



# DISTRICT 4 2024 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE BIOS

This is an open forum to meet the candidates running for District Four city council. Meet and greet from 5:30–6pm, Q&A from 6–8pm, meet and greet 8–8:30



**MONDAY, SEPT 9 @ 5:30 PM** Lincoln High School Auditorium

**Moderated by the NW Examiner  
and Lincoln High School students!**



[districtfourcoalition.org](https://districtfourcoalition.org)



[nwexaminer.com](https://nwexaminer.com)

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**Andra Vltavín (they/them)  
(pronounced “volt-a-veen”)**

I am a queer, nonbinary, polyamorous, plural candidate running for City Council in District 4. Having been involved in organizations such as Extinction Rebellion PDX and 350 PDX, I have heard climate activists ask our City Council time and time again for local climate regulations to no affect.

I started to wonder, why don't we get climate activists on City Council?

I was born in Baker City, OR and grew up in Utah, but I knew I always wanted to come back to Oregon. I've lived in Portland for 10 years now, and I have never felt more at home. I am married to my lovely wife, Emily Vltavin, and we live in a house in South Burlingame with several housemates. Because I used to live in SE Portland in a rundown apartment complex near Reed College, I have an understanding of the issues SE Portland faces as well and can serve constituents in Sellwood, Reed, Eastmoreland, and Westmoreland fairly.

I took a few classes at Portland State University, intending to get a master's degree in systems science, but unfortunately, it become cost prohibitive, so I re-entered the workforce.

My background is diverse, and I consider myself something of a Renaissance individual. Currently, I am self-employed as an editor, writer, and professional cuddler.

I have spent time as a postpartum doula, have experience in class action lawsuit documentation, and co-founded both an [eco-friendly co-op](#) and a [nonprofit centering LGBTQ+ and BIPOC voices](#). I served on the board of the latter for several years and was the person responsible for all the filing paperwork to turn ideas into realities. I am no stranger to bureaucracy!

I also worked recently at SCRAP PDX as a DEI representative and donations intake specialist, specifically coordinating with local businesses to help them reduce the

waste they put into the landfill. That background has made me very passionate about reuse, sanitation, public education, and waste management.

#### Volunteer/Activist Work

I volunteered through [Growing Gardens](#) at the Columbia River Correctional Facility, which was a deeply humanizing and humbling experience. The incarcerated individuals I helped during that time represent some of the most caring and generous people I have ever met. I will never forget being moved after an inmate cried for the tiny radishes after learning how to thin them out. There is such a deep respect for life even in the darkest places. I was devastated to learn about the lack of privacy the incarcerated individuals have even when they use the bathroom, and as such, it has made me very sympathetic to that population.

I currently have a presence in both Extinction Rebellion PDX and 350 PDX coordinating the strategy behind our art and how it can move people to action. I participate regularly in protests advocating for climate responses as well as pro-Palestinian rallies.

Currently, I am an active member of the South Burlingame [Neighborhood Emergency Team](#) (SBNET) with interests and experience in disaster sanitation and first aid. We've got to be ready for that big earthquake!

Additionally, I co-curate a set of [self-guided rituals](#) with a dear friend of mine.



**Ben Hufford**

**I GET STUFF DONE.** I have lived and worked in Portland for 28 years and I have something important to give back to the city I love.

Like most everyone I know, I'm frustrated at the failures of our elected leaders to take meaningful action on the problems all around us. Portland has no shortage of good intentions, but we need actual progress. Put me on Portland City Council and I will work to forge real solutions.

I believe in Portland and I believe our best days lie ahead of us. In 2024 we will elect a new, 12-person city council. These officials must bring practical intelligence, a cooperative mindset and most of all absolute commitment to making measurable progress, not just generating more talk.

As an architect, I create solutions to complex problems, make the most out of limited funds and work with diverse viewpoints to achieve positive results. These are skills Portland needs at City Council.

Most of all, I won't sit by and do nothing right now. And neither should you.

In my architecture practice I [design spaces](#) where people want to be. I will bring this same creativity to the City by introducing effective policy, proactive solutions, and a clear, community-focused vision for Portland's future.

I am running in Portland's new City Council [District 4](#) that includes all residents on the West side of the river plus Sellwood-Moreland, Reed and Eastmoreland. I'm of course asking for your vote but really, much more than that. All of us need to think about what we can do to unite this city and move it forward. I know that if enough of us work together, we can get Portland back on track. I hope you'll also consider urging your friends to join us in this campaign. The future of Portland truly starts today



## **Bob Weinstein**

**After being elected in 1991 to the Ketchikan City Council and serving two 3 year terms, I was elected Mayor four times. During my 18 years in elected office, we expanded and diversified our economy, expanded renewable power generation, and improved public safety. I was born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts, where I attended public school. After getting a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Massachusetts, I received a master's degree in special education and did post-graduate work in school administration at the University of Oregon.**

**I headed north to Ketchikan, Alaska, after being offered a job as a special education teacher traveling by floatplane to remote communities throughout the Southeast Alaska rainforest. I later became superintendent of the school district. I learned how to fix problems and build lean and effective budgets.**

**I became an Alaska-based staffer for U.S. Senator Mark Begich, helping constituents and working on regional issues such as those involving the Tongass National Forest.**

**My number one priority is focusing spending on critical concerns that matter to Portland residents.**

**Why number one? Unless Portland City Council members are responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure that city funds are allocated efficiently and effectively, we will not make progress on critical areas like public safety, homelessness and housing affordability, transportation, neighborhood livability, and climate action.**





## **Chad Lykins**

**I've used my expertise as a researcher, educator, small business owner, and leader of a state-wide non-profit to help create childhood experiences very different from my own. In every role I've held, I've improved program quality, sustainability, and accessibility.**

**My parents were teenagers when I was born. They worked their way through school while supporting a young family. Their achievements are even more remarkable given the fact that my mother suffered from untreated substance abuse and mental health disorders that left deep financial and emotional scars on the family.**

**There wasn't always a lot to eat in my house. During the hardest of times, I ate free lunch at school on weekdays, then on weekends got a meal at my best friend's house.**

**When I was in elementary school, my friend and I used to earn money by collecting aluminum cans. On trash day, we would sneak out early in the morning to look through garbage bins. If it was a good week, we'd make ten bucks and then go to the bakery thrift store, where we could buy the things all the other kids had in their lunches.**

**With a lot of help and a little luck, I finished high school and went to college. I earned an undergraduate degree in Philosophy from College of Charleston, then a MA in Philosophy and PhD in Leadership and Policy Studies from Vanderbilt University. I went on to teach courses on research methods and public policy for five years as Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong.**

**Prior to running for office, I led a state-wide non-profit and started an organization in Southwest Portland that provides the kinds of after-school clubs and summer camps I never got to attend as a kid. It meets 100% of requests for need-based aid, allocates thousands of dollars to support gender equity, runs Oregon's first LGBTQ+ centered chess tournament, and houses a leadership program for high school and college students.**

**My background as a researcher focused on equity has shaped how I run organizations. As a member of City Council, I will lead Portland with evidence-based solutions to public problems.**



## **Chloe Mason**

**As an openly queer single mom, Chloe Mason is a leading sports and fitness model, working author and actor, and public servant who lives in NW Portland's Alphabet District with her son Ezra (10), and her cat, Q.**

**Native to a small agriculture and manufacturing town in southern Illinois, Chloe grew up in America's industrial heartland where she was raised by a proud blue-collar family of sworn law enforcement and Military Veterans. It wasn't easy -- but Chloe's community was defined by a strong work ethic, neighbors who looked out for one another, and a deep-rooted commitment to helping local businesses flourish.**

**Despite dropping out of high school, Chloe's drive to uplift her community and family led her to obtain a GED and use her growing platform to uplift communities that have been overlooked.**

**With a heart for public service, Chloe has almost a decade of experience giving back to Portland. She sits on the Portland Police Bureau's Equity Advisory Council, and from 2016 to 2020, she served on the Board of Directors and strategic planning committee at Raphael House of Portland, advocating for survivors of domestic violence. Chloe serves on multiple committees, including Soho House, where she fosters a collaborative community for local creatives, and the Portland Art Museum. As a woman of color, Chloe aims to empower individuals everywhere to drive change in their communities, no matter who they are, how much money they make, or what they look like.**





## **Chris Henry**

**I am a full-time worker and former truck driver who will represent the needs and perspectives of ordinary Portlanders. Portland's brand-new adoption of matching funds, ranked choice voting, and three councilors per district makes this election a unique opportunity to elevate the revolutionary approaches we need to heal our environment, meet the needs of every resident, and revitalize our city.**

**Social justice lies at the core of my platform. I am dedicated to dismantling systemic barriers to opportunity and championing policies that address racial disparities, economic inequality, and discrimination within our community.**

**My political experience ranges from past leadership as the Co-Chair of Willamette Neighborhood Association over two decades ago to working with the Honest Elections Action League just this year to enact robust campaign finance reform in the State of Oregon.**

**I humbly ask for your support to be a voice for progress and positive change in Portland! Together, let's build a more just, equitable, and resilient community where everyone thrives**



## **Ciatta Thompson**

***Ciatta means ‘I am free. Don’t hold me back.’***

**Ciatta, a New York native, is a progressive with a commonsense approach. Her Liberian mother and New York native father instilled a passion for politics and dissecting complex issues. Both of them grew up poor and taught Ciatta the value of hard work, dedication and commitment.**

**After the tragic death of her father, Ciatta’s passion lingered. She continued her curiosity by hopping to cities around the country to explore various cultures on the East Coast and Midwest.**

**Studying at Florida Atlantic University led Ciatta to develop her expertise in urban planning. Several building departments in South Florida struggled with climate change issues such as flooding, sand erosion, and hurricane effects. Ciatta collaborated with a team to solve these issues while exploring new ones. She frequently participated in official political discussions regarding the economy's growth, ensuring public safety, and expanding into the Everglades to manage the results of climate change.**

**As a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns, her political focus shifted. Despite everyone being stuck at home and dealing with the awful effects of the pandemic, she yearned for involvement. Consequently, she supported a friend's run for mayor in Wilton Manors, Florida, and became the public relations coordinator with the organization Black Lives Now. During the protests in Broward County, Ciatta hosted several Zoom roundtables with candidates for sheriff, district attorney, and public defender. The first session was attended by National Democratic leadership, sparking a robust conversation about the state of the justice system, driven by the death of George Floyd.**

Ciatta had been visiting the city of Portland periodically throughout the past decade. At the end of 2020, she decided to relocate. Taking her first drive along the 205, she was struck by the sight of numerous tents scattered across the knolls. As she entered the city, she sensed a general unease. Little did she know, she would soon encounter the homelessness crisis up close and personal after securing a job at a downtown hotel. Both she and her coworkers often felt unsafe amid the situation. Despite stringent security measures at the hotel, their fear persisted. This led her to contemplate the oppressive environment, marked by the absence of police and the abundance of boarded-up businesses. She felt that city and county leaders avoided addressing the root issues, causing Portland to become a hotbed of political mismanagement.

Ciatta will use her voice to advocate for transparency and accountability and, most importantly, to lead citizens toward personal empowerment. Her history of effective leadership and passion has led her to develop a clear vision for Portland. Her determination and strong willpower ensure she will accomplish her goals.

Ciatta advocates for total funding of Portland Street Response. Neighbors needing support will be connected with wraparound services, while ensuring that those who break the law will face legal consequences. Empowering people experiencing homelessness and drug users, who are often stripped of their agency, will be a top priority.

As her mother says, we must teach people to fish.

Her primary focus will be creating safer neighborhoods by calling for increased mental health facilities, implementing effective drug treatment plans, and developing job programs.

Ciatta aims to strike a balance in regulations, simplify the permitting process, and provide incentives for local developers to construct workforce housing. Collaborating with commercial property owners will help our city create strategies to attract top-tier employees and support small businesses. Additionally, Ciatta sees the opportunity to establish the south waterfront as a cutting-edge medical district and would like to explore the prospect further.

Ciatta's goal for Portland is to become a model city for innovation, sustainability, public transportation, infrastructure, and economic reinvigoration.

The public's trust in our government officials has been significantly eroded. If you are seeking someone to restore this trust, look no further. Ciatta is committed to working for you and will take a straightforward approach.

With Ciatta, tasks will be accomplished. We envision Portland as the flourishing "Rose City" on the rise.



## **Eli Arnold**

**Eli is the son of an electrician and a teacher. His father taught him the value of quiet hard work. His mother taught him that nothing in life matters more than human relationships.**

**Eli arrived in Portland in 2001 where he met his wife Nichole. They had their first child and realized they couldn't afford to live in the city so Eli joined the Army to access health insurance and education opportunities. He served in numerous job fields, from electronics repair, to intelligence analyst, and eventually became a Blackhawk helicopter pilot.**

**Two years, away from family, surveying the destruction of civil society in Afghanistan made him want to refocus on healthy communities. The first step was running a community garden program at his duty station in Georgia. Next was leaving the military and returning to Portland, where they were finally able to buy a home.**

**In the aftermath of Ferguson, Eli decided to become a Police Officer, which he describes as being a Community Dad at Large. He found the job highly rewarding, but also frustrating. Eli became a member of the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team and a Field Training Officer. He was able to respond to people's needs in their moments of crisis, but unable to address underlying problems at their root. It became clear to him that the social fabric of the city was fraying and no one was stepping in to repair the damage.**

**At the core of Eli's approach is a belief that you must know a problem to solve it. He believes that his hands-on experience with homelessness, crime, policing, and livability issues is a needed perspective. He wants to help repair the damage and be an agent of change to restore the Portland we all know and love.**



## **Eric Zimmerman**

**Eric is passionate about Oregon. A lifelong Oregonian, Eric has worked to make his community a better and safer place since he was young. He promoted the community's growth and livability at all levels of local government, and he served our nation in uniform at home and abroad. He's running for Portland City Council to promote livability across all neighborhoods, invest in Portland's potential, and bring meaningful experience to an ever-changing city.**

**The future of Portland is personal for him. Eric was born in Portland where his mom spent an entire career as a Portland Public Schools Teacher. He and two sisters grew up spending much of their time in Southeast Portland where their grandfather Ralph Schwab was the ever-active community volunteer. From his youngest years, Eric was out delivering Meals-On-Wheels or cleaning up Woodstock Park with his grandfather.**

**Eric attended the University of Portland on an Army ROTC scholarship and enjoyed the college life in the St. Johns neighborhood. Eric started college and joined the army only a few short months after the U.S. invasion of Iraq and he would later go on to serve in the war as a platoon leader across much of western Iraq.**

**Upon returning to Oregon, Eric was asked to serve on the Multnomah County Veterans Task Force where he helped shape local and state programs and public policy for veterans living and working in our community. Eric did all this while continuing to serve under the restrictive policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell".**

**As an openly gay man, Eric became outspoken after his return from Iraq about the need for equal rights for service members and has continued to serve openly for nearly 17 years as a member of the Oregon National Guard. Eric served a combat tour in Iraq, a NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, and a diplomatic assignment at our embassy in Bangladesh.**

**Eric has a broad career in local government. He worked as the Chief of Staff to two Multnomah County Commissioners and was the Senior Advisor for the Central City under the Portland Mayor. Eric also worked as a Deputy City Manager in two mid-sized cities in Oregon and has deep familiarity with the new form of government for Portland.**



**John Toran**

**Born at Kaiser Permanente off of Interstate, John was reared in Northeast Portland and graduated Grant High School in '93. Downtown too served as a centerpiece to his life, spending time as he did after school traveling in and visiting his father's law offices. John continued his education downtown at Portland State University, and after graduating in 2002 struck out as an entrepreneur. It was also in 2003 that John dipped his toe into the political waters, helping successfully pass Senate Bill 5 as part of the Portland Baseball Group to set aside \$150 million to (one day) bring baseball to Portland!**

**As owner and operator of RJ's Leaf dispensary, John successfully navigated a complex and emerging legal landscape surrounding marijuana regulations to create a beloved and thriving local business with a fiercely loyal customer base. Exceptional customer service and great prices through strategic vendor relationships were hallmarks of RJ's, hallmarks that also defined John's two subsequent business forays, construction and procurement.**

**Time in construction taught John first-hand what's needed in a leader to ensure projects are completed on-time and on-budget. As acting signatory for Operating Engineers Local 701, John created local union jobs whose labor was recognized time and again for delivering high-quality projects on budget and on time.**

**In his next life in procurement, John demonstrated an exceptional ability to negotiate and win highly competitive contracts with agencies like the US Army, Navy,**



and Department of Homeland Security. More impressively, he demonstrated the ability to *keep* those contracts by delivering the goods through a relentless devotion to results-driven versatility.

John's family has been building Portland up from the very start. It was shortly after WWII that John's grandparents, Benjamin and Mary Rose Dean, moved from Vancouver, WA, and built Dean's Beauty Salon and Barbershop on Northeast Hancock; a neighborhood institution and proud 2022 inductee to the National Register of Historic Places, Dean's continues to deliver fresh cuts to this day as Oregon's oldest black-owned business.

History-makers too in their own rights, John's father, John Toran Jr., was a founding member and the first president of the Association of Oregon Black Lawyers (AOBL), while his mother Kay Toran, has built a storied career through her decades of service in State Government and as the long-standing CEO of Volunteers of America.



## **Lisa Freeman**

**I watched the Twin Towers fall on 9/11 from my college dorm room, and then that same morning attended my World Politics class with a dozen other stunned 20-year-olds. This experience propelled me into a career supporting peace, stability, and democracy in the most dangerous communities in the world. After graduating from college, I joined the Peace Corps and served for two years as a volunteer in the Kyrgyz Republic, just 6 months after the country's Tulip Revolution that forced the Kyrgyz president's resignation. I lived with a host family who spoke no English in a rural village with no running water and taught English to middle and high school students in a barely heated classroom during the frigid winters. This experience taught me what it was like to be an outsider, struggling to speak the language and adapt to new and opaque cultural norms. It was my first big experiment in getting comfortable being uncomfortable.**

**I earned my master's degree in international Peace & Conflict Resolution from American University in Washington, DC, and joined USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), where I cut my teeth working in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on a program to build confidence in local government and resilience in local communities in the face of the Taliban threat. I continued my service with OTI for over a decade, working in countries like Syria, South Sudan, and Nigeria, experiencing government transitions and crises.**

**While living in Nigeria from 2014–2016, something shifted in me. My mom was diagnosed with cancer early in my time there (she survived, and remains fierce to this day), and I watched the horror of the rise of Trump and the bitter 2016 presidential campaign that seemed to bring out the worst in our country. Coincidentally, I returned to the United States with great sorrow the day Donald Trump was elected president. I had spent my career watching for and addressing the signs of the rise of authoritarianism, instability, and conflict in other countries. I had taken for granted that my home would always be a safe place, a beacon of hope and peace. I was scared and also wanted to find ways to contribute to the peace and stability of my own community.**

For the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to live wherever I wanted in the whole wide world, and the decision was easy: I chose Portland for its proximity to family, bike-ability, relative affordability (for a big U.S. city, anyway), and green spaces. Best decision of my life! I continued to travel overseas to support communities in crisis in places like Chad, Bosnia, Burkina Faso, Malaysia, and Pakistan. But I also started to put down roots. I joined my friend Valarie in her Revolutionary Love Project, started volunteering at the assisted living center across the street from my house, and took a self-defense class. (I'm now a self-defense instructor!) In the span of just a couple years, I became an aunt, and my sister and 6-month-old niece Lacy moved in with me; I married the love of my life and became a stepmother to Theodore and Eleanor; and I weathered COVID with my "pod." I also watched what was happening in Portland in 2020: The onslaught of crises that year created fever-pitch tensions and revealed the cracks in Portland's institutions and social fabric.

I recognized what I saw as political instability, and this was the final push I needed. In 2021 I left my international career after over a decade of service, and I charted a new path as the third staff member with the City of Portland's brand new Community Safety Division. For the past 2+ years, I've worked tirelessly to address the city's highest profile safety challenges: gun violence and strains on the first responder system. I'm proud to have led and championed community-based programs and responses that are essential to keeping Portland communities safe. We need our police officers, firefighters, and 911 call-takers and dispatchers; just as desperately, we need more mental health crisis responders, violence interrupters, place-based safety initiatives, and care navigators to guide people toward services to address the root causes of their need.

Over the past 2+ years, I have also seen up close how our current form of government inhibits the coordination and innovation needed to address Portland's most pressing needs. I've seen how it serves the antiquated power structures that have a vested interest in the status quo or in a past that served the powerful few but never served all Portlanders very well. I've learned from my career of public service both internationally and locally that marginalization and inequity are not only unjust, but the biggest threats to the stability of a community. I am committed to building a stable Portland by fighting inequity at every turn. I am incredibly excited about Portland's transition to a new, more representative and equitable form of government and am committed to making it a success!

I hear people bemoaning Portland today and pining for the Portland we knew before 2020. But the solutions to our present-day problems are not in the past — in fact, many of these same worn out policies actually helped to create our present crises. No, Portland, our solutions are ahead of us! For my niece and my step-kids, for the next generation of Portlanders, and for those who have never had a voice in our system, we can honor our roots, but we can't grow old roses. We can't go back — the City of Roses needs New Blooms!



## Michael Trimble

Michael “Mike” Trimble is a *take-action* type of person. In the Fall of 2021, Mike was the first person to file for candidacy in the 2022 Oregon gubernatorial race. The impetus for his leap of faith was that he was deeply disappointed in civic leadership.

He even felt betrayed by political leadership during the unfolding of the global pandemic. Mike stepped up, spoke out and built a grassroots movement. Mike went *on-air* to television, radio spotlights, interviews with community-based organizations, and debated on stage with Oregon’s finest democratic candidates for governorship. Fantastically, Mike finished *4th place* out of 19 democratic primary candidates! Now, Mike needs your vote to secure a seat in Metro Portland’s new government charter, as District 4 City County Commissioner.

2016 was a changing point in Mike’s life. Unfortunately, Mike was in a terrible roadside bicycle accident en route to his first Pride Parade in Portland, Oregon. According to his medical team, had Mike been wearing a helmet, he would not have ended up in a 9 day and nearly dying. It took several months for a full recovery. This incident was a pivotal point in Mike’s life. He became vigilant about biking safety and an ardent ADA advocate.

After Mike had physically recovered, he returned to the workforce. Shockingly, he was wrongly terminated when his employers required him to walk his bike up a flight of stairs. This was a physically impossible for him. Ultimately, a legal course ensued.

Mike was able to fight the decision of his former employer. He successfully settled with this multi-national corporation for an equitable solution.

Mike has had very unique life experiences. All of this based on the fact that Mike was born without arms in Russia as a result of the negative environmental impact from the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe in 1986. Mike endured violence, oppression, homophobic abuse and neglect at the hands of his extremist American adopted family, so he utilized the State’s social services to help him find liberation and

support. His resilience was emboldened as a child because he rejected extremist views including forced homosexual conversion therapy.

Despite being a high school drop-out and a troubled internationally adopted teen, Mike persevered and earned his G.E.D. He then furthered his higher education by attaining his associate's degree at a community college, then onto the private Catholic Duquesne University in Pennsylvania. Mike's bachelor's degree in political science, with Minor in Psychology, has prepared him to navigate the complexities of being a queer physically disabled man in an often unjust world.

Now, Portland - District 4 - is Mike's DEFINITE forever home. He lives most happily in the famed Goose Hollow neighborhood where he shares a quaint studio rental (that is ADA compliant!) with his 20 year old cat and 3 year old cat, Tiger and Tuxedo. A purrrrrfect trio!

Mike is able to hop on his adaptive bicycle from his central apartment building and easily get around Portland Metro. You may have seen him biking on the Springwater Corridor Trail. It's his favorite route, which is in District 4, incidentally. Mike is experienced, engaged, and ready to go! Let's embrace the new government charter, its voter-led new ranking system for Portland City Council, District 4 in a wonderful opportunity for true change and a more hopeful City Council. Vote for Michael Trimble as your Portland City Commissioner District 4 this election on November 5th, 2024.

By embracing the new government charter, a voter-led new ranking system for Portland City Council, in District 4 Michael plans to realize the wonderful opportunity for true change and a more productive yet accountable City Council. He has the education, experience, resilience, and positive attitude to help make District 4 the best district to work and live in. Please vote for Michael Trimble Portland city Council District for this election November 5, 2024.



## **Mitch Green**

**I'm running for City Council because I love Portland. I was raised here and carried this city's values with me across the world, over decades of public service. No matter where life took me, Portland kept calling me home.**

**I am an Army veteran, energy economist, community college professor, and union member who grew up in a union family. I've committed my life to public service and to solving complex problems like the ones Portland currently faces.**

**What I remember most about growing up in Portland is that this is a city of fighters. Folks who pour their blood, sweat, and tears into building the city they deserve: a city that works for all of us and leads the way in developing novel, compassionate, and effective solutions to difficult problems. I'm here for the long haul and I'm proud to stand and fight alongside you.**

**I'm running for City Council because I feel called to carry forward this fighting tradition in City Hall. My experiences have prepared me to be a hard-working, dedicated, and optimistic public servant for District 4 and all of Portland.**

**The best version of Portland is still waiting to be built, and we will build it together.**





## **Moses Ross**

**Moses has a diverse educational background as he attended school in Utah, Wyoming, and Ontario, Canada before making his home in Portland in 1989 to start working at the Lake Oswego Review newspaper. This experience motivated him to start his own publication and from 1990 to 1995, he was an independent publisher of a 50,000-circulation quarterly magazine for the local licensed holistic healthcare community.**

**In 2002, following the passion that had been stoked in him by his father, Moses started to get involved in his community, first through volunteerism (which he still actively does) and then by starting a company doing political consulting for Democratic candidates and causes (which is in its twentieth year of business). In 2004, his daughter Emma was born and in 2007, he became a full-time single father to her and moved into the Multnomah neighborhood of Portland, where he still lives.**

**Moses is currently in his second term as President of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, having served from 2010-2014, and was elected again in 2021 to the present. He's been an active member of the Multnomah County Community Budget Advisory Committee since 2018.**

**Moses also served on the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee in 2015 and championed the Multnomah County-wide Campaign Finance Reform measure onto the county-wide ballot where over 75% of county voters approved it! It laid the groundwork and the momentum to get the City of Portland Honest Elections measure on the ballot which passed by over 78% approval of Portland voters.**

**Moses was PTA President for two terms at Maplewood Elementary, the school his daughter attended.**

**He has been active in the county and state Democratic Party as a Party Officer, Committee Chair, a member of both the County and State Central Committees and representing his neighbors as a Precinct Committee Person.**



## **Olivia Clark**

**I grew up working in my father's 20-seat diner where my mother was a waitress. Growing up, my brother and I washed pots, peeled potatoes, and polished floors after church on Sundays. I learned the value of hard work.**

**A scholarship enabled me to be the first in my family to graduate from college. I moved to Oregon to attend graduate school at the University of Oregon. It was there I realized my passion for making tangible changes rather than solely studying them.**

**This led me to become a neighborhood activist, focusing on affordable housing at the local and statewide level. When President Reagan cut the housing programs, I shifted my focus to local government and later joined Governor John Kitzhaber's office.**

**My move to Portland was driven by my desire to assist TriMet in securing funds for the expansion of the light rail system. Through building a strong coalition, I successfully achieved this goal.**



**Sarah Silkie**

I am a proud working mom, raising three kids with my partner in Southwest Portland. My deep roots in this city began with my childhood, growing up as the eldest of six kids in a family that faced the challenges of poverty and housing insecurity. My parents sold handicrafts at the Portland Saturday Market, and I spent much of my youth exploring the diverse neighborhoods of Portland—from under the Burnside Bridge to the vibrant communities that define our city.

Despite the instability I faced growing up, I was fortunate to excel in school, which led me to Reed College. However, after graduation, I was uncertain about my path. I explored different avenues, including a summer commercial fishing in Alaska and a stint in massage school. My journey took an unexpected turn when I discovered my passion for environmental sustainability while working with the Willing Workers on Organic Farms program in Europe. Inspired by innovative solutions like Living Machines that treat wastewater naturally, I decided to pursue environmental engineering, driven by a desire to protect the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest and create good jobs for our community.

I returned to Portland after earning my graduate degree in environmental engineering from UC Berkeley, where I also developed a strong interest in sustainable international development. Over the past 12 years, I have worked for the Portland Water Bureau, first as an environmental specialist and now as an engineer in the Portland Permitting and Development group. My work has focused on integrating ecological principles into our built environment, ensuring that our city's growth is sustainable and that all Portlanders can thrive. As a union steward with PROTEC17, I have also fought tirelessly for workers' rights, advocating for my colleagues to ensure that city employees receive the support they need.

Having lived in many different parts of Portland, I have a deep understanding of the unique challenges and strengths of our city's neighborhoods. My lived experience has shaped my commitment to making Portland a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. I am not just passionate about

protecting our environment; I am deeply committed to addressing the pressing issues our city faces, from housing and infrastructure to economic and social justice.

Portland is more than just my home—it's the community that shaped me, and it's where I've dedicated my life to making a difference. My journey—from facing housing insecurity to building a career as an environmental engineer and city employee—has given me a firsthand understanding of the challenges we face as a city. I have seen the impact of our policies on the ground and know what it takes to bring about meaningful change.

As your City Council representative, I will bring a fresh perspective grounded in lived experience. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and work with you to create a Portland where everyone can thrive, ensuring that our city remains a place we are all proud to call home.



**Stanley Penkin**

A generation earlier, my parents crossed the Atlantic to escape poverty and discrimination against Jews in Poland, seeking a better life in America. My dad worked as a cabinet maker for \$8.00 a day and eventually started a small business in NYC. As a kid, he put me to work sweeping floors until I was promoted to carrying carpenter's toolboxes and picking up nails.

My dad taught me sustainability before we even knew what that meant. I learned the value of hard work which has carried through my life. Dad was also active in his community, which instilled in me the value of service which is also being carried out by our daughters and grandchildren.

It's nearly 21 years since that move, and things have gone from the euphoria of everything Portland had to offer to our city of today that is reminiscent of the dark days of New York I experienced years ago. Happily, New York had a renaissance and so will we – but it will take a lot of hard work and tough, honest leadership. As a

graduate civil engineer with a master's degree in urban planning, I look at the world systematically and holistically, and I am action oriented. I want to do all I can to help build a better Portland for everyone, including my three daughters and six grandchildren who call Portland their home.

I have a long history of engagement in many aspects of civic life from my time as a volunteer firefighter and Chair of a fire district board in suburban New York to forming a coalition for the preservation of open space, also in New York. Here in Portland I have served in a broad range of capacities including the arts, neighborhood associations, urban planning, homelessness and public safety.

In my many years leading the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, we have established numerous successful programs that serve as models for other neighborhoods across the city. I have also fought for protecting our renowned neighborhood system from attempts to dismantle it in recent years.

I was Co-founder of Oregon artPAC advocating for public funding of the arts. I also served on the Portland Center Stage Board, chaired Oregon Children's Theatre and was a founding director of Boom Arts and Former Board Member of the Creative Advocacy Coalition. After the passage of the Arts Education and Access Fund in 2015, I was appointed as the first Chair of the Arts Oversight Committee where I helped get the program off the ground and served for four years. As a result of my arts and other activities, the City of Portland acknowledged my work with a proclamation declaring a "Stan Penkin Day."

I worked with the city's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability as a seven year member of the Community Involvement Committee developing the Portland Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. I also was a four year member of the Bureau Advisory Committee for the Office of Civic Life and have advised on other matters. As president of the Portland Public Safety Action Coalition we helped to educate the public and advocated for policies to improve public safety across the city.

In these challenging times of limited city resources, I am a founding director of the nonprofit Northwest Community Conservancy that is providing humanitarian and security services in the Pearl District with the greater goal of expanding this successful program across other parts of the city. I am especially proud to be the founding Co-chair of the nonprofit HomeShare Oregon where we connect homeowners who have spare rooms but are mortgage burdened and at risk of losing their homes - and often isolated and lonely - with low wage earners seeking an affordable place to live and who are often a paycheck away from homelessness. We are preventing homelessness before it starts.

On the environmental side, I have been a supporter of environmental initiatives and after six years of advocacy, finally have an ordinance coming to City Council in March to ban harmful gas leaf blowers and transition to electric.

I have worked hard for the city I love for nearly 20 years, but in recent times even more than ever to help save it. I am now ready to bring my vast experience and ability to get things done to a different level where I can help set the stage for a better future. It will take the government, communities and the private sector working together for that future.



**Tony Morse**

**I'm Tony Morse. I'm a father, former attorney, and a former small business owner. I've worked hard to make sure our friends, family members, and neighbors struggling with addiction get the help they need to recover, and I believe our city council needs an expert in addiction and recovery policy to help Portland solve the unprecedented addiction crisis in our community.**

**I'm running for Portland City Council because I see our city struggling. Our community is asking for help, and sometimes, it feels like no one is listening. I owned a small business helping people find their first homes, and right now, it seems like working people can't afford to live in Portland anymore. As a parent, I routinely talk to people who are concerned about our city being a safe place for their children to grow, play, and attend school. And, like every Portlander, I see people living on our streets suffering from mental health crises and battling drug addiction.**

**I want to do my part to help Portland recover from all of these challenges, and to see our neighborhoods get the help they need. And I know what it means to ask for help.**

**Anyone who has, like me, been in long-term recovery knows that it is a lifelong journey. I have been in recovery for years, but I will never forget when my mom told me that my wife was on the verge of leaving me. I knew then that I needed help, and in my work as a recovery advocate, I learned there are many other people who are struggling with the same feelings of guilt and shame. I was on track for a future I didn't want, but recovery offered a pathway to the one I did. And it's a path I'm still happy to walk today.**

**Too many people in Portland today are suffering from those same feelings, but our city can help. Too many people are wondering if every conversation they have with a loved one facing addiction might be their last, but it doesn't have to be that way. And while our compassionate community has paid millions of dollars in taxes to address mental health and addiction services needs, our city government seems consistently unprepared for the scope and scale of the problems we're facing. I'm ready to help fix that.**



I know the addiction crisis isn't the only problem facing our community. But those same feelings of shame and guilt are weighing down too many of our fellow Portlanders. Working parents are worried that they might not be able to keep affording to live in the communities where their kids go to school. City residents are embarrassed by the trash on the streets in their neighborhood. And business owners feel guilty about letting down their employees should they have to close their doors.

Our community has an abundance of compassion and expertise, and we have the resources to ensure that no struggling Portlander should feel alone or without help. But time and time again, the approach of city leadership has been too little and too late. I'm running for Portland City Council because our new form of city government offers a chance for us to change how we confront challenges and provides an opportunity to start solving our problems earlier and more directly. Changing how we run our city won't be easy, but you can't finish solving problems if you never start.

## **Additional District 4 City Council Candidates**

**No Bio Information Available**

**Bob Callahan**

**John Goldsmith**

**Joe Alfone**

**Brandon Farley**

**Kelly Doyle**

**Kevin Goldsmith**

**Lee Odell**

**Patrick Cashman**

**Raquel Coyote**

**Tony Schwartz**

**L Christopher Regis**

**Mike DiNapoli**