



Congressional District 5 Candidate Questionnaire

Deadline for submission: 5:00PM PDT, October 4, 2024

The City of Bend has a vibrant business community, comprised of small, medium and large businesses. As a Congresswoman from CD-5, you will play a crucial role in supporting and fostering its growth through the policies you adopt in Washington DC.

To help Chamber members understand your stance on business-related issues and Chamber priorities, we kindly request your responses to the following questions. **Please limit your answers to 250 words per question.**

Completed questionnaires will be posted on the Bend Chamber website in PDF format for both Chamber members and the general public to view.

Bend Chamber Priorities and Policy Principles

Whether reviewing local city and county ordinances or weighing in on legislative proposals in Salem, the Chamber has an active and effective advocacy program.

We are a 501(c6) organization and engage in direct advocacy at all levels of government. Our guiding policy principles, set by the Chamber Board of Directors, include:

- Re-build a state where businesses thrive in our community and ensure sustainable funding sources absent additional impacts on businesses
 - Increase the supply of attainable housing, prioritizing workforce housing at 80-120 percent AMI
 - Promote economic vitality, workforce development and innovation for a vibrant business community
 - Support for transportation and infrastructure projects to alleviate traffic congestion and plan for future growth
 - Increase access to affordable, high-quality childcare; and ensure adequate funding for K-12 public education
 - Advocate for a thoughtful balance between environmental sustainability and economic health
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Please provide your name and answer the questions under each of the categories.

First / Last name*

Supporting Oregon's Workforce

What specific policies do you propose to accelerate housing development for growing communities in Central Oregon?*

I was recently in Bend to meet with city leaders after I helped them obtain a \$5 million grant through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) PRO Housing program. Securing these federal investments is an effective and necessary step toward constructing more affordable homes. In addition to advocating for federal grant funding, I'm proud to support several bipartisan bills that address the current affordable housing shortage. The Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, which passed the House earlier this year, contains key components of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, a bill I've cosponsored. Put simply, these provisions would increase the number of affordable housing projects that can be carried out using private activity bonds. Separately, I'm a cosponsor of the bipartisan Housing Supply and Affordability Act. This comprehensive proposal would create a \$300 million federal grant program for state and local governments to use on plans that would help increase housing supply. Too many Oregonians have to work multiple jobs just to make their rent or mortgage payments, and I'll continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address our housing affordability crisis by accelerating affordable housing developments.

Investing in Growth

What are your transportation and infrastructure funding priorities for Central Oregon?*

Throughout the appropriations process for both the current and upcoming fiscal years, I've prioritized Central Oregon's Community Project Funding Requests to improve transportation and infrastructure. I secured \$1.25 million for Redmond to help complete its new Wetlands Complex for wastewater management, \$6 million for Bend Municipal Airport to build a new air traffic control tower, and \$5.7 million for Bend to construct a pedestrian walkway over US97 to connect the eastern and western parts of the city. For the upcoming fiscal year, I'm advocating for \$2.5 million to help Terrebonne complete a new wastewater collection system and \$1.25 million to support a homeless shelter that provides health care services. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I've proudly led bipartisan bills like the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Amendments, which would improve a loan program that funds local water and wastewater improvement projects, and the LIHWAP Establishment Act to help low-income families pay their water bills. Further, as a member of the Agriculture Committee, I've advocated for our rural communities in Central Oregon by pushing for better high-speed internet access and backing bipartisan legislation like the Investing in Rural America Act, which would allow farm credit institutions to partner with community banks to finance facilities like hospitals and emergency services. My experience as mayor taught me the value of safe, reliable transportation and infrastructure – and more importantly, how to find solutions and complete these projects for the betterment of our communities.

Healthcare Access and Affordability

What policies would you support to reduce the cost shift burden from under-funded Medicare and Medicaid systems to private insurance?*

The soaring cost of health care, including prescription medications, is a serious concern for many Oregon families and seniors. To address this issue, I'm leading several pieces of bipartisan legislation that tackle nefarious practices by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). For example, my Health DATA Act, which has passed the House, would ensure pharmacy benefit managers follow the law and don't intentionally withhold important information related to health plans. This bill would improve transparency for small businesses, streamline their ability to compare plans, and allow them to offer more affordable health benefits to their employees. I also recognize the importance of reducing the cost-shift burden from underfunded Medicare and Medicaid programs to private insurance. To help relieve some of this financial pressure, I'm proud to cosponsor the Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act. It's a bipartisan proposal that would tie Medicare physician payments to inflation, as measured by the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) – helping reduce costs that end up falling on private insurers. Another way to reduce this cost shift is through addressing inefficiencies in Medicare and Medicaid, including cutting burdensome regulations, administrative costs, and the bureaucracy required to process reimbursements. Additionally, I've always been a strong supporter of public-private partnerships. Bolstering these partnerships in health care would result in better access for underserved populations and enhanced cost savings by improving collaboration and reducing duplicative services.
