently adopted a city charter amendment strengthening the Auditor's independence. Please comment on the amendment's changes and discuss whether or not you would plan to pursue additional amendments during the upcoming term.

Primary election 2014

1. What measures will you support to strengthen the Independent Police Review Division?
2. What criteria should be used in choosing programs to audit and who should be consulted?
3. What measures should the auditor take to make audits and agency responses to audits available to the public?

Primary election 2010

1. What measures would you support to strengthen the Independent Police Review Division?
2. What criteria should be used in choosing auditees and who should be consulted?
3. Should the auditor prepare an annual performance audit work schedule? Explain.

Primary election 2009 (filling partial term)

1. How will you effectively include the public in deciding what programs or services to audit?
2. How will you prioritize the auditor's responsibilities?
3. How will you use the auditor's office to improve county government?

Primary election 2006

1. What performance measures do you believe are appropriate for the City in order to maintain accountability?
2. How would you prioritize your efforts for the performance audit function to produce maximum improvement in city government?
3. Do you consider the city's current financial controls adequate and cost-effective? Explain.

Primary election 2002

1. What performance measures do you believe are appropriate for the Metro in order to maintain accountability?
2. How would you prioritize your efforts for the audit function to produce maximum improvement in local government?
3. Do you consider City's current financial controls adequate and cost-effective? Explain.

[Various] City Mayor

General election, 2020

1. What specifically would you do to improve transparency, collaboration and integrity on the city council?
2. What will be your top three priorities as a council member?
3. How can we address homelessness in our city in a way that helps the people who are houseless, while keeping our public spaces safe and accessible for everyone?

[Various] City Councilor

General election, 2020

1. What specifically would you do to improve transparency, collaboration and integrity on the city council?
2. What will be your top three priorities as a council member?
3. How can we address homelessness in our city in a way that helps the people who are houseless, while keeping our public spaces safe and accessible for everyone?

General election 2018

1. What are the most important services needed for the city's rising population?
2. What specifically would you do to improve cooperation, collaboration and integrity on the city council?
3. Rush hour congestion is a serious problem in the metro area. What policies would you recommend to help alleviate this problem?
4. Violent crime in [] increased 167% since 2010, and property crime increased 35% in the same period. What can be done to control the systemic sources of these statistics?
5. How should the city interact with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, owners of the former Multnomah Greyhound Park property, to influence future use of the property, given that voters have repeatedly voted against a casino use?

Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

General election, 2020

What experiences or expertise do you have in the areas of stormwater management, water quality, and soil conservation?

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