



## **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.

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### **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\***

Steve|

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## **Economic Development & Small Business Support**

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

I believe the costs to live in Bend are at the heart of any difficulties to attract and retain businesses in Bend. The lack of housing stock across the continuum – affordable housing, market rate housing, high density (where appropriate), multi-family, multi-generational, and mixed-use housing makes it such that workers struggle to say, "Yes!" to a job offer in Bend. While not in the private sector, I know this is a challenge for the Bend La Pine school system.

I propose that we accelerate current strategies by the city (read TIFs, revolving mid-level housing fund, and others) and then work to address the overly long and convoluted permitting process for new types of all building within Bend

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

Bend needs businesses to both grow our city and provide services to our community. I will be open to the needs of all members of our city as the council enters the next phase of goal setting. With an extensive background of building coalitions around the world (throughout the Middle East and in Afghanistan), and multiple tours as a commander/leader of organizations, I can make tough choices and am not afraid to do so.

## Workforce Housing & Growth

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

I propose that we accelerate current strategies by the city (read TIFs, revolving mid-level housing fund, and others) and then work to address the overly long and convoluted permitting process for new types of all building within Bend.

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

I am particularly interested in the TIF process en route to building out complete communities that include housing of all types as well as services that shape a walkable and healthy community.

## Regulatory Environment

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

Voters tell me our permitting process for the city is overlong with enforcement that varies from project to project. I will work to address this challenge as a top priority. Along with this goal, I am committed to transparent re-examination of our city processes to address known or identified choke points in project approval. I am running on a platform of fiscal stewardship earned by building and executing the Air Force \$500B budget, as well as a member of the city budget committee for the last year and a half.

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