



Bend City Council 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 City Council member, you will play a crucial role in supporting and fostering its growth through the policies you adopt.

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

Please provide your name and answer the questions under each of the categories.

First / Last name*

Megan|

Perkins

Economic Development & Small Business Support

1. What specific strategies do you propose to attract and retain businesses in Bend?*

The number one thing we can do as a City Council is make it more affordable to live here and that means tackling housing as our biggest focus. It is the number one issue I hear about from employers and I know it is the primary driver of the Chamber's work as well.

2. How do you plan to incorporate business issues into the biennial Council Goals?*

Ensure that our Economic Development Strategy and our Economic Opportunities Analysis and our Target Sector project serve as key guides for our goals with actionable strategies not just broad visions. And as our Growth Plan takes shape, I want to make sure our focus is on small businesses, especially childcare.

Workforce Housing & Growth

1. What specific policies do you propose to accelerate housing development for Bend's workforce?*

- 1) continue the pace of housing that we have set, becoming the top home producer per capita in the state
- 2) use things like our \$5 million HUD funding and our middle housing program to evaluate and streamline processes for our workforce housing
- 3) continue to identify incentives and code amendments that make it easier and quicker to build the type of homes we need
- 4) be more innovative and look into public/private partnership models, especially for middle housing
- 5) broaden the ADU city plans to expand to more housing types to streamline development
- 6) continue to reassess the permitting process

2. How do you plan to encourage development in the Central District, specifically mixed use commercial and residential development?*

The midtown crossings project will hopefully be a key driver to spur private investment in the Central District. I also think programs like our new "tiny TIF" which has an economic and housing component is a good potential driver that could assist the Central District. The Core Area Advisory Board's business assistance program is also another lever we have pulled and can continue in the future. And finally, listening to our developers about any further changes that need to be made to our zoning, density, code, etc in order to make it easier to get the type of developments we want to see in the Central District.

Regulatory Environment

How would you streamline bureaucracy and reduce regulatory burdens to make it easier for businesses to operate in Bend?*

I would continue to rely on the Chamber and BEDAB to identify issues and provide our Council key input. It is only by working together that we can ensure we have a strong workforce and a healthy business climate in Bend. Partnerships and communication are key.
