

MEET *Your* CANDIDATES



BRYAN GUINEY

Extra questions from City Council Candidate Forum

Do you feel that the city's "20 is Plenty" campaign has been effective at reducing speeding in neighborhoods? Why or why not?

"I support making our neighborhood streets safer, but I'm not convinced the "20 is Plenty" campaign has delivered meaningful reductions in speeding. Lowering speed limits from 25 to 20 mph is a reasonable goal, especially in neighborhoods where families walk, kids ride bikes, and residents want to feel safe. But changing signs without added traffic enforcement doesn't necessarily change driver behavior. Research from Portland suggests lower speed limits can modestly reduce speeds, particularly among faster drivers. That's encouraging, but signage alone isn't enough. Lake Oswego has invested an estimated \$150,000 to \$175,000 in this effort. I think residents deserve to know whether that investment is producing measurable results. As a city councilor, I'd want to see before-and-after speed data, listen to neighborhood concerns, and focus additional investments on streets where speeding presents the greatest safety risks. That could include targeted enforcement, better street design, and practical traffic-calming measures. I believe fiscal responsibility means measuring outcomes, not just implementing programs. The goal is to make our streets safer and we should be able to demonstrate that we're accomplishing that."

What are you doing as a candidate to inform yourself about community concerns and priorities? And how do you plan to stay informed over the next 4 years if you are elected?

"Throughout this campaign I've made it a priority to get out into the community, listen, and learn. I've met with neighborhood associations, community organizations, local businesses, developers, and residents to better understand what's working, where we're falling short, and what people want from their city government. Serving on the Planning Commission has also given me the opportunity to hear directly from residents about housing, transportation, development, and neighborhood concerns. I've learned that good decisions start with listening, asking thoughtful questions, and understanding how city policies affect people's everyday lives. If elected, I plan to continue that engagement through regular office hours, neighborhood association meetings, and making myself accessible to residents. I'd also like to organize sector-specific business roundtables and feedback sessions with city staff, community partners, and fellow elected officials. Issues like minimum parking requirements, the need for a second downtown hotel, interest in a year-round food cart village, and a community circulator bus are all ideas I've heard through conversations with residents and businesses. These discussions help us identify opportunities and find practical solutions. Community engagement will not end after the election. I intend to be a councilor who listens, follows through, and stays connected."

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Parking around the high schools and some of the parks, especially George Rogers Park, has become a recurring problem for residents of nearby neighborhoods. How do you think the City should approach parking in these areas, and what role do you see for partnership with the Lake Oswego School District in shaping long-term solutions?

“Our schools and parks are important community assets, but the parking demand they generate shouldn't come at the expense of the neighborhoods around them. At both Lake Oswego and Lakeridge High Schools, student parking demand exceeds available capacity, pushing vehicles onto nearby residential streets. George Rogers Park faces similar challenges during busy weekends, sporting events, and community activities. I believe the City and Lake Oswego School District need to work together on long-term solutions. That starts with understanding actual parking demand, identifying peak congestion periods, and listening to the residents most affected. I'd like to see the City and School District explore shared parking opportunities, better student transportation options, improved walking and biking connections, and targeted parking management where appropriate. For George Rogers Park, we should evaluate parking during major events and whether nearby facilities could accommodate overflow. As a Planning Commissioner, I've learned that transportation and parking decisions require balancing competing needs. We should be practical, use data to guide investments, and make the most of existing infrastructure before committing taxpayer dollars to expensive new solutions. Our goal is safe access to schools and parks while protecting neighborhood safety and livability.”

With costs rising across the board and the city having raised utility rates in recent years, how do you weigh affordability issues for local residents with city infrastructure needs?

“If our infrastructure fails, affordability becomes an even bigger problem. Lake Oswego has significant infrastructure needs, including millions in deferred road maintenance and aging water, sewer, and stormwater systems. Delaying necessary investments doesn't make those costs disappear. It often makes them more expensive for taxpayers down the road. As a Planning Commissioner and former economic development officer, I've seen firsthand how reliable infrastructure supports our neighborhoods, local businesses, and quality of life. My approach is to prioritize essential maintenance, plan investments over the long term, and make sure we're getting the best value for every dollar spent. That means carefully evaluating project scope, controlling costs, pursuing philanthropic, county, Metro, state and federal funding, and avoiding unnecessary spending. We also need to be transparent with residents about why rates are increasing, what those dollars are funding, and what alternatives we've considered. For me fiscal responsibility is making smart investments that protect affordability, maintain reliable services, and prevent much larger costs for future generations.”

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Lake Oswego is a predominantly white, aging community. Do you favor efforts to make it more diverse and, if so, how would you suggest we get there?

“Lake Oswego should be a community where people of different backgrounds, ages, and incomes have the opportunity to live, raise families, and retire. As a parent raising a young daughter here, I want to see more young families able to call Lake Oswego home. Strong schools are one of our greatest assets, but the cost of housing makes it increasingly difficult for young families, teachers, and other working professionals to live in the community they serve. At the same time, many longtime residents want to downsize but have limited options to stay in Lake Oswego. We need more smaller, single-level homes, 1,000 to 2,000 square feet, that allow seniors to age comfortably in their community. As a Planning Commissioner, I've worked on housing policies that balance expanding housing choices with protecting neighborhood character. I support focusing new housing near existing infrastructure, downtown, and village centers, while encouraging a greater variety of housing types. Diversity is about creating opportunities for people at different stages of life and from different backgrounds to belong here. We can do that thoughtfully while preserving what makes Lake Oswego special.”

Lake Oswego's 460 acres of natural area parks and open space and 53 percent tree canopy are treasured assets and make LO one of the most desirable places to live. What would you do as a City Councilor to protect and preserve those assets?

“Our parks, natural areas, and tree canopy are some of the things that make Lake Oswego such a special place to live. Protecting them is maintaining our quality of life for future generations. I believe we need to be proactive about the threats facing these assets, particularly wildfire risk, invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer, and the long-term health of our urban forest. I will champion investing in wildfire mitigation, removing invasive species, planting climate-resilient trees, and working with residents to protect our tree canopy. Just as important is making sure that we are adequately funding ongoing park maintenance. We've seen what happens when cities defer maintenance on roads and infrastructure. The costs only grow, and I don't want to see that happen to our parks and natural areas. As a Planning Commissioner, I've worked on tree code and land use policies that balance environmental protection with responsible growth. I'd bring that same approach to City Council. My priority would be to protect what we already have, plan for long-term maintenance costs, and make sure every investment is financially sustainable.”

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If you are elected to City Council, what are your highest priority issues that you believe the City Council should address?

“My first priority would be giving our new City Manager 110% of my support and helping set them up for success. Strong city leadership starts with a productive relationship between the City Council and professional staff. That means clear expectations, good communication, accountability, and making sure our employees have the tools and resources they need to deliver excellent services. My next priority would be preparing for the City's budget process next May. With rising costs, aging infrastructure, and increasing pressure on household budgets, we need to take a hard look at our spending priorities and long-term financial commitments. I want to make sure we're maintaining what we already own, planning for future capital investments, and getting the best value for taxpayers. Beyond those immediate priorities, I'd focus on the issues I've talked about throughout this campaign: managing growth thoughtfully, strengthening our downtown and village centers, supporting local businesses, and protecting our neighborhoods and natural environment.”

Lake Oswego has some large scale projects on the horizon including the new wastewater treatment facility and a new public library. What are your thoughts about prioritizing major infrastructure projects both from a perspective of fiscal constraints and also the ability to manage these projects for success?

“I approach major infrastructure investments with two principles in mind: growth must pay for growth, and we need to be disciplined about controlling costs. Lake Oswego has significant infrastructure needs, but we can't afford to take on every major project at once. We need to prioritize essential services, understand the long-term financial impact on residents, and make sure we're maintaining the infrastructure we already own. The wastewater treatment facility is a good example of an essential investment that protects public health and our environment. A new library is a different conversation. Before moving forward, we need a clear understanding of the community's needs, project scope, alternatives, and a realistic funding plan. I also think we should look at the cost-containment work underway on the South Shore Fire Station as a great example of the discipline we need to continue. That means challenging assumptions, evaluating design alternatives, and managing project scope before costs become commitments. My experience managing public investments has taught me that successful projects require clear expectations, strong oversight, and accountability. Fiscal responsibility means making necessary investments while protecting taxpayers from unnecessary costs and ensuring we can deliver what we promise.”