



Eugene Area
Chamber of
Commerce

2022 Local Election Guide

» Connect and Engage with Candidates





A Letter from the CEO

Elections play a critical function in any healthy economy. The right candidate works with others to set the pace for community building, effective policy, and a business-friendly environment. Leading up to the May 17th, 2022 election, our community will have several difficult choices as we cast our ballots regarding the selection of the most ideal candidate to meet these needs.

We at the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce 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. We have pressing issues here impacting businesses today: homelessness and public safety, housing, government regulations and taxation, economic development, climate policy changes, and more. We hope this election guide before you provides you, our business community and community partners, the information you need to make a decision you can feel good about come election day.

We want to express deep gratitude to all the candidates who responded to our call for engagement. We know what a toll campaigning can take, and we are grateful for your service to our community, running at all. With so many seats running unopposed this election, it is not lost on us the weight we all know you carry as our elected officials. We are grateful for you.

Lastly, let this be a call to action for you, our business community. While this guide represents a great starting point of information, we highly encourage you to attend one of our candidate engagement forums, or connect with each candidate directly. Democracy in action looks like community members actively participating in these processes to support the topics they care about most.

So get out there, and make democracy work for you!

In service,

*Brittany Quick-Warner, President & CEO
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce*

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CANDIDATE ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

The Eugene Chamber hopes to play an active role in connecting our members with candidates running for office, allowing local business owners the opportunity to engage directly with candidates on issues impacting their bottom line.

With ballots going out to our community beginning in mid-April and more widely on April 28, we hope these forums offer a timely opportunity to listen and engage with local candidates as ballots are cast with future policy making in mind.

FORUM SCHEDULE

Join us virtually on Zoom for these exclusive Chamber Member forums!

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

Monday, April 25 – 4:00-5:00PM

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 2

Wednesday, April 27 – 12:00-1:00PM

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 5

Monday, May 2 – 12:00-1:00PM

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 1

Wednesday, May 4 – 4:00-5:00PM

INTRODUCTION

This Election Guide serves as a reference as you consider candidates for local 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 four parts:

1. Introduction
2. City Council Candidates–Questionnaires and Interviews
3. Lane County Commissioner Candidates–Questionnaires and Interviews
4. Appendix–lists out questions asked during candidate interviews

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

Each Candidate was provided an opportunity to submit a questionnaire answering seven questions about their candidacy. The answers to these questions are provided in each section*, along with each candidate's biography, endorsements, and financial contribution information.

**While there are 4 City Council seats open for election, Councilors in Wards 3, 5, and 6 did not respond to our invitation to be highlighted in this guide, and three candidates for Lane County Commissioner West Lane (Position 1) did not respond in time to be included in this guide.*

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

In addition to the questionnaires, candidates in contested races -where there is more than one candidate running for office- were invited to interview with a panel of three Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce representatives. These 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 a 2021 Eugene Chamber member survey. These topics included homelessness and public safety, housing, government regulations and transparency, and economic development. In lieu of issuing endorsements for one candidate in each race, the Eugene Chamber uses scores from these interviews to showcase candidate alignment with business priorities. Please see the appendix for greater detail about scoring*.

**Please note that 3 Lane County Commissioner Candidates from West Lane (Position 1) did not respond to our invitation to interview and so are not reflected in this guide.*

APPENDIX

At the end of this document is an appendix which provides greater detail about interview questions, methodology, and scoring results from contested race candidate interviews. If you do not see a candidate represented in these interviews, it is because the candidate did not respond to invitations to interview.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

LANE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

On May 17, four Eugene City Council seats will be open for election. Three of these seats are running unopposed with incumbents seeking reelection. These include City Council Ward 3 (Alan Zelenka), City Council Ward 5 (Mike Clark), and City Council Ward 6 (Greg Evans).

One open City Council seat, City Council Ward 4, is a contested race filled by incumbent, current City Councilor Jennifer Yeh, and challenger Jennifer Solomon.

The following section provides insights to each City Council Ward 4 candidates, Jennifer Yeh and Jennifer Solomon. Candidates in Wards 3, 5, and 6 did not respond to the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce’s invitation to submit a questionnaire. Only candidates in contested races were invited to interview to highlight differences within each candidate of a given race.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Each candidate in a contested race was invited to interview by a panel of Eugene Area Chamber representatives. Scores to the answers of these questions were assigned based on a rubric ranging from 1-10. Below is a quick reference of scores for each candidate by question topic. In the section that follows, a blue circle indicates each candidate’s overall scoring across all questions. Please see the appendix for more detail on scoring, methodology, and results.

Candidate & Position	Q1: Homelessness	Q2: Public Safety	Q3: Housing	Q4: Downtown	Q5: Regulations	Q6: Community Representation	Q7: One thing in 4 years?	Total Average Score
Jennifer Solomon City Council Ward 4	8	10	9	9	7	9	8	8.6
Jennifer Yeh City Council Ward 4	8	7	6	7	6	7	6	6.7



8.6 Total Average Score

Jennifer Solomon
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4



6.7 Total Average Score

Jennifer Yeh
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

Candidate Bio

I have lived in this area all my life. I graduated from the UO with a BA in Journalism. I worked for a public relations firm that had many clients in the forest products industry. Eventually, I opened my own consulting firm and served my clients until I was elected to the Eugene City Council in 2002. At that time, I represented Ward 6, the Bethel area. I was re-elected in 2006. By the end of my second term, I'd had two children and I wanted to be more present for them so I did not seek a third term.

Over the years, I have volunteered in our community in many ways. I worked a lot in my kid's classrooms and at school fundraisers. I also served on various boards and committees, including Relief Nursery, Western Rivers Girl Scouts Council, and the Chamber's LGAC to name a few.

Currently, I am the Director of Philanthropy at Relief Nursery. We are generously supported by many local businesses and I work to nurture and strengthen those relationships. I represent Relief Nursery at Lane Leaders Association where we've filled the non-profit category for more than 20 years. In this role, I interact with a very diverse group of business owners and I learn their challenges and opportunities.

Endorsements

Eugene Police Employees Association, Lane Professional Firefighters, George Poling, Former Ward 4 Councilor (2003-2017), Jim Torrey, Former Eugene Mayor and 4J School Board Member, and Anne Marie Levis, Former 4J School Board Member.

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes

Candidate Bio

Jennifer moved to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon and quickly fell in love with the tree-lined streets, fun local shops, and numerous cultural activities. Even though she and her husband had to move from Eugene, they knew they wanted to come back. They moved back in time for their first child to attend kindergarten in the 4J School District, and they've been here ever since.

Jennifer teaches her children that when you find something important to you: figure out how you can help and do it! This philosophy led to her involvement with her neighborhood association, Harlow Neighbors, and 10 years of neighborhood activism involvement.

In 2017, Jennifer was appointed to represent Ward 4 on the Eugene City Council, where she's continued to be an outspoken advocate for her community.

Endorsements

Organizations: Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Lane County Central Labor Chapter, Oregon AFL-CIO, Democratic Party of Lane County

Elected Officials: Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle, Senator James Manning, Mayor Lucy Vinis, Councilor Alan Zelenka, Councilor Greg Evans, Councilor Claire Syrett, Councilor Matt Keating, Lane County Commissioner Laurie Trieger, State Rep Marty Wilde, Former Mayor Kitty Piercy

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes



8.6 Total Average Score

Jennifer Solomon
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4



6.7 Total Average Score

Jennifer Yeh
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

Why are you running for political office?

I want to be the voice for those in this community who don't feel their opinions are represented at Council. They want leaders who are responsive and accountable. They want leaders committed to their well-being. This council listens to the people who show up but those people don't represent the majority. To that end, I will actively solicit opinions and advice and questions from citizens, especially those in Ward 4. Voters are most concerned about public safety, ending homelessness and housing affordability. Let's stay focused on these issues and really commit to addressing them.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

We should insist that outcomes be defined before we make investments in programs or services for homeless. Furthermore, the City should not be the sole provider of programs or services. We must seek public private partnerships if we expect to solve this problem. In addition, Council should regularly receive reports on progress toward outcomes. This topic should be discussed at least once a month at Council. It needs to stay front and center.

For the homeless criminals, the City needs to pay for more beds at the jail. Ideally, we should build our own jail but I don't think we're ready for that campaign. Mental health is a major contributor to homelessness. If we are going to invest in a system to support them, (again, with outcomes) we shouldn't shy away from requiring a commitment from the homeless as well. They need to actively engage in their health and well being. Drug addiction cannot be separated from homelessness. This battle of addiction will never end if we don't offer solutions that lead to defined outcomes.

Why are you running for political office?

When I first ran for office the main reason was to both be a voice for those who felt unrepresented and ensure city engagement efforts became more inclusive so my neighbors could have their own voices heard. That continues to drive me because having diverse perspective at the table directly leads to better decision making and therefore better outcomes. Examples like Better Housing Together show what we can accomplish when we support one another, and I will continue to push for public engagement that informs, educates and is truly inclusive.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

First, the willingness to listen to the people doing the work. When police or staff have come to Council for a policy change or addition, I have supported it and I will continue to do that, so they have all the tool they want to enforce our safety. Second, we must address the needs that led to homelessness; housing costs and availability, drug and alcohol addiction, mental health, and job training so people can get stable.



8.6 Total Average Score

Jennifer Solomon
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

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

Public safety is of great concern to most voters. As long as people feel safe in our community they will stay, and businesses will stay. We need to create a culture of support for our police. It's important to do that now as Council prepares to send the CSI payroll tax out to the voters for renewal.

Business retention and expansion are essential. Job creation, too. We currently do not have a business friendly City Council. Council should be their advocates. I will be a consistent voice of support for local businesses.

Alleviating the high cost of housing would really help our economy. The fastest and best way to do that is to expand the UGB so as to create more housing units. Streamlining the permitting process would also help accelerate the creation of more housing.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

At some point, you have to make choices. City government can't be all things to all people. The City also has to live within a budget. There are certain essentials a city should provide – public safety and fire protection, clean water, sewers, safe roads, parks. Once those are funded the rest is then prioritized and funded. If we will focus on these essentials and demonstrate good fiscal management, then business investment will follow.

I want positive economic activity in our community. That creates the revenue to support all the programs the City provides. Positive economic activity mitigates the need for new taxes. I would not support any tax increases if we haven't identified priorities and demonstrated good fiscal management. Our focus should be on increasing economic activity and how the City can help local businesses.



6.7 Total Average Score

Jennifer Yeh
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

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

First, we can continue to use zoning to support local businesses. By allowing and encouraging more mixed developments like the Market District Commons that blend residential and commercial as well as intentionally planning space for businesses into larger residential development like Crescent Village when doing neighborhood planning, we create a more successful model.

Second, we have just started talking about whether our business support is getting the outcomes we want. I would like to see us consider embracing economic gardening, a policy that invests in local businesses that are poised to take advantage of a ripe market and whose success would therefore create more good jobs.

Third, by ensuring that Eugene has adequate and affordable housing, reliable transportation, parks and open space, and other services people expect we will be laying the groundwork for businesses to hire and retain good workers.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

First, in the short term do the best with what we have with our transition to Priority Based Budgeting. This is a way of budgeting that helps governments, especially those with limited resources, make decisions based on their identified priorities rather than past budget spending. Second, while we have found some strategic ways to use new taxes, for long-term gains we need to shift our focus to how to grow those revenue streams rather than create new ones. When our businesses and neighborhoods flourish our existing city revenues benefit.



8.6 Total Average Score

Jennifer Solomon
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4



6.7 Total Average Score

Jennifer Yeh
EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

Most importantly, any policy choices MUST include an economic analysis of the results of those choices. Data is essential to making informed and responsible choices that help our citizens, not hurt them.

I believe policy makers can and should incentivize people to adjust their behaviors that affect climate. One example would be to plant trees. More trees in our city is good for a host of reasons as it relates to climate resilience.

I believe policy makers should foster innovation in technologies that help us mitigate climate damage.

We should always work to create CHOICES for our citizens, this is especially true when it comes to energy. It is unnecessary and unwise to force an entire community to rely on one source of energy. And it certainly does not help our business community. Energy efficiency should be our highest priority and you get better efficiency with more choices.

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

Climate resilience requires us to both be prepared for the ongoing effects of climate change and to make decisions that will help us reduce methane and ghg being released into our atmosphere. One of the biggest impacts a city government can do is to work toward electrification in both our transportation as well as our homes and businesses. Government can play an important role of education, incentives and support for low income and other vulnerable residents in our community to provide an equitable transition.



LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

On May 17, three Lane County Commissioner seats will be open for election. Each seat is contested, for a total of 9 candidates. Open commissioner seats include geographic county boundaries in Springfield (Position 2), East Lane County (Position 5), and West Lane County (Position 1). With Jay Bozievich, current West Lane County Commissioner in Position 1, stepping down after this year, Lane County is guaranteed to see a new Commissioner on the roster. Both East Lane County and Springfield commissioner seats hold an incumbent candidate and challenger.

Each candidate from the commissioner race was invited to submit a questionnaire. Each candidate that responded was provided a section in this guide.

Likewise, as each county commissioner race is contested, all commissioner candidates were invited to interview to highlight differences within each candidate of a given race. Candidates who responded to our invitation to interview have scores highlighted below.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

SCORING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Each candidate in a contested race was invited to interview by a panel of Eugene Area Chamber representatives. Scores to the answers of these questions were assigned based on a rubric ranging from 1-10. Below is a quick reference of scores for each candidate by question topic. In the section that follows, a blue circle indicates each candidate's overall scoring across all questions. Please see the appendix for more detail on scoring, methodology, and results.

Candidate & Position	Q1: Homelessness	Q2: Housing	Q3: Regulations, Transparency	Q4: Support Economy	Q5: One thing in 4 Years?	Total Average Score
Dawn Lesley County Commissioner Position 1	9	7	5	5	6	6.2
Ryan Ceniga County Commissioner Position 1	7	9	9	9	9	8.6
Joe Berney County Commissioner Position 2	7	9	6	9	8	7.8
David Loveall County Commissioner Position 2	8	9	7	8	10	8.4
Heather Buch County Commissioner Position 5	8	10	9	8	9	8.9
Kyle Blain County Commissioner Position 5	10	10	8	9	10	9.4



6.2 Total Average Score

Dawn Lesley

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1



8.6 Total Average Score

Ryan Ceniga

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1

Candidate Bio

Dawn Lesley is an environmental engineer and mother who lives with her 18-year-old son in the Santa Clara neighborhood of north Eugene. For 30 years she has worked to promote energy efficiency and clean up dirty water. Her work protects public health, the health of our planet and the health of local economies that depend on safe water for recreation and agriculture.

Dawn is Vice-Chair of the Lane County Budget Committee, and is an elected executive board member of the Santa Clara Community Organization. In past years she has volunteered thousands of hours in the public schools, in Egan Warming Centers, for the YMCA Big Sister Program, Salmonwatch, and many other community organizations.

In 2014, Dawn Lesley ran for West Lane County Commissioner and came within 74 votes of beating the incumbent, winning 49.6% of the votes cast.

Endorsements

Congressman Peter DeFazio, Oregon Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle, Junction City Mayor Bev Ficek, Veneta Mayor Keith Weiss, Florence City Councilor Sally Wantz, Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis, Oregon State Senator James Manning, Oregon Representative Julie Fahey, Lane County Central Labor Chapter AFL-CIO, Three Rivers Education Council, The Mother PAC, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Teamsters Joint Council No. 37, IBEW Local 280, many more, see www.dawnlesley.org/endorsements

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes

Candidate Bio

I have lived in West Lane County for most of my life. I graduated from Junction City with a scholarship to a vocational school in Arizona. After graduating top of my class, I returned to Oregon and went to work. I have worked as a diesel technician, construction worker, and in public works for the city of Junction City. I'm currently a Water Distribution Manager for EWEB.

My wife Brandi and I are raising a family in Junction City. I am a member of the Junction City School Board and on the long-range facility planning committee for the school district. For years, I was the youngest member of the Lions Club in Junction City and served on the executive board for the club. I was very active and on the board with JCAA (Junction City Athletics Association) for years while my girls were in local sports.

Endorsements

West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich, Byron Trapp (former Lane County Sherriff), Lane County Association Local 626, Lane County Peace Officers Association, Lane County Farm Bureau, Taxpayers Association of Oregon, Timber Unity, Thin Blue Line Coalition, Associated Oregon Loggers, Joe Henry (Florence Mayor), Robert Duncan (Harrisburg Mayor), and Dwight Coon (former Junction City Mayor)

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes



6.2

Total Average Score

Dawn Lesley

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1

Why are you running for political office?

I'm running for West Lane County Commissioner to bring County residents together to create pragmatic solutions to the problems facing us: lack of affordable housing, impacts of climate change, water supply, and many others. Divisive politics have slowed down our progress on renewable energy and other solutions. I offer future-focused leadership and a respectful communication style so we take better care of each other and our environment.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

Our housing shortfall is severe. We need more of all kinds of housing, from shelter beds to low-income and affordable housing, and middle housing. I would work to bring more federal and state funding to Lane County to help build more housing and to operate managed facilities such as shelters and group homes (for folks needing behavioral health support and other services). I would also work to bring a modular home building facility to Junction City – it would create jobs and help alleviate the housing shortage at the same time.



8.6

Total Average Score

Ryan Ceniga

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1

Why are you running for political office?

I want to be a voice for our rural communities. I prioritize public safety and want to bring this mindset to our County Commissioners board. We need to quit looking for ways to raise taxes to make up for missing revenue in our budgets and start harvesting O&C timber at a sustainable yield.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

We need to have goals for our homeless programs and make sure they are met, outcome based programs. Treating drug addiction and mental health issues as the same problem isn't working. I want to open up treatment centers not tent camps so we can focus on real life changes, this will allow us to hold the intentional habitual law breakers accountable for their actions.



6.2

Total Average Score

Dawn Lesley

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1

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

I would work to bring a modular home building facility to Lane County, and a Mixed Recycling Facility to the Short Mountain Landfill. I would protect Class 1 soil from development, and network with public, private, and non-profit partners to increase local food production.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

I will work to improve the Assessment and Taxation Division's effectiveness (so that owed taxes are collected) and advocate for the County filling the long-vacant Auditor position. As Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee I know the Auditor's role is critical to ensuring that taxpayer dollars are stretching as far as they should. Also I will work with our legislative delegations to bring more state and federal funding to Lane County services.



8.6

Total Average Score

Ryan Ceniga

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1

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

I would vote Lane County back into the Association of O&C Counties (AOCC). AOCC advocates for sustained yield management of the O&C forests, as required by federal law under the O&C Act, to protect and support jobs and local economies, essential public services, and healthy resilient forests. Lane County was a founding member of this organization in 1925. Roughly 12% of our land in Lane County is O&C land. Lane County used to receive 20 million dollars a year via timber receipts. This action would lead to many smaller communities again creating jobs and new businesses.

Get back to being a business-friendly county, streamline permitting and stop restrictions and overregulation. Lane County is in a housing shortage, we need to encourage building by lowering cost, expanding UGB and make being a first time home buyer a viable option again.

Lane County needs to invest in our transportation system, roads and bridges are reaching disrepair and lacking enough highways and byways to keep our current traffic moving. Sitting in traffic costs everybody time and money while creating unnecessary pollution.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

We need positive economic activity in our county. This is a way that we can fund more services that our citizens deserve. I think a cornerstone of that success is we need to get back into the timber industry, harvesting timber is a renewable resource and should be utilized. Lane County's tax rate was based off timer receipts that we are no longer getting.



6.2 Total Average Score

Dawn Lesley

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1



8.6 Total Average Score

Ryan Ceniga

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 1

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

Local policy makers have a responsibility to lead toward a positive future. In these times, this means helping folks understand that climate change impacts are already impacting the status quo. We must take care of one another and build resiliency, while recognizing the economic opportunities that come with that. We argued for so long about solar panels – a technology that was primarily developed in the United States! – that we allowed China to run away with that market. We were too busy fighting with each other about whether or not climate change was “real,” and who was to blame. Now, we – and the rest of the world – buy our solar panels from China. We do not need to make the same mistake with other renewable energy technology. Other key elements of climate resilience include shortening supply chains for basic necessities like food. We have some of the best soil in the world for food production and we can look for ways to increase our local food production. As a Lane County Commissioner I will bring together private business owners, non-governmental organizations such as the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, and public agencies to examine the barriers to local food production so we can be better prepared to feed ourselves going forward.

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

Going green has to have a fiscally responsible side to it as well. Everyone wants to help reduce our carbon footprint but it has to be weighed against tax payers dollars and what emissions we are saving. We need a strong infrastructure, the stronger an infrastructure the more resilient to changes it will be to climate change or inclement weather.



7.8 Total Average Score

Joe Berney

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

Candidate Bio

Lane County Commissioner Springfield and 2021 Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

President, ReNewall LLC - ReNewAll developed, financed and closed over \$140M of renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage and seismic retrofit projects for building owners. We created new markets and channels to market. Most ReNewAll projects used union labor; paid prevailing wages; used Community Hiring Agreements.

Executive Director, Lane Regional Workforce Quality Committee - Founding Executive Director. Generated and structured over \$7M for displaced timber worker retraining through LCC and School-to-Work programs countywide.

Owner/Investor/Operator, Farmer's Freezers and Cold Storage - Two broccoli processing lines, processed 34-40 million pounds annually, 5 acres of public cold storage, 64 full-time employees.

Work history includes developing 160 units of low-income housing, tenured high school teacher, and heading up the country's largest business-education partnership organization.

Civic boards include: Relief Nursery, Lane ESD, Networking for Youth.

Endorsements

A majority of Springfield City Councilors, Springfield School Board members, and Willamalane board members have personally endorsed me. Endorsements include Advanced Energy Systems, McKenzie Glass, Mothership Salon and other Springfield businesses. Building trade unions and signatory contractors have provided endorsements, as have other labor and environmental groups. Campaign donations have come from endorsers and others, including The Wildish Co.

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes



8.4 Total Average Score

David Loveall

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

Candidate Bio

After honorably serving in the United States Navy, I raised a family and started a small business in Springfield. In 2008, I cashed out my retirement fund to buy the Washburne building and from that, built a team which created 24 new housing units and twelve commercial spaces, bringing new jobs and vibrancy to downtown Springfield.

Using "hands on" partnerships and "skin in the game", I've been a driving force which built the community we see today in downtown Springfield. By providing management and direct help in the forms of labor and guidance—I've built a diverse team of similarly-minded, strong, and symbiotic stakeholders in a now thriving community. Each has become successful and vital components to the development of nearly 100 jobs, a dozen new businesses and a revitalized community.

I believe that, through partnerships and community focused leadership, we can come together to enjoy what we love about Springfield. We will continue to strive, bringing about the changes all want to see in the future to a County that has forgotten its potential because of progressive policies that don't directly benefit the well-being of our citizens."

Endorsements

Springfield Board of REALTORS®, Oregon Taxpayers Association of Oregon, Oregon Small Business Association PAC, Former Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp, Lane County Peace Officers Association Executive Board, Thin Blue Line Coalition, Oregon Veterans Association, Lane County Association Local 626, #TIMBERUNITYPAC, Steve Cornachia, Former Lane County Commissioner & Vietnam Veteran, and Ken Eilers, Former Springfield Councilor & Business Owner

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes



7.8 Total Average Score

Joe Berney

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

Why are you running for political office?

More than ever the county needs a steady hand at the helm after the last two years of operating incident commands for two life-changing events – Covid and wildfires. In addition, I created a tremendous ability to spend and invest public dollars prioritizing local business hiring local people. I initiated a business-friendly net jobs creating climate initiative at the county, and moved more county deposits into financial institutions that make local business and home loans.

Finally, I'm leading development of a public-private partnership structure for several key economic development and housing initiatives. I would like to see this through.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

I have joined with other commissioners in directing county staff to expand the stock of permanent supportive housing, leveraging county-owned land to do that.

We have directed creation of the first and only low-barrier public shelter and navigation center in Lane county, currently being renovated to open in mid-2022. This center will serve approximately 75 people at a time, connecting them to services. We have directed staff to locate resources for a behavioral crisis center. We have already identified \$8M for a 24/7 crisis center for those experiencing crisis, which often happens downtown creating issues for law enforcement. Related, and I push for efficient, effective service coordination for all the things that help keep people out of homelessness.

County government leads this effort. We need other public and private partners. Of course there are resource constraints, gaps in systems, non-profit partners and cities continuing to engage in supporting these types of services. There is much more to do.



8.4 Total Average Score

David Loveall

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

Why are you running for political office?

I want to ensure a measured Return On Investment (ROI) to the tax-paying citizens in regards to our budget spending. The "toxic charity" to the homeless, the broken mental health system of which my own adopted son is a victim of and the mounting public safety issues from underfunding are of most importance to me.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

The systematic way we've made decision about how to address homelessness has resulted in wasted money, irresponsible funding and growing failure. There's people who we can help and people who will never seek help if the behavior continues to be enabled. Pushing the street level mitigation responsibilities to underfunded and staffed law enforcement and not responding to the impact this has to local business is the result of leaders not making some tough decisions.



7.8 Total Average Score

Joe Berney

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

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

I believe Lane County is inadequately capitalized. One role of government is to attract capital to address critical social and infrastructure needs and inject capital into the economy and create jobs in the process. For every local tax dollar funding county government, we should and do leverage that multiple times over.

In addition, the county's community benefit framework I developed prioritizes contracting to local business creating local jobs. It is already injecting tens of millions into the local economy that otherwise would leave the area. That also creates more local circulation of dollars.

I am supporting and pushing for greater recycling and digesters converting organic waste into clean energy at Short Mountain. The plan includes \$30M of private investment creating jobs, which is currently being developed.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

At the county that mantra guides what we are doing that now. My over-arching philosophy is you use public dollars, working with the private sector, to enable new markets and new business investment opportunities regardless of the issue being discussed. More business investment provides sustainable revenue to operate government. Rather than shrinking the pie, we always need to be smart about how we expand it.



8.4 Total Average Score

David Loveall

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

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

- 1) Streamline the permitting process and cut costs.
- 2) Push the County into a more business friendly, participatory role especially concerning SDC's and business start-up regulation.
- 3) Do whatever it takes to get us back into the Timber business and federal receipts.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

Vote us immediately back into the Association of California and Oregon Counties, hold public servant salaries fixed as a sign of solidarity, do a "top to bottom" clean house of where our county invests tax dollars for the greatest benefit to the citizen.



7.8 Total Average Score

Joe Berney

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

That is exactly what my last business did, and what I have continued in my elected role. Whether recycling, clean energy, decreasing carbon emissions from buildings and homes and cars, the answer is the same. Agree on goals and work with business, don't tell business how to achieve goals. And strategically use public resources in partnership to create markets that attract further private investment. My work with other commissioners, county staff, local business and community groups is always guided by that philosophy.



8.4 Total Average Score

David Loveall

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 2

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

I would apply a balanced approach to energy as it relates to overall affordability, sustainability and benefit to the community and job market. By knowing where our sources of high CO2 output lie, we can make measured adjustments to improve, but we must also take into account how much we would move the climate needle at the expense and cost to our people. One of our greatest climate investments would be in the direction of managing growing forests which sequester CO2 and provide some of the largest green gains we seek.



8.9 Total Average Score

Heather Buch

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

Candidate Bio

I am currently Lane County Commissioner for District 5. I am also a mother, military spouse, and housing advocate. I was born and raised here in Lane County, growing up in rural Lane County. I spent my professional career running a small real estate business for 15 years, specializing in affordable housing. I also worked as Special Projects Director for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, our county's largest nonprofit human services organization. Here, I helped local families access affordable housing. I've spent a considerable amount of time deeply involved in creating connections with often forgotten and vulnerable communities around the county. This experience has put me in touch with various community groups such as rotaries, Veterans' support groups, food and nutrition agencies, state agencies and many more where we had worked together to provide habitable and thriving living conditions.

Endorsements

AFSCME Local 2831 (Lane County Employees), Lane Professional Firefighters Local 851, Eugene Association of REALTORS, Lane County Central Labor Chapter (Oregon AFL-CIO), Teamsters Council 37, UA Local 290, Ironworkers Local 29, Northwest Carpenters Union, SMART Local 16-Sheet Metal Workers, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Ron Wyden-U.S. Senator, Jeff Merkley-U.S. Senator, Peter DeFazio-U.S. Congressman, Val Hoyle-Oregon Labor Commissioner, Joe Berney-Lane County Commissioner, Laurie Trieger-Lane County Commissioner, Floyd Prozanski-State Senator, SD 4, Lee Beyer-State Senator, SD 6, James Manning-State Senator, SD 7, Paul Holvey-State Representative, HD 8, Marty Wilde-State Representative, HD 11, John Lively-State Representative, HD 12, Julie Fahey-State Representative, HD 14. Plus many more at www.HeatherBuch.com.

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes



9.4 Total Average Score

Kyle Blain

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

Candidate Bio

I come from a blue-collar family of builders. I grew up in Lane County working with my dad and then moved into Timberland Management and research and development with a sawmill. I am a real estate lender focusing on residential & commercial development. I know how to help others achieve their dreams of home ownership.

When I was a kid, I would ride the river trails and play basketball under Washington-Jefferson Street Bridge. As a father of 4 I would not allow my kids to do that today. Our city parks and trails are not safe, we have a public safety crisis, a homeless and mental health crisis. We have to prioritize and restore funding for our Sheriff's Office & Prosecutors by trimming pet projects and excessive office budgets and focus on our Federal Timberlands, meant to bring revenue and help maintain our roads.

I have been on Coburg City Council the past 4 years which has given me practical government experience. Not a single business closed due to the Covid lockdowns. We created three new neighborhoods and are working on bringing 107 acres of employment lands into the City of Coburg which will create local jobs and bring in tax revenue. I will work to provide affordable housing, remove barriers and regulations that make building time consuming and expensive. I will work to increase the supply of buildable lands and make it easier for rural citizens to build on their own land.

Endorsements

State Representative Cedric Hayden, Former Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp, Former East Lane County Commissioner Gary Williams, Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich, Eugene City Councilor Mike Clark, Lane County Association Local 626, Lane County Farm Bureau, Taxpayers Association of Oregon, Oregon Small Business Association PAC, Oregon Sportsmen Association, Lane County Peace Officers Association, Timber Unity PAC, Associated Loggers of Oregon, Thin Blue Line Coalition

Have you filed a Political Action Committee (PAC) to accept donations for fundraising?

Yes



8.9 Total Average Score

Heather Buch

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

Why are you running for political office?

Since taking office in 2019, I have led our community through multiple crises. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the region’s devastating wildfires, I have been a steady leader who has delivered for my constituents. Under my leadership, Lane County has made progress on many fronts—from reducing our climate impact, to creating new affordable housing, to rebuilding the critical infrastructure that connects our homes and cities. My top priorities include affordable and accessible housing at all levels, small business growth and support, and rural Lane County specific issues like safety, school funding, and healthcare. It is vital to have a leader who understands issues from the inside, and I have direct experience with the housing crisis, community collaboration, and building support for businesses and workers.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

As a small business owner for 15 years with an office in mid-town, safety was a core issue for us as well. Since taking office in 2019, I’ve been proud to support the addition of 12 new staff to the Sheriff’s office to support public safety, however law enforcement can’t continue to be the default crisis center of our community. That is why I am championing a mental health crisis stabilization center, our first rural Federally Qualified Health Center and mobile outreach services to our rural areas, amongst other things, through public health policy and implementation.



9.4 Total Average Score

Kyle Blain

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

Why are you running for political office?

I am running because our county is struggling with several major issues, public safety, housing, and the homeless crisis. Currently we are not supporting public safety, we have 3 to 4 deputies on the road at any given time across Lane County. We are in a housing shortage; I will focus on increasing our housing stock and look at every angle to reduce housing costs. The current leadership has taken actions making it harder for people to build in this county residential and commercial, from the updated Flood Plan to reducing time to build on rural home permits. The homeless crisis has cost our community millions of dollars and where is our return on that investment. This directly affects our downtown core as well as our rural citizens. I want to bring accountability to the board, bring accountability to the non-profits we support and create a plan with real tangible results. The county has been reactive for too long, we are providing short term stop gaps with no long-term strategy. This must change; I will work to create public private partnerships to bring in new long term funding sources to get these people the help they need. The issue is not just housing, it’s drug treatment and mental health.

How do you plan to address homelessness while maintaining support for local businesses?

I would work to cut spending on pet projects and focus funds on public safety, I would get back into the Association of O&C Counties to bring timber receipts back to our community to help fund public safety. We are 42 deputies short of our 80s & 90s levels. I do not believe the homeless crisis is going to be solved by our local government alone. I believe we need to partner with our community members to bring facilities, drug treatment and mental health treatment to the people on our streets. We need to hold all the nonprofits accountable and create expectations if we are to help fund their organizations, what is our return on this investment...we need to be asking that question.



8.9 Total Average Score

Heather Buch

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

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

Although I support several efforts to boost our local economy, my priorities include affordable housing at all levels through the implementation of the county's Affordable Housing Action Plan and small business development by investing in partnerships with Lane Workforce, Oregon RAIN and community-based organizations such as Huerto de la Familia. Additionally, we have large amounts of federal investments coming to the state, such as from the recent transportation and infrastructure bill (IIJA), and I am committed to ensuring Lane County is competitive in applying for that funding which would bring good paying jobs to our area.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

I represent a largely rural area that is often critical of taxes for a variety of reasons. Therefore, it is important to me to look at every funding possibility prior to asking for resources. I believe the county does this well and a prime example is the addition of a dozen sheriff staff without raising taxes.



9.4 Total Average Score

Kyle Blain

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

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

I would start with reducing the heavy-handed housing regulations that our current board has placed on building. I would work to create buildable lands inside the UGB, I would bring the planning and permit process into one step rather than two. This will reduce the time it takes to get a permit and reduce the cost for residential and commercial buildings. Our employment lands need to be utilized; this is where I would work to create zoning that works for businesses looking for a city to invest in. I would work with the business community to address their concerns on zoning regulations in different areas of our city. If light industrial is what is needed, then we need to adjust and create those locations. This brings in tax revenue, jobs, ancillary businesses and spendy throughout our community. Public safety is key to business development, if businesses and their employees do not feel safe in our communities then they will leave or choose another location. This hurts our economy which will compound the problem. I will make those adjustments to our budget, and I will work to bring in revenue from timber receipts to make up for the huge gap in funding we have had for years.

How would you fund necessary government services without discouraging business investment?

First and foremost, we must be more efficient with the tax dollars we receive, not vote for pay increases for commissioners or fund other pet projects. We must prioritize services. For a long-term answer, I think it goes back to timber. We have transferred the tax burden from timber (positive economic activity) to the citizens. We have to realize that in order to provide the services everyone wants we have to create more economic activity that would in turn bring in more tax revenue. For example, the county just went out for a vote to fund a new county courthouse, the current courthouse was paid for by timber receipts.



8.9 Total Average Score

Heather Buch

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

When contemplating and implementing policy on climate resilience it is crucial to involve the public and diverse voices to the table early and often. This has come into play in both my work on the devastating Holiday Farm Fire recovery effort and in the adoption of Lane County's Climate Action Plan. In wildfire recovery efforts both residential and commercial sectors are included and critical to its success, as one cannot thrive without the other. It has also been intentional to do the same with the county's Climate Advisory Committee. The economic engine of the community needs stability while also adapting to a changing environment.




9.4 Total Average Score

Kyle Blain

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION 5

Describe the role of a policy maker while preparing for climate resilience.

We need to focus on items that we can control, not put further restrictions on families and businesses. The county has spent time and money on climate efforts that are duplicative with the state climate efforts. Lane County's carbon output is one of the lowest in Oregon as well as nationally. If we want to have a real conversation about being climate resilient then we need to look at hydrogen and nuclear power sources.

A blue-tinted photograph of a cityscape. In the background, a tall, multi-story building with a grid of windows is visible. In the foreground, there are several large, leafy trees. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is a panoramic view of a city, likely a university campus.

ELECTION GUIDE APPENDIX

APPENDIX

This year, the Eugene Chamber decided not to issue formal endorsements for individual candidates. These are not only difficult to assess, but they can also prevent our business community from engaging with candidates. This can disallow the business community to evaluate, for themselves, qualities they may admire in a candidate by topic. Instead, the Eugene Chamber decided upon a rating engagement system, choosing instead to showcase each candidate's alignment with Chamber priorities as demonstrated by members in the 2021 Member Survey. This strategy includes a candidate questionnaire for all candidates (highlighted in this guide), candidate interviews and ratings for candidates in contested races, and candidate forums. While no formal endorsements are issued through this process, we hope this provides our community greater clarity, while also providing candidates opportunity for engagement and education.

INTERVIEWS FOR CONTESTED RACES

METHODOLOGY

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 Engagement Work Group, composed of members of the Eugene Chamber Board of Directors and government affairs council members, created a candidate scoring rubric.

The rubric was tailored to the needs of county and city council perspectives, but all questions aligned with Chamber member priorities as highlighted in the 2021 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 three representatives: a Chamber staff person, Board member, and government affairs council member. As candidates answered questions from the rubric, panelists issued scores based on a range from 1-5, where 1 meant 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

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

1. Homelessness is a top concern for many local businesses. The Chamber issued a report on homelessness last September that described the role the business community can play in addressing the problem. What role do you feel each sector (public, private, nonprofit) plays in addressing homelessness in our community?
2. Public safety has been a top concern for the business and broader community for many years, in fact the chamber was a supporter of the CSI and payroll tax to address this issue. Do you support the CSI initiative and how well do you think it is working? What else could be done and what role do elected officials play?
3. With updated public policies supporting additional housing, Eugene seems to be on a productive path forward to more housing. Yet, we hear anecdotally that increased regulations, additional fees, and few incentives make it difficult for developers to justify investing in Eugene. Please describe how you will help incentivize adding housing in Eugene, and how you will work with our local businesses to make that happen.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

4. In a 2021 member survey, nearly 75% of respondents said that improving downtown was a top priority for their business. What do you think needs to be improved downtown and how will you make that happen?
5. We hear from many businesses about increased frustrations and confusion navigating local and state regulations about public health, housing regulations, climate action planning, etc. Please describe how you will increase trust and transparency and improve communication with our local business community about policies that affect them.
6. We often see a disparity in how a community position is represented to the City Council and how we experience it in the broader community. Often, there is a smaller group of louder voices influencing policy conversations and decisions. How will you reconcile the gap that often appears to exist between the loudest voices in the room and widespread public opinion?
7. If you are elected, what is one thing 4 years from now you want to have accomplished as a city councilor?

LANE COUNTY COMMISSION

1. Homelessness is a top concern for many local businesses. The Chamber issued a report on homelessness last September that described the role the business community can play in addressing the problem. What role do you feel each sector (public, private, nonprofit) plays in addressing homelessness in our community?
2. Housing is of utmost importance to our local workforce. What policies, partnerships, or methods are you considering to support more housing supply in Lane County?
3. We hear from many businesses about increased frustrations and confusion navigating local and state regulations about public health, housing regulations, climate action planning, etc. Please describe how you will increase trust and transparency and improve communication with our local business community about policies that affect them.
4. What do you feel businesses need to support a strong local economy? How can the County support business?
5. If you are elected, what is one thing 4 years from now you want to have accomplished as a county commissioner?