

**20  
24**

# MAY PRIMARY ELECTION

# CANDIDATE GUIDE

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# Letter From The CEO

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Dear Reader,

As CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, I wanted to take a moment to highlight the importance of local elections in creating a healthy economy. While national elections may receive more attention in the media, local elections have a significant impact on our communities, businesses, and daily lives.

Local officials make decisions that affect everything from taxes and regulations to public safety and infrastructure. These decisions can have a profound impact on our local businesses and the overall economic health of our community. By voting for candidates who align with our values and priorities, we can work together to create a more vibrant and prosperous community for all.

At the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce we believe we have a duty to support local business leaders in making informed choices about who will represent them and their businesses in local government. To help you in making those decisions, we have spent time getting to know the candidates up for election in our local, non-partisan races. We hope you can use this guide as a resource to get to know these candidates better yourself.

As business leaders, we have a unique responsibility to engage in the political process and advocate for policies that support our businesses and the overall well-being of our community. By staying informed about local candidates and issues, and by encouraging our employees and customers to vote, we can have a meaningful impact on the outcome of local elections.

I encourage all of our members to take the time to learn about the candidates running for office in our community and to participate in local elections. Your vote can make a difference in shaping the future of our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber of Commerce and for your commitment to creating a vibrant economy and health community.

Sincerely,

Brittany Quick-Warner  
President & CEO

# Introduction

This Election Guide serves as a reference as you consider candidates for local, non-partisan office. You can read this cover to cover, or flip to the election you care most about. Use the table of contents below to find the candidate in which you are most interested.

## UNDERSTANDING THE GUIDE

The guide is organized into 8 parts:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Mayoral Candidates** Questionnaires and Scores
- 3. City Council Candidates** Questionnaires and Scores
- 4. EWEB Commissioner Candidates** Questionnaires and Scores
- 5. Lane County Board of Commissioner Candidates** Questionnaires and Scores
- 6. Lane County District Attorney Candidates** Questionnaires and Scores
- 7. Lane County Sheriff Candidate** Questionnaire and Score
- 8. Appendix** Interview Methodology

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

Each Candidate was provided an opportunity to submit a questionnaire answering questions about their candidacy. The answers to these questions are provided in each section\*, along with each candidate's submitted biography, endorsements, and financial contribution information. Candidate Questionnaires were submitted previously, as a result, some endorsement information may be outdated at the time of publication.

\*If a section is blank, it is because the candidate did not provide that information.

## CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

In addition to the questionnaires, candidates candidates in local, nonpartisan races were invited to interview with a panel of Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce representatives comprising the Candidate Review Committee. This committee included representatives included a Chamber staff member and volunteers from the Chamber's Board of Directors and government affairs council.

Candidates were asked a range of questions based on priority topics culled from our latest Eugene Chamber member survey. These topics included homelessness and public safety, housing, government regulations and transparency, and economic development. The Eugene Chamber uses scores from these interviews to showcase candidate alignment with local business priorities. High scoring candidates are eligible for consideration by the Chamber Board for an endorsement, as recommended by the Candidate Review Committee. Please see the appendix for greater detail about scoring\*.

*\*Please note that if a candidate did not respond to our request to interview, they will not have a score next to their photo.*

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# *EUGENE MAYORAL*

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# Eugene Mayoral



10

TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Kaarin  
Knudson**

*Eugene  
Mayoral*



4.5

TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Shanaè  
Joyce-Stringer**

*Eugene  
Mayoral*



2.3

TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Stefan  
Strek**

*Eugene  
Mayoral*

## Eugene Mayoral Election

Eugene's Mayor is a position of both symbolic importance and practical influence within the city's governance structure.

Eugene operates under a council-manager form of government, wherein elected officials, including the mayor and city councilors, set policies and make decisions that shape the city's trajectory. However, the day-to-day administration of municipal affairs falls under the purview of a professional city manager, ensuring a balance between political leadership and administrative efficiency.

In Eugene's collaborative governance model, the mayor collaborates closely with city councilors, city staff, business & community organizations, and residents to address pressing issues, implement policies, and champion initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all, reflecting the collective aspirations of Eugene residents.

### SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Candidates received scores based on alignment with Chamber priorities, tabulated and averaged. See Appendix for details.



10 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Kaarin Knudson**

I am a licensed architect, educator, and leader with more than 20 years' experience advancing sustainable design and community-led solutions. In 2017, I founded the housing advocacy organization Better Housing Together (BHT), to increase housing affordability, diversity and supply in Lane County, and was awarded the City of Eugene's "Community Award" in 2018. I advised on the implementation of Oregon's landmark middle housing laws and advocated for the creation of Eugene's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. I am a longtime member of the City Club of Eugene, and served as its president in 2022-2023.

I am the proud mom of two daughters in 4J schools and live with my family in South Eugene. I has deep roots as an Oregon Duck. In 2019, I received the UO Hall of Fame's Becky Sisley Award. As a collegian, I was Oregon's 1999 NCAA Woman of the Year, a member of the 1997 PAC-10 Championship cross-country team, and an All-American runner in the 800m and mile. I was editor-in-chief of the UO Journalism School's magazine and the school's most outstanding graduate. I hold a master's degree in architecture, bachelor's degrees in Journalism and design, and studied internationally in Japan, Italy, and Turkey.

Since 2007, I have practiced architecture and design in Oregon, including several award-winning local projects. I speak at regional and national conferences about sustainable cities, housing policy, and the work of guiding community change. I teach a graduate urban design workshop at the University of Oregon and am coauthor of a new textbook, *The Sustainable Urban Design Handbook* (Routledge, April 2024).



4.5 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Shanae Joyce-Stringer**

Shanae brings a rich tapestry of experience as both an educator and a small business owner. In the realm of education, her journey began in 2006, spanning roles within public, charter, and tribal schools as a classroom educator, after-school instructor, and program assistant in Florida and Eugene, Oregon. While in Eugene she has also worked as a regional navigator and program coordinator, providing support and guidance at the district level to local school districts in Lane County.

Shanae even had the unique opportunity to teach English in Yangzhou, China where she connected with fellow educators from around the U.S. and China exchanging ideas and practices, as well as high school students that were eager to learn about American culture and share their culture as well.

On the entrepreneurial front, Shanae's journey as a small business owner commenced in 2011 when she transformed her passion for event planning into reality with her first business, B.L.A.O. Events. Building on this entrepreneurial spirit, she founded Shanae Joyce-Stringer Enterprise in 2018 where she offers her services as a professional life coach, public speaker, and sells books and apparel. This fusion of educational insight and entrepreneurial drive underpins Shanae's dedication to fostering greater economic development and positive change for all residents in Eugene, Oregon.

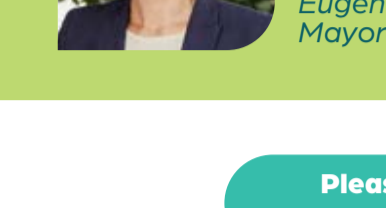
She has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Administration, in addition to a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Professionally, Shanae made meaningful contributions to non-profit organizations, public school districts, and engaged extensively with diverse youth and adults to improve access to quality education and best teaching practices, which led to her being designated as a mentor teacher for her colleagues. Beyond the classroom, she is a life coach and ordained minister, who has a mission of connecting to individuals of all faiths. Shanae's focus on empowering women to fulfill their purpose has been a cornerstone of her life's work.



2.3 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

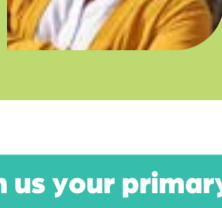
**Stefan Streck**

Certificate of Advanced Mastery (Business Management), AAOT LCC, CIE (French, University of Caen), BA Art (UO). I've previously worked in Financial Aid Processing for UO and currently sell paintings, manage a clothing/sticker company [www.myskateboard.com](http://www.myskateboard.com), and help with a philanthropic project to feed stray cats in Kazakhstan



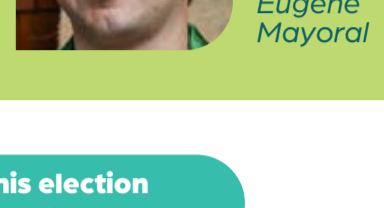
10 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Kaarin Knudson**  
Eugene Mayoral



4.5 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Shanae Joyce-Stringer**  
Eugene Mayoral



2.3 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Stefan Streck**  
Eugene Mayoral

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

I'm running because I believe in Eugene's bright future, and our city has important work ahead. There are concrete steps Eugene can take towards ensuring that everyone has access to stable and affordable housing, that our parks and public spaces are safe and welcoming, and that we foster a healthy local economy that meets our local business and working families' needs. Eugene can be the hub of a valley known nation-wide as an incubator for opportunity and innovation, where quality of life is high and recreational opportunities are abundant. To achieve this, we need to focus on addressing our housing and homelessness crisis and leverage this emergency response into a workforce and economic development strategy. I am ready to do the work to make these goals a reality and I have a proven track record advancing policy changes at the city and state level.

I am seeking the office of mayor because I envision a future for Eugene where progress is ingrained in our community's fabric, where every member can thrive without barriers. Inclusion and intersectionality will be our guiding principles, celebrating the uniqueness of individuals and groups. Supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs will be paramount, as they fuel our local economy and family vitality. Having experienced firsthand the challenges of establishing myself here, I am committed to ensuring everyone can thrive. As a minority and millennial, I understand the importance of representation in decision-making. I aim to build a Eugene where tangible progress touches every aspect, fostering growth and prosperity through collaboration.

I love this City and believe in the Eugene community. I grew up here and I'm heartbroken over the widespread escalating homelessness, poverty and drug abuse. My vision is to integrate Eugene as a fully functional 21st Century City where people have 24hr bus services, with service to the airport, and 24hr library access. To enhance and reinvigorate the Eugene brand image, provide safe transportation, reduce drunk driving deaths, generate new business investment, promote new jobs, and create a vibrant City Center with enhanced urban canopy where everyone can live productively, working towards a better future together and achieving individual goals.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

I have received over 200 endorsements from community leaders across Eugene, including the Chamber Board and many business leaders. A full list of those endorsements is on my campaign website, [KaarinForMayor.com](http://KaarinForMayor.com), and it continues to grow each week. I am very fortunate to have earned the endorsements of many local electeds like Mayor Lucy Vinis, Former Mayor Kitty Piercy, City Councilors Evans, Groves, Keating, Leech, Yeh and Zelenka, County Commissioners Trieger and Buch, and State Representative Julie Fahey. I hope this list continues to grow as well. It's very important to me that the Mayor have strong relationships and connections with perspectives across our community.

Our campaign endorsements have not been made public as of yet, but personal endorsements have been received from individuals who are entrepreneurs, individuals representing the local education sector, K-12 and higher education, as well as individuals employed in the local housing and health industries.

I believe my 10,000 votes from 2019 are a strong foundation to build on. Official endorsements and dollar amounts are being negotiated in progress.

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES

YES

Will file when necessary

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

I've been working with partners at the Chamber on these issues for several years, and I am currently a very active member of the "Building Home" brain trust and housing production coalitions. As founding director of Better Housing Together, I've worked to move our conversation about housing from an abstract argument about growth to a data-driven, organized, community-wide effort to see our housing affordability, diversity and supply increase. This includes housing solutions across the full continuum of community needs and with some recent policy successes focusing on housing for smaller households and the workforce. Housing is the foundation of health and opportunity for all households and in all communities, so this work is directly related to advancing every economic, social, and environmental goal we have. I'm also very familiar with the frustration captured by the Chamber's survey. In hundreds of conversations with Eugene voters, I have heard repeatedly about the need to act on our housing and unsheltered crisis, substance abuse emergency, and inadequate access to behavioral health services. It is essential that we provide safe and stable shelter for those who are currently unsheltered, as well as adequate affordable housing so that those who are at risk can stay stably housed. We also need to provide adequate access to behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services. I am hopeful that Legislative work in the short session will also support these local actions and supports.

To address homelessness, my policy approach involves implementing a multifaceted strategy which includes increasing funding sources for affordable housing options, for individuals and families, across a multitude of socio-economic statuses. It is also inclusive of collaborating with non-profit organizations to provide support services and developing targeted programs for mental health and addiction treatment, concurrently. Collaborative partnerships involving community organizations, schools, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders would be cultivated to develop comprehensive and community-driven public safety initiatives. Additionally, harm-reduction strategies, community-policing model implementation, and expansions of crisis intervention teams would be key components of public policies I support to address public safety.

Waiving ADU fees can increase housing stock through the private market. Streamlining/speeding the permit process would allow new public/private housing to be built faster and more cost-effectively. We need better return of investment in community funded services. Eugene has an ~\$800 million dollar budget, and we see little to no results due to inefficiency, bloat, and general mismanagement. The frustration and desperation from real human suffering as a result of these inefficiencies and waste is arguably a major factor leading to crime and safety issues. Our current services complex is inefficient, waitlists last for years, sometimes up to 10+ years, causing people to remain in the area without help almost indefinitely, drops people due to loss/change of contact information who are otherwise eligible for help, all the while these inefficient programs waste taxpayer money while providing little to no return for the dollar investment. People managing these services need to be held accountable for program failure.

The goal of established housing, jobs and social integration for people experiencing homelessness or mental health crisis can only be achieved by first meeting people halfway to engage lifestyle enhancing accommodations. This includes low-barrier access to showers and restrooms for people who may not be able to maintain a living residence even if provided for free, some people simply aren't at that level of functioning and these people still deserve the basic dignity that comes from making the choice to practice basic hygiene. This would help solve public sanitation issues which are driving away business.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

As mentioned, our response to the local housing crisis is also an economic opportunity, and I will continue to champion this work. The need to build more housing for all income levels will require a trained workforce and is a significant opportunity to develop local small businesses. It is also clear that our city needs to invest in real solutions to public safety concerns. I have spoken to many local business owners who are seeing the impact of this crisis just outside of their businesses every day. One of my top priorities would be addressing access to shelter and behavioral health services to alleviate this burden on our local businesses and public spaces. Some of our community in West Eugene and Bethel is also distant from public safety services, and I support locating new public safety services closer to our neighbors and businesses in that area.

- Establish procurement programs that actively supports businesses owned by women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, veterans, and minorities, fostering economic inclusion and diversity in the local business landscape.
- Taking an equity approach to support the expansion and establishment of business incubators and support programs to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses in accessing resources, mentorship, and funding opportunity, with a major consideration for minority-owned and woman-owned entrepreneurs who continue to lag behind in accessing venture capital.
- Advocate for strategic infrastructure investment that support economic growth and enhances the business environment which includes improving transportation networks, upgrading utilities, and investing in technology infrastructure.

Reinvigorate the economy by providing 24hr bus services so workers can get to work on time reliably, and access recreational spending. Many jobs start at 6am, if the buses also start at 6am, it's a loss of earning opportunity. More people engaging the economy allows business to be open more hours profitably.

With a community center established in a 24hr library, supported by converting the 4th floor for restaurant/cafe and lounge areas, we can cost-effectively promote a 21st Century lifestyle and renew the downtown area.

Establishing bus access to the airport allows Eugene to be a profitable hub center, with greater efficiency of high-value workers being able to establish life in Eugene long term, while maintaining work schedules which may require spontaneous transportation monthly to other commerce hubs (Boston, Seattle, Dallas, Denver, DC, LA, San Francisco, etc.) This will also allow for crowd transport of larger conferences and events more often. Convenience is the most powerful investment attractor.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

A key challenge to recruit and retain qualified workers in our community is the lack of housing affordable at all levels and appropriate to a diverse range of households. As Mayor, I will push for policies to increase the construction of more housing at all levels through incentives and streamlining the process for more development. We need much more housing that serves 1-2 person households (for people early and later in their careers), and I'll continue to champion its creation in areas with good access to great parks, schools, commercial services, and jobs. We also need to invest in our public spaces and transportation infrastructure to keep Eugene a great place to live and work. For many households, the ability to experience a high quality of life and a short commute are intertwined. Giving people the option to choose active transportation is important to recruiting young professionals oriented toward the outdoors and health. For the remainder of the 21st century, the strongest talent will be choosing quality places and employment in communities that deliver a strong sense of community and good access to amenities. As Mayor, I will also champion these outcomes through thoughtful investments in our public spaces and a continuous network of access to these welcoming amenities throughout Eugene.

- Enhance the community's quality of life by continuing to invest in amenities like the community's park, recreational facilities, cultural attractions, and affordable housing options—a vibrant and livable community attracts and retains talented individuals.
- Launch marketing campaigns that showcase the benefits of living and working in Eugene.
- Encourage businesses to adopt inclusive recruitment and hiring practices that attract racially and linguistically diverse candidates, which includes outreach to diverse communities, unconscious bias training for hiring managers, and ensuring job postings are accessible and inclusive.

A smart-power approach which satisfies both soft-power and hard-power economic attractors, improved sanitation standards for starters. Second, we need to diversify the Eugene brand image by promoting soft-power to attract and maintain new high-value long-term families and residents.

The 60s/70s era image of independent musicians, artists, and activists is the strongest reported motivation (soft-power) for people to move here, this applies to high-value specialists, business owners, and even executive office candidates.

Eugene's core creative identity (soft-power) has been neglected in favor of sports (hard-power), this disappoints our largest, and most profitable, target market (creatives). Although the sports (hard-power) economy is effective in short term results, it lacks long term sustainability, and is subject to benchmark results which can't be exponentially quantified consistently. To enhance soft-power growth, restart the Eugene Celebration, and encourage annual arts/music events which make people feel like their investment of time, money, and participation in our City generates a tangible benefit which encourages long term habitation.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

When we ask constituents and business leaders to invest in the needs of our community, it is imperative that we make a clear and transparent case for the outcomes we expect. We then need to make sure that we follow through with our commitments and are responsible stewards of public dollars.

I would work to fund essential services by diversifying revenue sources beyond traditional taxes, such as through grants, public-private partnerships, and user fees, in order to mitigate the reliance on tax increases. I would also implement long-term fiscal planning to anticipate future needs and challenges. This involves setting aside reserves for unexpected expenses, investing in infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, and adopting responsible debt management practices to avoid overburdening future generations with excessive debt.

Cutting waste and streamlining the budget: ~\$800 million should be more than enough to provide needed services, but unnecessary and inefficient expenses detract from return of investment and cause a budget shortfall. An overhaul of priorities would generate visible results and encourage new business investment, raising future revenue for new services.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

When talking about climate change, I often focus on local impacts and how we need to prepare for and mitigate these circumstances. As the Chamber knows, local businesses are going to continue to lose productivity and resources to the localized impacts of climate change. Climate-driven weather emergencies like this January's ice storm are likely to be more frequent and taxing to our infrastructure; hot-weather emergencies are also going to impact continuity and safety. Preparing for and mitigating the impacts of climate change does not have to conflict with our local economic goals because all of our efforts connect back to the objective that Eugene be a great community to live and work in. We can be known as a place of innovation and opportunity through support for local sustainable businesses, and we can do more to reduce the peak energy loads that burden our system. Improvements to our infrastructure will be incremental in nature, but we must also continue the work of investing in systems that will support our local economy through the 21st century.

In an effort to prepare for climate resilience I would seek partnerships with local educational institutions and companies to expand training programs for green jobs, empowering residents to participate in sustainable industry and fostering economic growth while contributing to environmental goals. Additionally, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure projects such as flood mitigation measures and green infrastructures not only enhance our community's resilience to climate impacts but also create jobs and stimulate economic growth.

Climate resilience can be effectively promoted by enhancing our urban canopy; this enhances image and lifestyle in a way that encourages economic investment. Part of Eugene's soft-power attraction is our environmental advocacy, this should be promoted and maintained as part of a consistent marketing image. This would be a smart-power approach that enhances both our soft-power and hard-power markets, grows the economy, and generates climate durability for Eugene. Creating diversified action plans for each neighborhood to integrate protection of both business and residences would help recovery from emergencies, while promoting long-term habitation of high-value families and individuals.

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# ***EUGENE CITY COUNCIL***

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# Eugene City Council

## Eugene City Council Election

The Eugene City Council is comprised of 8 seats, each representing and elected by geographic wards. City Councilors serve 4-year terms. There are currently 4 seats open for the Primary election.



9.2  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Ethan Clevenger**  
City Council  
Ward 1



6  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Eliza Kashinsky**  
City Council  
Ward 1



5  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Ted Coopman**  
City Council  
Ward 1

## Eugene City Council Ward 1

Ward 1 encompasses the downtown core, and neighborhoods like Jefferson Westside and the Whitaker. The current Councilor Emily Semple, is not seeking re-election, providing an opportunity for new leadership by one of the 3 candidates. Prevailing candidate must receive 51% of the primary votes cast, or the race will be determined in November with a top 2 candidate run-off.



7  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Matt Keating**  
City Council  
Ward 2



3.8  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Lisa Warnes**  
City Council  
Ward 2

## Eugene City Council Ward 2

Ward 2 is comprised of the southeast area of Eugene, including College Hill and Amazon. Incumbent Matt Keating is seeking a second 4-year term against contested challenger Lisa Warnes.



7  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Barbie Walker**  
City Council  
Ward 7



5.5  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Lyndsie Leech**  
City Council  
Ward 7

## Eugene City Council Ward 7

City Council Ward 7 is currently served by Lyndsie Leech, first appointed and subsequently elected in a special election to retain her position. She faces a 3rd-time challenge by challenger Barbie Walker to represent the constituents in the areas of River Road, Santa Clara and the northern part of the Whitaker neighborhoods.



9.3  
TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Randy Groves**  
City Council  
Ward 8

## Eugene City Council Ward 8

Councilor Randy Groves is seeking re-election for a second 4-year term in Ward 8, which includes the southwest portion of Eugene. He is unopposed.

## SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

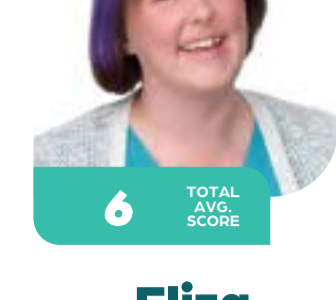
Candidates received scores based on alignment with Chamber priorities, tabulated and averaged. See Appendix for details.



9.2 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Ethan Clevenger**

Ethan Clevenger has lived in Eugene since 2016. Upon moving here, he founded Sterner Stuff, where he works with small businesses, mid-sized companies and universities to build custom websites and applications. In 2018, he and other members of the Bethel community re-activated the ActiveBethel Community neighborhood association, where he then served as chair and member-at-large. Ethan served as president of the Emerald Valley Professionals chapter of Oregon Networking Exchange and led the business networking group successfully through the first year of COVID. He opened Porterhouse Clothing & Supply in Downtown Eugene in 2020, also in the midst of COVID. Today, he sits on the Local Government Affairs Council at the Eugene Chamber of Commerce and serves as president of Downtown Eugene Merchants, where he focuses on energizing local business owners to collaborate on events, marketing, and creating a more vibrant Downtown Eugene.



6 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Eliza Kashinsky**

#### CITY SERVICE

-Eugene Budget Committee, 2017 to present; vice-chair from 2021-present  
-Lane County Planning Commission, 2021 to present; chair in 2023.  
-Eugene Active Transportation Committee, 2014-2016

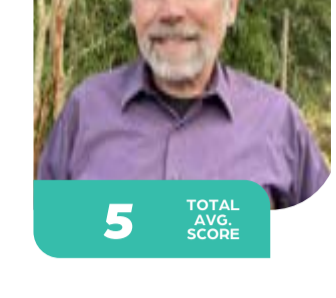
-Service on numerous City task forces and working groups, included the Housing Tools and Strategies Working Group, the Public Safety Revenue Team, and Mayor's Climate Recovery Ordinance Ad Hoc Working Group.

#### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

-Senior Operations Manager, Freedom House (2005-2011)  
-Chief of Staff, Secular Coalition for America (2011-2013)  
-Operations Director, Organic Materials Review Institute (2013-2015)  
-Human Resources Director, South Lane Mental Health (2016-2022)  
-Sr. Management Analyst (Human Resources), Lane County (2022-present)

#### VOLUNTEER

-Co-founder, the Walkable Eugene Citizen Advisory Network (WE CAN) starting in 2015. Advocacy for pro-housing zoning code reform.  
-Oregon Contemporary Theater volunteer, 2014-2019



5 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Ted Coopman**

I earned a MS in Mass Communication from San Jose State University (SJSU) in 1995 and Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Washington in 2008. I served on the faculty of the Department of Communication Studies at San Jose State University (2007-2020) as well as Department of Communication at University of Louisville (2009-2022). Previously I have worked in restaurants and catering for 15 years as well as in automotive sales and the trades. I have served on the boards of the Association of Internet Researchers the American Communication Association as well as directed several programs at SJSU. My spouse and I previously owned rental properties in Washington and California and operated an AirBnB in Eugene from 2016-2021. I am currently Chair of Jefferson Westside Neighbors, a position I have held since 2018 and was a board member from 2016. I have led the Friends of Monroe Park adoption group since 2016, founded the JWN Historic District Task Force, and currently serve on the Business Leaders Task Force on Homelessness. I have logged thousands of community volunteer hours since moving here in 2016.



9.2 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Ethan Clevenger**  
City Council  
Ward 1



6 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Eliza Kashinsky**  
City Council  
Ward 1



5 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Ted Coopman**  
City Council  
Ward 1

### Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.

City Council has lacked the focus to lead on the most pressing issues in our community, and members of Council are hit-and-miss in their willingness to reach across interest groups in pursuit of solutions. My platform may look similar to my opponents', but my focused and authentically collaborative approach will not be. I want Eugeneans that feel plagued by a lack of progress to notice, appreciably, a change in our community under my leadership.

I'm running for City Council because I want to help Eugene make real progress in confronting the challenges we are facing as a community. Eugene is confronting a housing shortage, a homelessness crisis, climate change, and budget shortfalls. Eugene is not the only community facing these issues, but we can and should be a leader in implementing innovative solutions. Ward 1 needs a City Councilor who can hit the ground running, and I believe that with my background and experience, I can help Eugene tackle these challenges in a meaningful way.

I received a lot of encouragement from neighbors and city councilors to serve and feel a deep connection to my neighbors. My experience working with neighbors on a wide variety of issues gives me a useful perspective on our challenges. I have serious concerns over the direction of Eugene's governance, particularly on economic development, business regulation, and homelessness and housing. My main goals are to change the city charter to professionalize the mayor and city council and put elected leadership who are responsible to voters in charge; build out infrastructure for housing and businesses; and regain control of our streets.

### What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?

None. Our campaign is newly underway and qualified for the ballot last week, up against the deadline. While we look forward to gathering endorsements, including, hopefully, the Chamber's, we recognize that there is an uphill battle for endorsements given early commitments by individuals and organizations to other candidates in our race.

Mayor Lucy Vinis, Representative Julie Fahey, Eugene City Councilors Jennifer Yeh and Lyndsie Leech, Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch, Springfield City Councilor Kori Rodley, LCC Board Member Lisa Fragala, EWEB Commissioner Matt McRae, Eugene Budget Committee Chair Tai Pruce-Zimmerman

City Councilors Groves, Clark, and Evans; Dallas Boggs Chair Eugene Police Commission; Sandra Bishop former EWEB Board member; Morgan Griffin, owner, Presentation Design Group; Rich Locke, founder, Eugene Business Alliance; outgoing Ward 1 City Councilor Semple, former Ward 1 City Councilors Brown, Rayer, former Ward 2 City Councilor Betty Taylor, Eugene Police Employees Association; AFS-CME Local 1724; Western States Carpenters; Vivek & Anita Parashar, owners, New Frontier Market; George Keim, owner, A Beer Club; Dr. Gulrukh Rizvi, Eugene Family Medicine; former Chairs, JWN Neighbors, Tom Happy & Dave Hurst, ; former Chair and current board member at-large, Rene Kane; former Chairs, Friendly Area Neighbors (FAN) Pam Wooddell & Margie James; Caroline Jacobs, former Chair and current board member at-large, South University Neighbors Association; Ian Winbrock, former Chair, Whiteaker Community Council; David Monk, former South East Neighbors board member, current leader of Ready Southeast Committee; Ralph McDonald, former Eugene Sustainability Commissioner and current SHINA Neighborhood Board. Plus seven currently serving or past Neighborhood Association board members and 53 individuals.

### Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?

NO

YES

YES

### Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.

I believe any policy we engage in at the local level to alleviate homelessness and create a safer community is in support of local businesses. That said, I will support enforcement of existing laws and staffing our police department accordingly, ensuring a response to all 911 calls, where community members and businesses alike currently feel neglected. I'll push for prescriptive application of existing funding programs to potential developments. And I'll be working rapidly on City Council to adopt new grant programs for additional housing under the recently-passed SB 1537 and not spend valuable time trying to come up with "the Eugene way" to building out these programs.

Reducing the amount of homelessness in our community, addressing the immediate impacts of homelessness, and increasing public safety are interconnected challenges, but require somewhat different policy solutions. To address the root causes of homelessness and reduce it in the long term requires collaboration to increase housing access and mental health and substance use treatment. This will take time, and so in the immediate term, we need to provide immediate support to those impacted by homelessness. For local businesses, this would include policies such as maintaining and expanding programs such as the Downtown Support Team and cleaning supports.

a. Rein in camping by restricting sheltering to transitory use (24 hours), eliminating large established camps.  
b. Restore penalties for so-called quality of life crimes and destruction of public property.  
c. Expand sanctioned camping sites and then require people use sanctioned shelters.  
d. Partner with Lane County to utilize unused jail capacity (currently 100 beds) as in some cases there needs to be deterrence via incarceration.

### What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?

Feedback on the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Business Council for Economic Development was poor, and it didn't result in an economic development plan for Eugene. That effort needs revisited, in good faith, with a resulting vision that all participants can be proud of. That economic development plan will tell us what comes next. In the meantime, addressing the three-headed crisis that drives homelessness in our community - through housing development, behavioral health services, and addiction treatment programs - has to be our focus. These are the long-term drivers of our public safety concerns, which has a direct impact on the patronage of consumer-driven businesses and the likelihood that valuable members of our workforce build careers and lives here.

The primary focuses of my campaign are fixing our housing crisis, resolving and mitigating the impacts of homelessness, addressing climate, and putting Eugene on a more stable financial footing. All of these priorities also support our local economy and businesses—it is easier to hire and retain employees if they can find homes they can afford in Eugene. Reducing the impacts of homelessness makes it easier to do business in Eugene. Ensuring that there is funding for governmental services that support business, cultural and recreational services that bring visitors into our community, and that we can provide necessary infrastructure for business development all benefit our local economy. Supporting a stronger Eugene means supporting our local economy, and vice versa.

a. Focus on building out infrastructure to facilitate building more housing at scale and attracting businesses.  
b. Revisit and revise rental control measures to better reflect market reality.  
c. Partner with businesses to modify or reduce regulation that needlessly increases costs.

### Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.

Based on my understanding of current objections, we can proactively seek out and fast-track ways to add more supply to the housing market and alleviate runaway home prices, making Eugene a more appealing place to build a career and raise a family. From there, a focus on livability can help make Eugene more attractive to talent. We should direct city departments to organize more broad-appeal programming and placemaking, improving Eugene's livability as perceived by young families. And we should prioritize high foot-traffic and traditionally activated areas for law enforcement presence, ensuring these areas are, at all times, welcoming to our entire community.

Addressing the housing crisis by making it easier to create homes in Eugene, and ensuring that there are homes in Eugene that are affordable to potential employees at all levels. As a human resources professional, I have on multiple occasions had great candidates turn down job offers because they couldn't find housing in Eugene. We also need to ensure that Eugene is a place where people want to live. Eugene, like much of Oregon, is experiencing a homelessness crisis, which negatively impacts everyone who lives here, housed or not. In addition to working with our partners on the long-term strategies to resolve this crisis, we need to be providing immediate supports to businesses who are impacted, since when employees feel unsafe it impact their desire to stay with a job.

a. Increase production of housing for sale and to rent to lower costs through better utilization of land within the UGB, selective expansion beyond the UGB, and up-zoning for mix-use on major transportation corridors such as 6th and 7th. Focus on converting existing homes and commercial property to multifamily housing.  
b. Promote and focus resources on workforce development via public private partnerships with high schools, LCC, and non-profits and streamline required licensing and certifications.  
c. Public safety and clean and attractive public spaces via enforcing existing rules and empowering volunteer groups like we do in Jefferson Westside.

### As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary services without discouraging business investment.

We would be intentionally building a local economy that serves a city of nearly 200,000 people, rather than relying on the tax revenue of a craft-market-economy to fund our city budget. This strategy is favorable to businesses and favorable to tax revenue. As we do that work, we'll have to be discerning when we look at our budget and spend in ways that address our most pressing challenges, tabling projects that are more aspirational than impactful. In regards to tax fatigue, I intend to vocally support changes to Measures 5 and 50 at the state level, and coordinate with local advocacy partners of all kinds to pressure state leadership on those measures. A more appropriate baseline tax revenue that considers the reality of home prices in our state should be able to fund ongoing operations for our parks, schools, libraries and more, rather than burdening voters with fees and bonds up for renewal.

Much of the structural imbalance in Eugene's budget stems from state-level restrictions on local revenues which create inequalities in our tax structure and are squeezing our local jurisdictions. State-level reform is needed, and I'll advocate for that reform. That doesn't address our immediate gaps, however. When considering new revenue sources, a primary consideration for me is, "are we going back to the same wells?" or are we finding truly new sources that reduce the risk of fatigue.

The city needs a better grasp of the underlying economics and specific markets to see where we can increase revenue via expansion of economic activity as opposed to increased taxation. Any increases in taxation and fees should be carefully calibrated to be spread equitably and any revenue targeted to narrow and specific needs that feed back into economic development. The U of O should be paying a higher share of taxes, such as a tax on private and cultural events over a certain size. Pay closer attention to efficiencies and economies of scale in spending, especially on services.

### Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.

We have to consult with the businesses impacted by potential changing local ordinances - like changes to natural gas policies - in good faith. While it's unrealistic for a business to expect to bend public policy to cater specifically to their success, they should be able to bet on a somewhat stable environment in which to do business. We have to look at the most impactful ways to reduce our carbon footprint - not just the least catchphrase-worthy - and lean on incentives, rather than bans, to make those kinds of changes for businesses and consumers alike. Despite persistent stereotypes, in Eugene, local businesses with local ownership overwhelmingly want to collaborate on creating an environmentally friendly community.

To address climate change and the impact it is already producing we are going to make changes to our past practices. The impacts of climate change, including increased extreme weather, fires, and smoke days negatively impact our local economy. In addition to programs that make it easier for Eugeneans to make choices that lessen their climate impact (such as walking or biking instead of driving,) we also need to strengthen our disaster preparedness and recovery toolbox.

Resiliency has economic benefits. According to a Global Commission on Adaptation report, the ROI on resiliency investment is 10-to-1 for economic activity. Eugene should advocate reduced taxation at the state level for resiliency investments. Locally, resiliency investments should not increase valuation for taxation purposes and be exempt from SDCs. Resiliency efforts have a net positive impact on infrastructure. We should collectivize risk and lower costs via community insurance schemes. Create a preferred network of business that provide the needed resiliency and capability to increase expertise to set best practices and lower costs while feeding back into the local economy.



**7** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Matt Keating**

**Bio**

I am proud of my pragmatic, progressive public service as South Eugene's City Councilor:  
 Saving Greenhill Humane Society's funding;  
 Preventing the closure of an area fire station;  
 Prohibiting camping within 1000' of any school or library in Eugene – while at the same time stabilizing vital funding for Community Supported Shelters.  
 Together, this Eugene City Council may be the most pro-housing Council in the history of Eugene. We have made historic Affordable Housing and market-rate housing investments downtown, at the riverfront, and along transportation routes.  
 Along with area businesses, county and state governments, we have weathered a global pandemic, navigated escalating addiction and mental health challenges, and we are taking on the housing and houseless crisis head on.  
 I bring to the table my willingness to work across the aisle; the ability to organize effectively and build broad coalitions of support; and a breadth of local, statewide, and national relationships to move the needle for shared prosperity and our individual and collective success.  
 When I am not working as Chief of Staff to Sen. James Manning, I serve as City Council president.  
 I am active with the National League of Cities, and serve as a member of the Board of Directors with the Democratic Municipal Officials (DMO). I am an officer of the Democratic Party of Oregon and member of the DPO Administrative Committee by virtue of my role as a member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC).  
 Locally, I volunteer with the KLCC Public Radio Foundation Board of Directors and serve as a board member emeritus of the Eugene Public Library Foundation Board of Directors.  
 My Council duties include representing the City of Eugene on the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) and the Human Services Commission (HSC).  
 Prior to serving as Eugene City Councilor, Ward 2, I served two terms as a Lane Community College Board Member where I fought to keep tuition affordable while protecting programs like Theater Arts, Welding, and Early Childhood Educations.  
 I would be honored to continue my service to the people of the City of Eugene, leveraging my broad political and professional (broadcast) relationships to improve the lives of everyday Oregonians and preserve our community's precious natural resources.



**3.8** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Lisa Warnes**

**Bio**

I'm a CCB licensed building contractor. As one of the first women construction contractors in Eugene I have owned and operated my business for 25 years. I've lived in the ward for more than 40 years and have served as Vice-Chair of Southeast Neighbors neighborhood association, and have been on the Eugene Planning Commission. Prior work experience includes being a member worker at Burley Bike Design Coop for more than ten years. Responsibilities there included product scheduling, managing shipping & receiving, and cooperative ownership business development. As a community organizer and a leader in Vision for Intact Ecosystems and Watersheds, I helped to protect and preserve a 40 acre forested section of the Amazon Creek Headwaters. It is now part of the city parks system.



**7** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Matt Keating**  
City Council  
Ward 2



**3.8** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Lisa Warnes**  
City Council  
Ward 2

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

I love Eugene and long to make our community stronger, more successful, and resilient.  
 My grandparents were Greatest Generation Americans. Their sacrifice and spirit of service encouraged, inspired, and empowered. Together, my family and caring educators taught me the value of hard work, the importance of participation, and the benefits of public service.  
 They instilled in me that our diversity is our strength; education is the great equalizer; and access to schools, healthcare, clean air and clean water are fundamental. Candidates who prioritize these points are worth fighting for; advancing these shared values are why I am running for re-election.

I decided to run for City Council because Eugene needs a person that knows Ward 2 well, that is 100% committed to the residents of the ward, and who knows what it means to operate a business. I'm running to give south Eugene voters a voice in addressing the challenges Eugene faces. I'm committed to bringing more common sense, accountability and diversity to the council. I will champion fiscal accountability, encourage more citizen involvement, and insist on more transparency in the City budget process.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

Congresswoman Val Hoyle, Congressman Peter DeFazio, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, State Senator James Manning, State Senator Floyd Prozanski, State Representative Paul Holvey, State Representative Phil Barnhart (ret.), State Representative Marty Wilde (ret.), Lane County Commissioners Laurie Trieger, Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch, Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson (ret.), Mayor Lucy Vinis, Mayor Kitty Piercy, Eugene City Councilors Randy Groves, Lyndsie Leech, Jennifer Yeh, Alan Zelenka, Lane Community College Board Members Austin Fohnagy, Lisa Fragala 4J Board Members Tom Di Liberto, Judy Newman, AFSCME Local 1724, Democratic Party of Lane County (DPLC), Working Families Party (WFP), Democratic, Municipal Officials (DMO), Eugene Police Employee Association (EPEA), Eugene Tenant Alliance, Lane Community College Education Association (LCCEA), Lane Professional Firefighters Local 851, Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV), Sierra Club, Sunrise Eugene, University of Oregon College Democrats

My endorsements include four previous Eugene City Council members, including Betty Taylor, who represented the ward for twenty-two years. My endorsements include a broad range of neighborhood leaders and Ward 2 residents, and the list continues to grow. I have not solicited endorsements from special interest groups.

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES, Oregon for Matt Keating (16192)

YES

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

Last summer the tent camping at and around the downtown library was becoming untenable and unsafe. That's why I reached out to neighborhood leaders, law enforcement, and city attorneys to craft ordinance language to amend City Code 4.815 (2023). As such, I advanced a camping prohibition on all property within 1000 feet of an education facility (public or private school, library, licensed daycare facility or preschool); this policy has had a significant impact on downtown businesses, especially, as well as providing safe access to our library and schools. At the same time I advanced this ordinance, I fought to stabilize funding for community supported shelters, providing vital access to housing/emergency support services.  
 Folks living in extreme unsheltered and unsanitary conditions on our streets isn't healthy for them, it isn't healthy for our community, it isn't healthy for our environment, and it isn't healthy for business and commerce.

We must better coordinate efforts by all agencies and nonprofits in the region to efficiently and effectively deploy resources from federal, county, city, and charitable sources to address the immediate needs of the homeless residents of our city. At the same time we must use our public safety resources to enforce our laws. The city can no longer ignore the homeless campers that invade industrial areas and obstruct businesses. At the same time that we provide services to those who want and need help we must protect the rights and interests of businesses and residents who bare the brunt of unregulated camping. We need to measure the effectiveness of programs and do a better job of tracking and monitoring our homeless population to understand what works and what doesn't work. We need to protect existing moderately priced housing and remove some of the barriers to building affordable housing. Eugene is one of the most difficult jurisdictions to build housing in. I will look at ways to reduce SDCs and permit fees for affordable housing projects.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

1) Provide law enforcement with tools to enforce city code such as the ordinance referenced above; 2) listen to local business leaders to find win-win solutions that ameliorate homelessness; 3) Ask questions: Are there tax credits for hiring local workforce that can be explored? Is parking/access to your business adequate and accessible? Are there safety and security concerns that Eugene City Council, Lane County Board of Commissioners, or State Government can help address? What policy reform do you suggest that can help us help you be more successful?

A thriving economy for Eugene starts with providing necessary services for the most disadvantaged residents while at the same time protecting the investment our local businesses have made in the community. One priority will be to improve coordination between the city and county in providing services for unsheltered families and individuals in the area. Implementation of the re-criminalization of certain drugs under Measure 110 will be another priority. Our public safety officers and fire fighters, first responders, need to be properly informed how to implement the new provisions designed to stop open drug use, and encourage people to get into drug treatment programs.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

Above, I alluded to a possible tax credit for businesses hiring and retaining local talent. I also support programs that give businesses the resources and flexibility to send their workforce back to school supporting development and enrichment of the employee.

The scarcity of moderately priced housing in Eugene is a major deterrent to many employees, as is the increasing burden of higher property taxes. One of the best ways we can encourage employees and businesses to locate and stay in the Eugene metropolitan area is to be genuinely open and welcoming to diversity in all forms, and for the city to find innovative ways to assist businesses to understand and comply with regulations and codes.

While part of the recruitment/retention responsibility clearly falls on business to attract and retain talent, local government plays a key role in maintaining our community's public safety, improving/modernizing our infrastructure, protecting the livability of our community (clean air, clean water), and ensuring there are a myriad of home ownership opportunities at all income levels. I will continue to support commonsense pro-public safety policy, pro-parks investments, traffic calming/vital road safety measures, and expanded broadband/high speed internet access; and I will continue to embrace innovative incentives to build more housing – at all income levels – especially along transportation lines.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

An example of a supersaturated solution is an iced tea, no with its maximum amount of sweetener: as some point, no matter how much sugar you pour in the iced tea it ain't going to get any sweeter.

I would start by prioritizing essential services and encourage voters to vote no on City Measure 20-358, the ballot measure that would authorize \$15 million in City of Eugene General Obligation Bonds to build an EMS stadium. I would fund critical services first, not use our public bonding authority to shore up private corporations. Any use of public bonding authority to benefit private corporations drives up the cost of housing for all residents through an increase in property taxes. I will advocate for an independent auditor to identify any waste or inefficiencies in the city budget. I will push for results-based assessments to measure the effectiveness of city programs and services.

Similarly, we can't keep going to homeowners to foot property tax increases for city/county/state services. As such, more creative methods beyond income and property tax are needed. Perhaps a vacancy tax on homes that are unused or utilized for short-term rentals exclusively; perhaps a nominal Ticketmaster-style surcharge on tickets for events of 1,000 people or more dedicated to improving our streets; perhaps exploring a modest consumption fee on targeted item(s) that curb unhealthy behavior while generating revenue for necessary services is worth exploring. For example, we already have nominal sales tax or consumption fees on alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and gasoline. At the risk of upsetting the Bigfoot Beverages apple cart, perhaps establishing a modest soda fee similar to the bottle return fee, and appropriating those funds to Health and Human Services would be a more equitable way of distributing the impact, curbing behavior for the better, and generating real revenue for a dedicated source that the business and broader community can support.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

Lesson learned: Bringing local business, industry, and stakeholders to the table early and often prevents the unfortunate antagonistic situation we found ourselves in with City's attempted decarbonization effort to reduce the amount of new low-rise residential homes being built with natural gas hookups. I own that and recognize the value of collaboration and incentivization as opposed to blanket prohibition that may be far more palatable to our community.

One of the best ways to protect our local economy is to address the housing crisis while respecting statewide land use planning laws and preserving farm and forest land as well as other natural resource lands. City permitting and planning needs to be more timely and predictable. I would oppose tax-exemptions for high-end developments unless there is a direct positive return on that investment that will benefit Eugene residents. Another area that directly impacts businesses is climate chaos and disaster preparedness. While I support efforts to reduce carbon emissions, I believe the more important responsibility of the city is to develop mitigation plans to help local residents and businesses cope with extreme weather events.

I will continue to listen and learn, adapt and lead on this issue seeking win-win solutions, supporting clean energy policy that gets City of Eugene to meet our CAP2.0 carbon reduction goals while providing incentives to business and industry to partner with the City and ensure Eugene and Eugene area businesses remain innovative and forward-thinking climate leaders.

In particular, parsing out the data is key. For example, commercial and industrial carbon emissions numbers are skewed when lumped together. I'll continue to drive home the need for data-informed solutions, ensure we use clean data, and – as Mayor Vinis has demonstrated – embrace a far more collaborative approach with business and industry in combating climate change.



**7** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Barbie Walker**

**Bio**

Barbie Walker has been a community member of Eugene for over 20 years. She was the first of her family to attend college. She work-studied her way through the University of Oregon for a degree in Biology and minor in Chemistry.

She has worked in medical labs and real science situations at the University of Oregon, Oregon Medical Group and elsewhere. She then rooted herself amongst the small business owners of her community for over 10 years now. She continued her love for research, education and community in the Trauma Healing Project Unhoused Youth, DHS when she was a member of Junior League of Eugene.

When she served executive board of Junior League Eugene as VP Community Enrichment, she was a leader in the ABOLISH Movement to end sex trafficking of I-5. She implemented the welcome kits and kitchen design and equipment for local St. Vincent de Paul girl's youth house. She was the developer of the 4J School District Youth ID Program for at risk/homeless youth, which was legislatively passed, HB2402. Now recognized by the DMV, Determination of Homelessness for an ID Card form.

One of her proudest accomplishments is being a founding developer of The 15th Night Program. A movement to end youth homelessness alongside its Employment Pathways Workforce Innovation & Opportunity programs still going nearly 10 years now. To this day she continues to work hard to provide economic prosperity at her local small business and volunteer in these aspects. These reflect Barbie Walker's long-term concern and commitment to public safety, the unhoused and community of Eugene.



**5.5** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Lyndsie Leech**

**Bio**

Lyndsie Leech is the Executive Director of WellMama (a nonprofit Chamber member) and Ward 7 Eugene City Councilor. Lyndsie is mom to 2 amazing sons & a bonus daughter, has over 14 years of social service experience in the Eugene area, primarily in behavioral health organizations. Her professional expertise is in nonprofit management, resource development, mental health systems, grant writing, public relations, and project management, having previously worked with The Child Center, HIV Alliance, Looking Glass Community Services, Food For Lane County and the Veneta Downtown Farmers' Market. She has spent countless hours devoted to community service. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Middlebury Institute of International Studies and a graduate certificate in Development Project Management.



**7** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Barbie Walker**  
City Council  
Ward 7



**5.5** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Lyndsie Leech**  
City Council  
Ward 7

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

In Eugene we take pride in our unique community. As an active community member for over twenty years and small business owner for over ten I am proud to reflect on the progress I and notable others have made towards our communities' priorities. But we know there is work to be done. I am here to do the hard work. I am here to represent the voters and to ensure Eugene grows in a sustainable, equitable, economically prosperous way that is shared by all.

I am running for City Council because I want to continue to work hard to address the many challenges faced by our city. I am a working mom and know first-hand how hard it is to raise a family these days. As the Executive Director of WellMama, I work with families every day and know that mental health is one of the most important topics we can address as a community. I will work tirelessly to improve mental health services in Eugene and champion policies that promote a better quality of life for all. I'll bring passion and a sense of urgency to addressing the housing and homelessness crises, preserving our natural environment for years to come, making it easier to raise a family, and promoting workforce development.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

We are very much still in the early stages of endorsement paperwork and interviews, but many have already pledged to endorse me, and past endorsements are all circulating back this week!

**Pledged:**

Lane Professional Fire Fighters Local 851; Eugene Police Union; Union 290 Plumbers & Steam Fitters; Wayne Morris Firefighter Battalion Chief Whiteaker Station 2; Mike Clark Eugene City Councilor; Randy Groves Retired Eugene Fire Chief & Eugene City Councilor; Ryan Ceniga Lane County Commissioner; Dallas Boggs Community Leader; Micheal Lambros Emerald Park Rec Center Board Member & Owner Global Delights Coffee; Jim Morrison Community Member Santa Clara; Megan Schultz Community Member; At Risk and Homeless Youth

Val Hoyle, U.S. Congresswoman; Julie Fahey, State Representative & Speaker of the House; Senator James Manning; Lucy Vinis, Eugene Mayor; Kitty Piercy, Former Eugene Mayor; Eugene City Councilors Matt Keating, Jennifer Yeh, Alan Zelenka, Greg Evans, Lane County Commissioners Laurie Trieger and Heather Buch; Lane Community College Board Members Lisa Fragala and Austin Fohnagy; Tai Puce-Zimmerman, Eugene Budget Committee Chair; UFCW Local 555; AFSCME Local 1724; Western States Carpenters Union; Democratic Party of Lane County; Oregon Working Families Party; Sunrise Eugene; Sierra Club – Many Rivers; Oregon League of Conservation Voters

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES

YES

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

I would develop upon the public policy in place by redirecting existing budgets and financial resources to areas that have already proven levels of measurable progress for our businesses and homeless community and/or those that have a solid sustainable plan to present. As a local small business owner for over ten years, I have the tools to be a knowledgeable representative at the council level for our business community. Public Safety, Business Prosperity with Sustainability for the Working Families within our community are some of my absolute top priorities.

**HOUSING:** I have supported opportunities to make it easier to add housing in our city in multiple ways including voting yes on innovative housing projects, approving adjustments to zoning like height limitations, adding fee assistance and accelerated incentives for building housing in the downtown core, and more. I am also working on making it easier to add ADUs.  
**UNHOUSED SUPPORTS:** I support efforts to ensure that our unhoused can have safe sleeping sites, while also maintaining sanitation and safety. I pushed for the extension of our safe sleep sites, and I am now working to add sites for people living in their vehicles to help ease pressures in the neighborhoods, and a program proposal to make it easier for people to get from the streets to adequate housing quicker.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

1) To be supportive you must be present. I pledge to be present, available and to do the grass roots of checking in with businesses before they must check in with me.  
2) Our local economy thrives when our small businesses do. I will be the hands on, vocal representative to make sure that existing policies are being thoughtfully developed upon and accurately followed through with for our businesses and neighborhoods. This in turn will show measurable progress for these things without changing any of our "Uniquely Eugene" dynamics.

This past year, I voted to invest \$125 million into Urban Renewal in Downtown and our Riverfront, because these areas are and will be primary economic drivers for our city's revenue to fund services. By focusing on both infrastructure and housing in the downtown & riverfront, we will add vitality and more people to the core, promoting the businesses there. I also support analyzing city planning and zoning for ways to add housing, as well as attract commercial business opportunities that can lead to good family-supporting jobs. But one of the most crucial aspects to support workers and business development that I see as an ever-increasing gap and concern is access to quality, affordable childcare.

**Local companies are struggling to retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

To retain or attract talent, you must be attractive to talent. To put it plainly we must first clean up the city and county streets surrounding our local businesses, places of learning and our parks. Our urban, industrial, and especially our small mom and pop shops need our commitment to budget for routine cleanup of graffiti, drug paraphernalia, human waste and discarded or abandoned items.

Secondly, A commitment of more patrols during peak crime hours from our Eugene police while they work congruently with partners and entities such as Cahoots, Whitebird, St. Vincent, Looking Glass, Shelter Care, The Mission, Fire and EMS.

Third, I would be a champion for events such as Workshops, Symposiums, Continuing Educations, that would drive talent and tourism into our town by partnering with our university, local schools, businesses, community members and organizations, entities like Travel Lane Co, Cascades Coast to Coast and The Eugene Chamber.

Which would also contribute to retaining our local talent already within our community.

The cost of living in Eugene has risen and wages have not risen to the same level. Housing prices are astronomical. We are in a mental health crisis. Childcare is so scarce that there is only 1 spot for every 7 children. These are all barriers to workers in our city. The City of Eugene must continue to invest in affordable housing, create opportunities for developing our mental health workforce, and look at ways to increase worker wages. We absolutely must find solutions to our housing crisis so that people that want to live and work here are able to put down roots.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

**Short Term:** Conduct an exhaustive review of services already in place to seek more efficiency in operations. To trim the fat, the city budget committees and policy makers must plan a thoughtful, common-sense budget to live within their means at their existing tax base, much like business and families already do.

**Long Term:** Economic Development, Businesses that create jobs that grow our tax base will increase the tax revenue coming in without raising taxes. Focusing on bringing in talent, not turning it away to neighboring towns.

I was appointed to the City's revenue team to investigate many different strategies for funding services and to address the funding gap in our budget. Over the short-term, we need to make sure that we are keeping city services like fire, parks, & library open and consistent, and this is going to take some creative strategies, as well as finding efficiencies. Over the long term, we need to invest in our city, adding property value by attracting commercial opportunities and more housing, and implement other longer-term strategies for growth over time. We need to be very good stewards of public dollars which means transparency and engagement with the public.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

First, I would work with our community members and outside communities and bring talented individuals together to a workshop table of climate resilience. It is important to have people that have a science background and are educated in strategic choices to develop our systems and policies that are in place to accurately respond to a warming climate.

As an example, it is irresponsible to our small businesses and our underserved populations to ban one of their main energy sources without a plan. During weather such as ice storms that cause power outages for weeks or heat waves that cause alerts for power grid loss, we leave our most vulnerable underserved. Relying on one energy source for all.. we leave our established small business unrepresented.

Second, I would look to set an objective of reducing energy consumption by starting with incentives, for better weatherization, full grants for sustainable alternative energy options given to people and businesses. Then supply businesses and community members with streamlined, easily acquired, easily understandable educational information for the public for transparency.

I will work collaboratively to ensure that we are meeting the goals set forth in our climate action plan. We are in a critical time where we need to be able to respond to the impacts of climate change – like wildfires, storms, and natural disasters – in a way that will help us be more resilient over time. Our local economy depends on our ability to respond to these costly events, and we can do that by investing in energy resiliency through community solar, battery storage, and the workforce needed to build and maintain them, but we must work together at all levels to promote climate resilience as a community.



**9.3** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Randy Groves**

#### Council Assignments

Council Leadership, Vice President (2024), past President (2023); Budget Committee; Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee; Human Services Commission; Metropolitan Policy Committee; Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board, Executive Steering Committee; Eugene Springfield Joint Elected Officials Fire Governance Committee; Human Rights Commission (2021)

#### Professional Background

Eugene City Council (2021–Present); Associate Consultant, Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI); Fire Chief, Eugene Springfield Fire; Firefighter through Deputy Chief, City of Eugene; Principal Officer, International Association of Firefighters, IAFF Local 851; Firefighter, City of Corvallis

#### Community Service / Involvement

Eugene Budget Committee; Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), Board of Directors and Executive Steering Committee; Cascade West Economic Development District, (CEWEDD) Board of Directors; DEQ Bulk Fuel Storage Seismic Resiliency Advisory Committee; ODOT OR-126 Widening Project Steering Committee; Active Bethel Citizens Neighborhood Association; Churchill Area Neighborhood Association; Eugene Wildfire Preparedness Coalition; Past school volunteer; Past Board Member, Churchill Area Babe Ruth Baseball; Past Coach, Churchill Area Babe Ruth Baseball and Willamette Valley All Stars

#### Special Interests and Concerns

- Employ realistic and effective solutions to address homelessness, medical care, housing, employment, and mental health and addictive treatment
- Local economy and jobs – support existing businesses and workers while seeking to attract new clean business, industry and living wage jobs
- Support youth and our educational system with special emphasis on at risk youth. Let's prepare the next generation for success
- Increase our inventory and diversity of housing with an emphasis on affordable housing
- Promote strong neighborhoods
- Employ community safety strategies which maximize safety for all who live in or pass through our community, and strategically evolve our service system to maximize and align resources with service needs
- Continue the revitalization of our downtown
- Build strong partnerships within our community and our regional partners
- Continue our work on environmental protection and climate change while employing realistic, achievable and balanced practices

#### Educational Background

- Graduate Studies, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
- B.S., Planning, Public Policy & Management, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
- Executive Fire Officer Program graduate, National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD



**9.3** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Randy Groves**

City Council  
Ward 8

### Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.

My commitment to public service began as a firefighter where I served for almost 37 years and retired as fire chief. In 2019 I was appointed to serve on the Eugene Budget Committee, and in 2020 I was elected to the Eugene City Council. Since taking office I have been actively engaged with and responsive to the public. I will continue to bring a commonsense approach to governing and work to build community rather than polarization which has unfortunately become common in government. I will continue to support business and our economy and I believe my track record reflects this commitment.

### What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?

Congresswoman Val Hoyle, U.S. House of Representatives; Senator James Manning, Oregon State Senate; Eugene City Councilors Greg Evans, Alan Zelenka, Mike Clark, and Matt Keating; Lane County Commissioners Heather Buch and Pat Farr; Lin Woodrich – Co-Chair, Active Bethel Community (ABC) Neighborhood Association; Steve Schilling – Board Member, Churchill Area Neighborhood (CAN) Association; Ted Coopman – Chair, Jefferson/Westside Neighborhood Association; Rick Hamilton – Eugene 4j School Board; Jenny Jonak – Eugene 4j School Board; Linda Hamilton – Lane Education Services District Board; Kevin Alltucker – Lane Community College Board of Directors; Lisa Fragala – Lane Community College Board of Directors; John Barofsky – EWEB Board of Directors; John H. Brown – EWEB Board of Directors and Business Leader; Sonya Carlson – EWEB Board of Directors; Pete Knox – LTD Board Member; Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce; Eugene Realtors Association; Homebuilders Association of Lane County (2020); Chris Pryor – former Eugene City Councilor, Ward 8; Rosie Pryor – former LCC Board of Education; Alicia Hays – former 4j School Board; Beth Gerot – former Eugene 4j School Board; Anne Marie Levis – former Eugene 4j School Board; Craig Smith – former Eugene 4j School Board; Jim Torrey – former Mayor and Eugene 4j School Board; Mary Walston – former Eugene 4j School Board; Lane Professional Firefighters – IAFF Local 851; Eugene Police Employee Association (EPEA); International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) – Local 280; Jenny Ulum – Business Leader; Liz Cawood – Business Leader; Grace Serbu – Philanthropist; Megan Schultz – Youth Advocate, Non-Profit CEO; Jean Tate, Business Leader; Chief Dennis Murphy (Retired) – Founder of FireMed. For a complete list of endorsements: <https://www.randygroves.org/endorsements>

### Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?

YES

### Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.

Homelessness, crime reduction, community safety and economic development have been my top priorities. When I took office, West Eugene was being overrun, crime was rampant, businesses and residents were leaving, and there were insufficient spaces for the unhoused. Eugene and its partners have since created Safe Sleep Sites providing more space for the unhoused, our parking ordinance has been amended four times, our camping ordinance twice. We have added police officers, neighborhood services officers, made changes in Municipal Court, and improved how we manage our downtown. I have been hands-on and directly involved with these actions and I will continue to lead policy reform.

### What 2–3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?

- Continue to clean up our city while addressing homelessness, crime and behavioral problems.
- Work to increase our buildable lands inventory and simplify our development process. Businesses need the ability to expand and we need to support expansion while attracting new compatible business and industry to support a healthy and diversified economy. Councilor Evans and I have been working in West Eugene to attract manufacturing but keep running into our lack of sizeable shovel ready sites. Growing our manufacturing sector will create jobs and support existing businesses.
- Advocate for State funding assistance for infrastructure development in the Clearlake Road Industrial Zone.

### Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2–3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.

- Continue our efforts to address homelessness, behavioral problems and crime. Our national reputation is a disincentive.
- Identify strategies that better attract and retain human resources. Example: An existing local business has been challenged with attracting and retaining engineers. They are now working directly with a university's Engineering Design practicum.
- Provide an inventory of available internships to Oregon's colleges and universities. While touring the Knight Center for Accelerating Scientific Impact, I learned that UO was unfamiliar with many of Eugene's biotech companies. Students are going to other regions for internships while these same opportunities exist locally. Internships frequently serve as pathways for employment.

### As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.

- Long-Term: Increase our tax base through managed growth by helping existing businesses grow while also attracting new business and industry.
- Short-Term: While fees for services in Oregon are becoming more common, we must also evaluate innovation to support living within our means. Example: Work with other local governments to evaluate strategic service realignments that reduce redundancy and are not constrained by geo-political boundaries.
- Consider employing a zero-based Eugene budgeting process where every service begins with zero and is rebuilt based on community "needs." We could then consider user fees to partially support additional popular but nonessential services while providing waivers for low-income residents.

### Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.

Become more strategic and less tactical in our efforts to address climate change. Eugene's natural gas ban was tactical rather than strategic, and divisive rather than uniting. The business community should be brought into the climate discussion with government and collaboratively set a course to strengthen resiliency while minimizing the impact on our economy. It should be recognized that no action could lead to future economic problems. Rather than a gas ban, initiatives that improve weatherization and end of life-cycle equipment conversions can reduce energy consumption and future operating costs. Working towards climate resiliency does not have to result in a zero-sum gain/loss



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**20  
24**

# MAY PRIMARY ELECTION

# *EWEB* COMMISSIONER

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# EWEB Commissioner

## EWEB Commissioner Election

The 5 Commissioners of Eugene's Water and Electric Board (EWEB) oversee the operations, policies, and strategic direction of the utility services provided by EWEB. Four of the wards are geographically aligned with City Council wards, with the 5th an at-large citywide position. There are 3 open seats in the Primary election.



9 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**KIM ARSCOTT**  
EWEB 1 & 8



3.6 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Tim Morris**  
EWEB 1 & 8

## EWEB Commissioner Wards 1 & 8

EWEB Wards 1 & 8 has two candidates, vying to replace Commissioner Matt McRae, who is not seeking re-election. Wards 1 & 8 align with those City Council wards.

## EWEB Commissioner Wards 2 & 3

Incumbent Commissioner John Barofsky is currently running unopposed for a second term. As the Eugene Chamber Board President, declined to participate in the candidate evaluation process.



8.7 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Sonya Carlson**  
EWEB 6 & 7

## EWEB Commissioner Wards 6 & 7

Incumbent Sonya Carlson is seeking re-election for a second term and is running unopposed. She represents City Council wards 6 & 7.

### SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Candidates received scores based on alignment with Chamber priorities, tabulated and averaged. See Appendix for details.




**9** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

## KIM ARSCOTT

I'm Kim Arscott and Eugene has been my home since 1998, where I have lived with my spouse of 29 years, our three children, and two dogs. Community service is central to my life, and I am passionate about giving back and making meaningful contributions. I've taken on several leadership roles my whole adult life. Currently I am the current co-chair of Greeters at the Chamber of Commerce and President of Eugene Realtors and serve on the Oregon Realtors board with the business issues key committee. I have volunteered with Egan Warming Center since 2016, the Junior League of Eugene since 2003 and Pet Partners, where my dog and I visit Riverbend Hospital to bring comfort to patients. I'm deeply committed to creating a more sustainable, inclusive community through educational and environmental initiatives, with a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.



**3.6** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

## TIM MORRIS

I am a founding member and current Executive Director of the Springfield Eugene Tenant Association, a 501c3 nonprofit operating since 2019. I am the former Outpatient Behavioral Health Program Assistant for Willamette Family. My current and former government experience is serving on the Lane County Housing Policy Board (2021-present); Lane County Budget Committee (2019 - 2020); Lane Community College Budget Committee (2017 - 2019) and Rulemaking Advisory Committee for HB 2001 & 2003 (2021.)




**9** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

### KIM ARSCOTT EWEB 1 & 8



**3.6** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

### Tim Morris EWEB 1 & 8

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

I'm running for EWEB Commissioner because I see the need for positive change in our community. With my 25 years in Eugene as a resident, homeowner, rental owner, and business owner, I personally understand the diverse needs of our community. I want to ensure that EWEB is not only meeting our infrastructure needs but also playing a strategic role in meeting our climate goals by balancing safety, community, environment, affordability, and reliability for all. Let's work together to make our community even stronger and more sustainable!

I am running for EWEB Commissioner to support the growth and innovation of our local public utilities. Both my professional and personal goals have been to support low/no-income people of Oregon, ensuring the maximum amount of resources available to those in need, and directly preventing homelessness - thereby reducing the number of unhoused people living in Oregon. I have a successful history of ensuring both housing and economic stability for our neighbors and I hope to bring my experience to the EWEB Board.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

Senator James Manning – Oregon State Senate  
Randy Groves – Eugene City Councilor Ward 8  
Mike Clark – Eugene City Councilor Ward 5  
John Brown – EWEB Commissioner Ward 4 & 5  
John Barofsky – EWEB Commissioner Ward 2 & 3

I have earned the endorsement of Sierra Club, the Democratic Party of Lane County, Next Up, and several elected officials - including Oregon Speaker of the House Julie Fahey and current EWEB Commissioner Matt McRae. A full list of endorsements can be found on my website, [friendsoftimmorris.com](http://friendsoftimmorris.com)

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES

YES

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

I am not sure how EWEB can help with the with the homelessness in our community at this time. I would like to see more mixed use housing and condos in the downtown areas.

My day job is working deeply and directly in homeless prevention and economic stability and a significant portion of my volunteer hours are spent doing the same. As an EWEB Commissioner, I will advocate the same economic stability for Eugene's residents by utilizing existing EWEB programs and fostering relationships I have already built with the cities of Eugene/Springfield and Lane County. Businesses thrive when families are housed, safe, and have stable incomes.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

To support our local economy and businesses, I would focus on the following:  
Utility Affordability: I would like to encourage property owners to invest in their properties to make utilities more affordable for tenants, regardless of whether they are businesses or renters. This can be achieved through energy-efficient upgrades such as updating windows, heating, and AC systems, which can also increase property value. By having affordable utilities our business owners and renters can afford to stay in our town and not look elsewhere for less expensive opportunities. I also understand that investing in your property can be a financial burden but with thoughtful updating through EWEB's rebates & savings programs this can be a win for everybody.  
Safety Promotion: Promoting safety measures before storms and outages to ensure the well-being of residents and the continuity of business operations. This can include public education campaigns and infrastructure improvements.

As an EWEB Commissioner, I am dedicated to transparency in utility bills for both residents and businesses. It is challenging to balance a budget if there are surprise and unexpected utility costs. I will be advocating for stronger transparency in utility usage and costs. I also hope to continue exploring diversifying EWEB's power generation - ensuring that the next ice storm does not fully shut down Eugene but that we utilize alternative power generation to continue to support key resources such as food and medical.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

To help local businesses attract and retain talent, I would focus on two key strategies:  
Promoting Clean Energy and Water Careers: Encouraging students to consider careers in clean energy and water industries, highlighting their importance for our town's infrastructure.  
Educational Partnerships: Collaborating with educational institutions to develop programs that prepare students for these careers, ensuring a skilled workforce for local businesses.

We are lucky to have educational institutions like UO and LCC. Students across the US come to Oregon to learn - including many who come to Eugene to learn about the trades business. As an EWEB Commissioner, I plan to support partnerships with UO and LCC on student apprenticeships and internships with EWEB programs. Part of retaining talent is ensuring that an individual can earn the experience at the beginning of their career to stay in that field.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

Because EWEB is a huge part of Eugene's infrastructure and existence I would seek out federal funding to help our communities offset some of the major expenses. I completely understand tax fatigue and seek to find solutions that include grants and government assistance.

Taxes affect everyone, particularly low-income families and small businesses. Thanks to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and other state and federal legislation, program expansion and deferred maintenance can be paid for by existing dollars that would not lead to tax increases for average consumers. EWEB must take advantage of the significant funding made available by the passage of the IRA and other policies to develop publicly owned renewable energy generation such as utility-scale solar and storage, and to work in collaboration with the City of Eugene, community partners, equity organizations, and businesses to develop these projects.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

To protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience, I would focus on investing in renewable energy, supporting self-sustainability, and developing climate resilience plans. These initiatives can create economic opportunities, reduce our carbon footprint, and strengthen our community's ability to withstand climate change.

As above, I believe there are federal dollars that can be brought to EWEB for program and infrastructure development. This innovation will also require staff expansions, specialized skilled workers, and consistent community conversations - including business owners. Resiliency also means taking a hard look at our current infrastructure. The 2023 ice storm is expected to cost EWEB nearly double than the 2019 ice storm - estimating around \$8m in expenses. In addition to the community cost of having infrastructure that is easily put out of commission, the financial cost of our current infrastructure can cause rate hikes, required lowered usage times, etc. I support exploring ways to prevent inclement weather events from completely shutting down Eugene and weather residents even more.





**8.7** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Sonya Carlson**

I'm Sonya Carlson, currently serving as the Executive Director of BRING and a Commissioner on the Eugene Water and Electric Board since 2017. Additionally, I hold positions on the boards of Lane Council of Governments and the Eugene Education Foundation. As a Rotarian and Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, my diverse roles reflect my wide-ranging interests in energy efficiency, government partnerships, education, business, resiliency, sales, and the built environment.

Before joining BRING, I served as the VP of Operations at a manufacturing company in Creswell and earned an MBA in Sustainability from the UO. My goal is to expand outreach for both EWEB and BRING, providing services to underserved populations and fostering innovative partnerships for businesses prioritizing cost-consciousness and resource efficiency.

As a dedicated mom and concerned community member, I'm actively working to broaden educational offerings for students of all backgrounds. Recognizing the impact of inadequate school funding on our homelessness situation and talent retention/recruitment issues, I believe in ensuring the next generation is equipped with the skills needed for tomorrow's challenges, serving the needs of our local business community.



**8.7** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Sonya Carlson**  
EWEB 6 & 7

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

EWEB has been one of the most functional elected boards in the region. I would like to keep it that way. We grapple with challenging topics, have respectful dialog, and make multimillion dollar decisions that enhance and ensure that this community can be resilient and vibrant for generations to come. I would like to see the Secondary Water Treatment plant come to fruition, tackle rate design in our changing regulatory environment, and continue to work on our resilient spine.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

All other current EWEB Commissioners. This is the first questionnaire I have received, so I do not have any other endorsements from other organizations.

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

In my role as an EWEB Commissioner, I prioritize maintaining affordable rates and implementing safeguards for the most vulnerable in our community, understanding the utility cost's impact on housing affordability. The goal is to enable people to stay in their homes by avoiding unnecessary barriers for those facing challenges. Striking a balance, I work towards funding low-income services without unduly burdening businesses and individuals across our community.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

To bolster our local economy, my focus would be on sustaining investments in resiliency, particularly in projects like the secondary water treatment plant, water storage tanks, and energy advancements. These initiatives not only address critical infrastructure needs but also alleviate the economic strain on businesses and homeowners during power outages or water disruptions. It's imperative to navigate these projects with a keen awareness of market costs and the changing environmental and regulatory landscape, all while maintaining a delicate balance with the community's capacity and willingness to absorb these costs.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

Within EWEB, I support educational programs that inspire and empower youth. On a personal level, I've used this leadership role to advocate for changes to enhance parental and community involvement. Examining our school rankings reveals a disparity, where only those with financial means can access enhanced academic opportunities. To address this issue and attract and retain top talent, substantial investments in our schools are crucial and by fostering a more equitable educational landscape, we create an environment where every student has access to quality education, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

Ensure the efficient and effective utilization of taxed or charged funds. Advocate passionately for critical services, ensuring clear communication on the compelling reasons behind the necessity of these investments.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

To safeguard our local economy and enhance climate resilience, I propose strategic investments in resilient and cost-effective electrification and power generation. These decisions will be driven by data, avoiding emotional biases from passionate minority groups. It's essential to prioritize factual education and patience to ensure informed and effective climate-resilient measures for our community's economic well-being.



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# MAY PRIMARY ELECTION

# LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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# Lane County Commissioner

## Lane County Commissioner Election

The Lane County Board of Commissioners governs Oregon's Lane County, overseeing vital services, policies, and budgets. Commissioners serve four-year terms, managing affairs for over 380,000 residents. Their duties include setting county-wide policies, managing budgets, and providing services ranging from public safety to land use planning, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of Lane County's diverse communities. There are 5 geographic districts, with 2 of the 5 seats open this election cycle. Both incumbents are being challenged.



7

TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Laurie Trieger**

*Lane County  
Commissioner Pos. 3*



6

TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Grace Widdicombe**

*Lane County  
Commissioner Pos. 3*

## Lane County Commissioner Position 3

Lane County Commissioner Position 3 represents South Eugene and is the most densely populated and urban of the 5 districts. Incumbent Laurie Trieger is seeking a second term, facing challenger Grace Widdicombe.



9.9

TOTAL  
AVG.  
SCORE

**Pat Farr**

*Lane County  
Commissioner Pos. 4*

## Lane County Commissioner Position 4

Incumbent Commissioner Pat Farr represents North Eugene and is seeking re-election to a 4th consecutive term. His opponent declined to participate.

### SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Candidates received scores based on alignment with Chamber priorities, tabulated and averaged. See Appendix for details.



7 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Laurie Trieger**

County Commissioner Laurie Trieger has lived in District 3 since 1987. The mother of two adult children, she's put down deep roots in Lane County and is now watching her twin grandsons grow up in this cherished place she calls home.

Prior to being elected in 2020 she had a 25+ year career as a nonprofit professional at organizations such as FOOD for Lane County, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, and Sponsors, Inc. She also served on the Equity & Access Boards for both 4J schools and Lane County Government, as well as the Lane County Budget Committee. She is currently a Governor's appointee to Oregon's Opioid Settlement Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Board.

She was motivated to seek public office in part because of concern for the health and wellbeing of future generations. Laurie is committed to building a community where all residents have equal opportunity to thrive and to ensuring Lane County is a safe, supportive place for everyone to live, work, and play.



6 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Grace Widdicombe**

Grace Widdicombe graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. Through the years she has invested in many courses in real estate, negotiating skills, and business.

Grace spent most of her career in commissioned sales, from selling computer learning courses in the 90's to industrial lubricants and chemicals in the 2000's.

Grace is now a successful entrepreneur. During the great recession in 2010 she recognized an opportunity to invest in neighborhoods by learning how to purchase and renovate abandoned homes.

She continues to rescue houses today, and now teaches others this skill. In 2017 she founded Oregon Real Estate Investors' Association. Under her leadership many have become successful entrepreneurs in the industry and therefore rehab houses to qualify for first-time homeownership.

As a leader, Grace is concerned with the lack of housing and lack of skilled workers in Lane County.



7 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Laurie Trieger**  
Lane County  
Commissioner Pos. 3



6 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Grace Widdicombe**  
Lane County  
Commissioner Pos. 3

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

Having resided in the district for 37 years and raised a family here, I have a deep understanding of my constituents' needs. I've been actively involved as a volunteer, community organizer, policy advocate, and nonprofit professional, dedicated to serving the people. My approach is values-driven, thoughtful, compassionate, and strategic.

**My primary focus areas include:**

1. Housing & Homelessness
2. Mental Health & Addiction Services
3. Climate Crisis-Induced Natural Disasters

To tackle these issues, I've implemented, and will continue to pursue, initiatives such as:

- Supporting the creation of permanent housing units with comprehensive services for high-need individuals
- Advocating for our Behavioral Health Stabilization Center project to serve both youth and adults
- Broadening drug treatment options and overseeing the implementation of a "Deflection Program" in response to Measure 110 reforms
- Finalizing the construction of our state-of-the-art Mixed Waste Processing Facility to significantly reduce the county's carbon footprint by diverting organic matter and recyclable materials from our landfill.
- Securing state and federal aid to bolster housing production, enhance behavioral health workforce development, fortify public safety services, and facilitate wildfire recovery efforts.

I have been called to serve as Commissioner because the door has opened for me to be able to work for the community, make some changes that strengthen the citizens and businesses in Lane County, as well as protect the rights of landowners and employers. I personally don't need a job. I have successful businesses and am, quite frankly, probably going to lose some income in the interim. It has come to my attention that special interest groups are gaining power in Lane County, and I am running to abate such power-hungry groups.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

I've earned the support and trust of elected leaders up and down the ballot; from US Senators Wyden and Merkley, to state legislators, city councilors, school board members, and more. A sampling of my organizational endorsements includes Firefighters, Eugene Realtors, AFSCME Local 2381 and State Council 75, and The Sierra Club. The list of local community members who have signed on to my campaign is extensive. Please see my website for a complete (and growing) list [www.LaurieTrieger.com](http://www.LaurieTrieger.com)

Because I started my campaign late, I have individual endorsements at this time. In a couple of weeks we will see many more. Thus far I have received endorsements from: Helen Williams, Joelle Goodwin, Linda Anderson, Steve Toller, Kathi Hoffer, Jantzen Lloyd, Leslie Parker, Sherrilyn Bjorkgren, Liz Labosky, Dennis & Sue Jenkins, Bill Slattery; and two of my tenants, Sylvan Scholl and Douglas Gaines.

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES

YES

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

As the lead for the Continuum of Care, our primary focus is on planning and convening efforts aimed at reducing homelessness in Lane County. In order to reduce homelessness, per federal definitions, we need to move people into permanent housing. We employ a diverse range of evidence-based and promising-practice programs to achieve this goal. In terms of public safety, my contributions have been substantial. I staunchly advocated for our Public Safety Levy by engaging with groups and constituencies traditionally not involved in such endeavors, resulting in unprecedented support for its renewal. Following that campaign I spearheaded a board-directed initiative to establish a Public Safety Funding Task Force, tasked with identifying and proposing solutions to address the structural deficits in the funding model for this critical public service.

Governor Tina Kotek has set ambitious goals for housing production, yet our commission has failed to participate in the housing reforms necessary to reach them. For years I have worked to create more affordable housing for our neighbors. We must have equitable housing access to build strong, vibrant communities. I will support raising height restrictions where feasible and I will work to reduce the red tape in getting permits and make permit costs in Lane County lower, to make it more affordable for construction to begin and complete. I will fight the current building restrictions set by Lane County.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

I'm working with community and elected leaders to address workforce shortages across sectors, but especially in the behavioral healthcare space. We need to innovate and act quickly to create more apprenticeship-model programs and to clear regulatory and policy barriers for health care professionals so they can more easily practice in our community. Child care is the work that makes all other work possible and therefore is an essential component of a thriving local economy. Our community is in desperate need of more quality, affordable childcare. I have been a huge advocate on this front for over a decade and continue to do all I can to leverage the platform of my office to make progress in this area.

I will work with the city governments and the chamber of commerce to communicate with business owners on issues that directly affect their foot traffic. For example, the ongoing road repairs in the corridors of downtown Eugene have cost businesses lots of money, and for what? For bicycle lanes? The more bike lanes we install in the downtown area the less purchase power we are inviting downtown. After all, how do the shoppers take goods with them? Drivers are fed-up with all the changes, extended curbs and additional bike lanes.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

Addressing our housing shortage is a crucial element of this issue. County government's most effective tool to help with this lies in our ability to secure resources for improving or developing infrastructure such as water and broadband in areas ripe for buildout. These kinds of foundational projects allow us to scale up and make meaningful progress.

Livability is paramount for talent attraction and retention. Leading the PAC Board for our County Parks and Revolving for public safety resources, and ensuring healthcare access underscore my dedication to enhancing overall livability.

The real question should be "why aren't we training kids and adults in vocational education?" The work force needs skilled laborers! For too long secondary schools have been pushing the college agenda. When I was young there were classes in wood shop, metal shop and drafting. Today, we have one CTE class at SEHS, culinary arts, for which there is low demand and high unemployment. There is, however, high demand for plumbers, electricians, carpenters, welders, HVAC technicians, and mechanics. If we support more people to work these critical jobs, we will also be able to build more houses!

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

During my tenure on Lane County's Budget Committee from 2014-2018 and as commissioner since 2021, we've implemented cost-saving measures to move us closer to a structurally balanced budget. In Oregon, policy barriers hinder true tax equity, impeding fair funding for essential public services. I advocate for systemic fixes to break the unsustainable cycle of relying on "one-off" bond and levy campaigns.

Addressing these challenges is vital to the delivery of core functions of County Government and to ensuring people receive the services they need, want, and deserve.

I will be a watchdog on unnecessary spending, such as the huge waste recycling facility that Lane County Commissioners voted to build, costing taxpayers \$135 Million. The premise for the facility is false, it's not needed, and it only increases recycling by 10%. This money could be used to build a much-needed conference center! We need to attract people to the area by providing a state-of-the-art conference center, not a state-of-the-art trash facility. As far as the Ems stadium is concerned, if Elmore Sports Group, owner of the Ems, doesn't contribute at minimum 50%, then it should not be considered.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

These two items are of a piece, and should not be in conflict with one another. We need both. Innovation, collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose are where we find good answers and make progress. When we pit jobs or the economy against a healthy, safe planet we all lose. Ambitious change and big transitions are never easy. These times demand we embrace these challenges with courage, strategy, and tenacity. We need to do so for the sake of future generations.

If I were to have my way, we would already have power lines below ground throughout the cities. The ICE STORM proved that we need power lines underground. Eight people died in Creswell due to substituting their hibachi-type grill for heat. We are dependent on electricity not just for heat, but also for communications. I mentioned that I don't like all the street work, but if it's for maintenance and restructuring mechanical systems and utilities, then I'm all in. I will work with EWEBC, SUB and other providers to get power underground to become more climate resilient.



9.9 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Pat Farr**

I was born in Sheffield, England and immigrated to Tillamook where I entered the sixth grade. I am a Cheesemaker at heart, having graduated from Tillamook HS in 1972. I attended the University of Oregon where I met Debi Smith within 15 minutes of my arrival on campus. We've been married for 49 years and have three remarkable sons, two remarkable in-law children and a host of grandchildren and adoptive grandchildren.

I worked at Tillamook Farmers Co-op and notably at Jerry's Home Improvement Center as we grew from a dozen employees in a 5,000 square foot Ace Hardware store into the most incredible home improvement center in the USA.

I served as Executive Director of FOOD for Lane County as it weathered very difficult financial and support times and became distributor of more than 7 million pounds of food to hungry families annually. I was recognized on the Floor of the United States Senate for my work with FFLC.

I've served on boards and commissions, including Oregon Food Bank, SELCO, Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, Metropolitan Policy Commission, Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board and numerous others. I serve on two national steering committees for National Association of Counties.

My elective service includes Bethel School Board, Eugene City Council, Oregon House of Representatives and, currently, the Lane County Board of Commissioners.



9.9 TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Pat Farr**  
Lane County  
Commissioner Pos. 4

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

I want to continue my work on public safety, land use, poverty and homelessness, economic development, environmental issues and effective transparent government.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

I have not completed all forms for the current election voter pamphlet, but I am endorsed and/or supported by: Wildish Company; Sierra Pacific Industries; Pete Kerns; Eugene City Councilor Greg Evans; Jon Anderson; Rob Bennet; Jim Torrey; George Russell; Senator James Manning; former Senator Bill Dwyer; Ed King; Eugene City Councilor Randy Groves; Chris Pryor; Springfield Mayor Sean VanGordon; Jack Roberts; Linda Hamilton; Sid Leiken; Lori Stenshoel; Debi Farr.

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

NA

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

I continue my work on the Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board. I am serving on the MultiAgency Collaborative (All-In Lane County) broadly and effectively distributing services throughout providers in Lane County. I can talk extensively about the Intersection of Behavioral Health and our Criminal Justices System and about the ever-widening pipeline of families and individuals including children who are homeless and at risk of becoming homeless.

All In Lane County has been a successful response to Governor Kotek's order 23-02. I am a member of the MultiAgency Collaborative establishing policy and directing distribution of funds to local agencies with the All In effort.

Homelessness is a deepening crisis that must be addressed by maximizing the intergovernmental coordination of funding and services with nonprofit agencies and responsiveness to private citizens and organizations efforts. Mental health conditions and substance use drive homelessness numbers and associated criminal activity. Treatment and stabilization of behavioral health conditions have proven effective but as numbers swell facilities are overwhelmed. Emphasis on treatment programs facilities will prove an effective way to maximize funding and resources.

Additional shelter beds have been provided locally, but shelter without treatment and incentive to progress can be an exercise in futility. The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce has galvanized private industry to provide innovative and effective concepts and solutions including Everyone Village that gives incentive and hope to formerly homeless individuals. Working together we can be ever more productive in our response.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

I will continue my work supporting appropriate and efficient land use inside and outside urban growth boundaries.

Support facility development including transportation infrastructure and regulations that support job creation and stabilization.

Our housing crisis continues and will not be abated until we implement stronger strategies to increase housing at all levels.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

Adequate housing presents a tremendous challenge to attracting and retaining talent. Ensuring an adequate supply of housing will help bring in talent and workforce from beyond Lane County borders.

Workforce development through pre- and after-graduation training programs in high schools, trade schools and community college will incentivize youth becoming adults in Lane County to choose to live and work in their home community.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

As land and property values increase through improvements local taxes increase accordingly. I will support efforts to increase value of developed properties, including residential, commercial and industrial.

Lane County general fund and road fund have historically been charged by timber harvest on the more than 50% of its acreage. Working closely with the federal government on the appropriate use of federal land and offsetting the diminished timber harvest with other federal funds will help reduce the need to supplement Lane County budget with other funding sources that include additional taxation.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

Lane County's engagement and efforts toward climate control can be an instrumental demonstration of how local governments can extend beyond their jurisdictional borders to influence other communities.

I joined the Eugene Chamber of Commerce efforts in supporting the planning and siting of the IMIRF recycling plant. During construction and operation the plant will provide jobs while reducing waste flow into the landfill.

Support and encourage development of renewable natural gas sources. During my terms on MWMC we have converted methane gas that is naturally produced in wastewater management into an online renewable natural gas source. Short Mountain Landfill remains the largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions in Lane County. Working to turn emitted gases into electricity and renewable energy sources.

Regulations that support efficient use of energy and controlled discharge while adding high value jobs and manufacturing.

**20  
24**

# MAY PRIMARY ELECTION

# LANE COUNTY SHERIFF

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY IMPACTING  
THE SECURITY OF VOTED BALLOTS AT THIS  
OFFICIAL DROP BOX, CALL:

- MON-FRI 541-682-4234
- AFTER WORK HOURS 541-602-4303



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# Lane County Sheriff



**10** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Clifton G. Harrold**  
Sheriff

## Lane County Sheriff Election

The Lane County Sheriff is an elected office, responsible for upholding law and order, ensuring public safety, and overseeing law enforcement operations across Lane County. The Sheriff's duties include enforcing state and local laws, managing the county jail, serving court orders, providing search and essential correctional services, including a jail, and out-of-custody programs such as community service and inmate work crew.

Deputies conduct patrols across urban, suburban, and rural areas, including timberlands, waterways, and coastal dunes. Services encompass criminal investigation, court security, prisoner transport, and process services (criminal and civil).

Additionally, the office manages evidence and property, maintains criminal justice records, operates a 24/7 dispatch center, and conducts search and rescue operations to an area spanning 4600 square miles.

Sheriff Harrold is seeking a second term and is running unopposed.

### SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Candidates received scores based on alignment with Chamber priorities, tabulated and averaged. See Appendix for details.



**10** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Clifton G. Harrold**

**Occupational Background:**

- Lane County Sheriff's Office (1995– present)
- Lane County Sheriff, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Deputy Sheriff
- Cottage Grove Police Department (1992–1995): Communications Specialist (dispatcher)

**Educational Background:**

- FBI National Academy
- University of Virginia (undergraduate coursework, no degree)
- Lane Community College (Associates of Applied Science, Criminal Justice)
- Creswell High School (diploma)

**Volunteerism and Organization Affiliation:**

- Eugene Christian School Board of Directors (2009–2014)
- University Fellowship Church Board of Elders (2015–present)
- Lane DUII Victim Impact Panel Board of Directors (2019–present)
- Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board (2019–present)
- Oregon State Sheriffs' Association Board of Directors (2019–present)



**10** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Clifton G. Harrold**  
Sheriff

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

I have been a member of the Lane County Sheriff's Office since I joined the youth explorer program when I was 16 years old. Over the course of the last 30 years I have had numerous individuals from within the Sheriff's Office make investments in me, my career, and my family. I have a strong passion for the service to the community that is provided by the Lane County Sheriff's Office, and a caring love for the 300+ employees of the Office, as well as our many volunteers.

In the role of Sheriff I seek to serve the members of our Office in order to provide them the best atmosphere and culture of service as they conduct the day to day business of serving our community in so many different ways; whether that be providing for the safety and security of the community by providing care and custody of the population within the Lane County Jail, by responding to police calls for service in unincorporated Lane County, by escorting in custody defendants to their court appearances and providing security in the Lane County Courthouse, or by serving court protective orders or conducting evictions anywhere in our county.

My mission as Sheriff, and our mission as an Office, is to Conserve the Peace. The Sheriff's Office is committed to justice and integrity, sworn to protect, and honored to serve the citizens of Lane County.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

NONE

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

I believe that the plan outlined and endorsed by the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, the Oregon District Attorneys' Association, and the League of Oregon Cities with respect to Measure 110 reform would be a good start to addressing public safety issues in our community. While I have compassion for those who are mired in a life of addiction, I do not believe that enablement without accountability is a recipe for success.

**What 2–3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

As Sheriff I remain committed to ensuring the tax dollars entrusted to my office will be spent in the most efficient manner to provide the best possible level of service to our community. I believe that providing for public safety is a primary function of government that should be prioritized when budgeting the tax dollars received by any governmental institution.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2–3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

As Sheriff we also have seen a huge decline in applications for our recruitments for all positions; from Deputy Sheriff to support positions such as Records Officer. Within our organization we have significantly revamped our recruitment process and we intentionally find ways to interact and begin to build relationship with our candidates early on to keep them engaged in our hiring process. While we continue to see low numbers of applications, I am very pleased with the quality of new employees we continue to invite into our organization.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

As the elected Sheriff I have to seek to retain funding annually during the County Budget Committee process. Our Corrections Division saw reductions in 2023–2024 due to the State of Oregon not fully funding the Community Corrections Act (CCA). Our Sheriff's Office had to eliminate two deputy sheriff positions and a records supervisor position; our Parole and Probation had to eliminate staff as well. The State of Oregon seems to be pulling in more revenue that it ever has before, and yet, we are not seeing investment in public safety in the way that I believe we should. I will continue to advocate for the State to fully fund the CCA. I am thankful that we are able to stabilize our Corrections function because of the Public Safety levy which was renewed last May by an overwhelming majority of voters. The other functions of the Office; specifically unincorporated police services, and civil services (court paperwork service such as restraining orders and evictions) are still significantly underfunded due to the lack of timber revenue that once fully funded the office. The Board of County Commissioners has ordered the convening of a Public Safety Funding Task Force to review the state of the public safety system in Lane County and to make recommendations to the BCC for how Lane County ought to move forward; I look forward to participating with and observing the progress of this Task Force.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

As the Sheriff I will focus my efforts on leading our organization in a manner that best supports the mission to Conserve the Peace of the County.



**20  
24**

# **MAY PRIMARY ELECTION**

# **LANE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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# Lane County District Attorney



**10** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**Christopher Parosa**  
*District Attorney*



**3.8** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

**James Cleavenger**  
*District Attorney*

## District Attorney Election

The District Attorney is elected to represent the citizens of Lane County. The DA plays a critical role in the criminal justice system, representing the state in prosecuting criminal cases within the county. Responsibilities include reviewing evidence, determining charges, negotiating plea deals, and representing the state in court proceedings. The District Attorney also works with law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes, protect victims' rights, and ensure that justice is served in accordance with the law.

Patricia Perlow is currently serving as Lane County's DA and is not seeking re-election to a 3rd term.

### SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Candidates received scores based on alignment with Chamber priorities, tabulated and averaged. See Appendix for details.



**10** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

## Christopher Parosa

As a Deputy District Attorney since 2004, I have prosecuted nearly every crime in Oregon law. Most notably, I have prosecuted all levels of homicide, including aggravated murders, sexual assaults, child sexual abuse, armed robberies, and major assault cases. From 2009 to 2015, I was an adjunct instructor for the University of Oregon School of Law teaching both the Prosecution and Advanced Prosecution Clinics. I was a member of the Lane County Sexual Assault Task Force from 2012 to 2014. In 2012, Chief Justice Paul De Muniz appointed me to serve a six year term on the Uniform Trial Court Rules Committee, which is charged with evaluating and making recommendations to the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court regarding statewide rules that govern the practice of both criminal and civil law. In 2019, I was promoted to the role of Felony Trial Team Leader to supervise both felony and misdemeanor attorneys before ascending to the role of Chief Deputy District Attorney in November of 2021. As Chief Deputy, I supervise the Adult Criminal Division, Juvenile Division, Clerical Staff and Death Investigations sections of the the District Attorney's Office. I am also a board member of Kids First, Lane County's child advocacy center.



**3.8** TOTAL AVG. SCORE

## James Cleavenger

James Cleavenger is the Oakridge City Administrator. He was hired by the unanimous decision of the Oakridge City Council in 2022. Prior to that appointment, James served the City of Oakridge as a fulltime police officer, beginning in 2017. In addition to being the City Administrator, James continues to serve Oakridge as a volunteer Reserve Police Officer. He also served as a Reserve Police Officer in Junction City from 2010-2013 and in Coburg from 2013-2017. He also worked for the University of Oregon Department of Public Safety from 2010-2013 and part-time at the Lane County Juvenile Detention Center ("SERBU") from 2010-2011. As a police officer, James graduated from the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Leadership Institute, served on the State of Oregon's Police Policy Committee, and is a Field Training Officer and ORPAT instructor. In 2019, he was awarded a Medal of Honor by the Oregon Peace Officers Association, for single-handedly disarming a suspect who had just murdered both of her parents with a knife and was in the process of attempting to murder an elderly neighbor with the same knife. James is also a licensed attorney in Oregon and Washington. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2008, and his LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Liverpool in England, in 2005. In addition to his private practice, James worked as a Judicial Law Clerk for US District Court Judge Michael McShane for 4 years in Federal Court in Eugene from 2013-2017, and for 6 months in Multnomah County Circuit Court in Portland in 2008. Prior to his dual career as a police officer and lawyer, James worked in politics and government, including as the Special Assistant to the Cook County Assessor in Chicago from 2001 to 2004, and as a motorcade driver for Al Gore (2000) and Barack Obama (2008). Before going to law school, James earned his BA in Political Science & International Studies at DePaul University in Chicago. He also studied at Harvard, Oxford (England), and the University of Sheffield (England). James grew-up in Richland, WA, where his grandfather was an electrical engineer and manager on the Manhattan Project at Hanford. His mother also worked at Hanford as a technical science librarian, and as a schoolteacher before she retired. His father is a retired police officer and DHS Child Protective Services Investigator. In his spare time, James is a competitive skier and can often be found at Willamette Pass skiing off various cliffs in his trademark 1970's polyester leisure suit and "skiblades" (very short skis). James currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Oakridge-Westfir Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Rural Fire Protection Review Taskforce, and multiple other civic and charity organizations. James first ran for Lane County District Attorney in 2020, based primarily on his position that the current DA neglects rural communities and lacks transparency. He is running again in 2024 to give rural citizens a voice and all LaneCounty voters a choice.



**10** TOTAL AVG. SCORE  
**Christopher Parosa**  
*District Attorney*



**3.8** TOTAL AVG. SCORE  
**James Cleavenger**  
*District Attorney*

**Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.**

I have long been a passionate advocate for the public safety system in Lane County. My mission is to faithfully prosecute the laws of Oregon, without pride or prejudice, in order to promote safety, accountability and compassion for the betterment of the community, victims and, where appropriate, the criminally accused individual and their family. I am fond saying that the enjoyment of a community is only as strong as the safety provided to its residents and visitors. Therefore, as District Attorney, my office will tirelessly promote community safety, protection of victim's rights and responsible reforms to the criminal justice system.

The primary reason I decided to run again for Lane County District Attorney is to simply give voters a choice, since no one else decided to run. For decades, there is usually only one name on the ballot for Lane County DA: the incumbent or their hand-picked successor. This cycle of nepotism is undemocratic and needs to stop. In terms of my political platform, I'm running to improve the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, by increasing transparency and public involvement, while promoting alternatives to mass incarceration and increased mental health & addiction treatment programs, in order to reduce recidivism.

**What endorsements have you received for your campaign to date?**

International Association of Fire Fighters; Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Lane County; Lane County Sheriff Clifford Harrold; Lane County Peace Officers Association; Springfield Police Association; Lane County District Attorney Patty Perlow; Lane County Commissioner Pat Farr; Eugene City Councilor Greg Evans; Eugene City Councilor Randy Groves; Former Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp; Former Lane County Assessor Mike Cowles; Former Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozevlch

I will not be seeking any endorsements from individuals during my campaign due to the potential conflicts of interest based on my current employment as the Oakridge City Administrator.

**Have you filed a Political Action Committee to accept donations to fund a campaign?**

YES

NO

**Overwhelmingly, respondents to this survey expressed concern and frustration about homelessness in our community, and an expectation that public safety be addressed. As an elected policy maker, please describe how you would use public policy to address these issues while supporting local businesses.**

The homelessness, mental health and drug epidemics have destabilized our communities and sense of security within the community. We must begin to address these issues directly through responsible public policy and by holding people accountable to societal expectations. My desire is use my position as District Attorney to advocate for pragmatic public policy changes and to prosecute those that in the pursuit of their own self interests violate the rights of citizens, businesses and basic precepts of social order.

From my experience working as a police officer since 2010, I have witnessed this issue grow and plague our community. I have also had my own home in Eugene burglarized twice in the past three years, and have lost track of how many times my car has been broken into since I moved to Eugene in 2005. Oregon ranks #3 in the nation for the highest percentage of unhoused people, which is totally unacceptable. The best way to decrease the number of unhoused people in the community is to provide them a place to live so they are no longer homeless. I am very supportive of Project Turnkey, a statewide initiative that provides funding to turn vacant or abandoned hotels or other blighted commercial properties into transitional or permanent housing.

**What 2-3 things would you do to support our local economy & businesses?**

First, the local business perspective has largely been removed from governmental and policy discussions around public safety. My objective is to demand that the local business community get a seat at the table of groups like the Public Safety Coordinating Council and Lane County's Public Safety Task force to offer a new perspective on how Lane County will begin to address the homelessness, mental health and drug crisis. Second, in the wake of Covid-19, the Lane County DA's Office faced a critical employment crisis having lost 15 prosecutors in 18 months (we only have 24 criminal division attorneys). I have worked very hard over the last 18 months to return the office to full staffing. Being full staffed will allow us to prosecute theft, criminal mischief and public nuisance cases that negatively impact local businesses. Finally, in advocating for changes to drug and mental policies within Oregon, I hope to make Lane County a more inviting place for commerce.

- 1 – Make zoning more flexible by allowing for more mixed-use commercial/residential development including ADU's. This would allow businesses to increase revenue by collecting rent, help with our housing shortage, and provide more security for businesses by having tenants living on-site.
- 2 – Develop policies and legislation requiring government agencies to purchase goods from local businesses unless their prices are 10% or more above non-local prices.
- 3 – Find more ways for local business leaders to have direct input in government policy making decisions, such as creating Citizen Advisory Committees that meet monthly to provide input and guidance to policy makers.

**Local companies are struggling to attract and retain talent, from graduating students to the executive level. If elected, give 2-3 specific strategies that you would employ to assist businesses with this issue.**

The primary role a District Attorney can play in assisting local businesses in recruiting and retaining qualified employees is by creating a safe and inviting community for those prospective employees to live. By faithfully executing the laws, reducing the open drug scene and addressing drug addiction, we can make the community a more safe and attractive place to live and enhance the workforce by mandating struggling drug addicts become productive members of society.

As a board member of the Oakridge-Westfir Area Chamber of Commerce, I have seen businesses struggle with these issues with increasing regularity. Organizations such as Business Oregon, RAIN, and the Lane Small Business Development Center, are all great resources that can be utilized to find ways to attract top talent to our economy.

To retain that talent, companies need to take steps to make their employees feel like they are part of the management and success of the business, rather than just a cog in the wheel. In other words, involve employees in management decisions rather than dictate to them from the top down. This can be achieved by encouraging employees to be creative and share their ideas, allow them to help develop policies & procedures, offering stock options or other incentives directly tied to productivity & increased revenue, offering flexibility in work schedules, etc.

**As taxes increase to fund needed services, so does the risk of tax fatigue. Please describe how you would fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment.**

Tax exhaustion is a real concern of the public safety system of Lane County. While the City of Eugene is one of the highest taxed municipalities in the State of Oregon, Lane County has the sixth lowest tax rate in the state. This means that critical county services like the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office remain significantly underfunded in the face of crippling taxation on Eugene residents. For instance, the District Attorney's Office has one less criminal division prosecutor than existed in the mid-1980s, when Lane County's population was 40% lower. This means that the District Attorney's Office, with extraordinarily high per-prosecutor caseloads, has been unable to adequately address all criminal behavior in Lane County for two folds. My proposed solution to our current tax dilemma is two fold: first, we must begin to change our perspective from providing a handout to a hand up; and second, we need a targeted tax that adequately funds the necessary public safety services that only government can provide. I would welcome open discussion on both of these proposals during my subsequent interview.

As the City Administrator for a daily basis, I struggle with this issue on a daily impoverish. I am constantly searching for alternative funding sources, including grants, excise taxes, system development charges, private donations, and crowdfunding. But the best way to improve the bottom line is to find ways to cut costs. For example, in Oakridge I started requiring my employees to search eBay and Amazon when purchasing supplies and equipment for the city, to save money. If elected, I would continue to think "outside the box" to find alternative revenue sources and cut costs.

**Please describe how you would work to protect our local economy while preparing for climate resilience.**

This is a particularly challenging problem facing modern society. And sadly, the District Attorney has a limited role in balancing these two important objectives. However, it is within the purview of the District Attorney's Office to address drug addiction, which is a leading cause of both mental illness and homelessness. By aggressively addressing drug addiction, through mandating treatment programs, the District Attorney's Office can have some role in reducing addiction. Oregon is currently ranked second in the nation for drug addiction, as more than 18% of our population is wrestling with some substance abuse issues. By mandating treatment through enforcement of social expectations and norms, via changes in drug laws, we can reduce statewide addiction. This would create more productive citizens, a reduced homeless population, less community blight (through trash), a reduced burden on our mental health systems and, hopefully, a reduction of community expense in all social services – the homeless are the highest utilizers of nearly all social services. Thus, we can address the economy and environment, albeit indirectly, by addressing drug addiction.

It is important to consider and include private business interests in pre-disaster planning, such as the Lane County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as provide financial resources to them in post-disaster relief efforts. I am also supportive of alternative energy sources such as micro-hydro, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy.

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# **MAY PRIMARY ELECTION**

# **APPENDIX**

EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY IMPACTING  
SECURITY OF VOTED BALLOTS AT THIS  
OFFICIAL DROP BOX, CALL:

- MON-FRI 541-682-4234
- AFTER WORK HOURS 541-602-4303



**Official Ballot Drop Box  
Lane County Elections**

**541-682-4234**

**[www.lanecounty.org/elections](http://www.lanecounty.org/elections)**

## APPENDIX

With direction from the Chamber's Board of Directors and positive feedback by our members, the Eugene Chamber maintains consistency in a process to engage with candidates in local, non-partisan races. For the 2024 Primary election, the Board has directed a process to provide endorsements to qualified candidates, for consideration by voters.

This process helps us showcase each candidate's alignment with Chamber priorities, as identified by its members in the latest member survey. This strategy includes a candidate questionnaire (highlighted in this guide), candidate interviews, assigned scores and Board-issued endorsements.

All candidates running in local non-partisan races were invited to participate.

## METHODOLOGY FOR INTERVIEW SCORING

We believe it's important for Chamber members to understand the unique qualities that make business-friendly candidates stand out. To assist members in understanding these differences, Eugene Chamber staff and members of the Candidate Review Committee, composed of members of the Eugene Chamber Board of Directors and government affairs council members, developed a candidate scoring rubric.

The rubric was tailored to the perspective of each specific elected position, but all questions aligned with Chamber member priorities as identified in our latest member survey. These priorities included homelessness and public safety, housing, government regulations and taxation, and greater economic development opportunities – both downtown and throughout the area as a whole.

Each candidate was interviewed by a panel of at least three Candidate Review Committee Members and a Chamber staff person. As candidates answered questions from the rubric, panelists issued scores based on a range from 1-5, where 1 represented that a candidate's answer "demonstrated intent for policies that would have an adverse effect on attracting, retaining, growing, and starting business in Eugene", and 5 represented an impression that a candidate's answer "demonstrated clear methods that lead to attracting, retaining, growing, and starting new business in Eugene." After panelist averages were tabulated, each score was doubled to a scale of 1-10, allowing for greater differentiation between scores.

Averaged scores by topic are highlighted in each quick reference table at the beginning of each respective section, and overall scores are noted next to each candidate's picture.

## **CANDIDATE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

For each position, candidates were asked a series of questions developed in alignment with Chamber member priorities, as established in the most recent member survey. The same questions were administered to all candidates running for the same office, to ensure consistency with scoring. Scores were based on an established rubric and averaged among multiple scorers.

A full list of questions and pre-tabulated individual scores is available by request.

## **METHODOLOGY FOR ENDORSEMENTS**

All candidates in local non-partisan races featured in this guide were invited to participate in the review and endorsement evaluation process.

For consideration by the Board for a Eugene Chamber endorsement, candidates must have received a total average overall score above 8.5. Additionally, scorers were asked to affirm a recommendation for endorsement by the Board. In all instances, the endorsements issued by the Board received unanimous recommendations by the participating scorers of the Candidate Review Committee.

