

MEET *Your* CANDIDATES

PATRICK WALSH



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?

“The "20 is Plenty" campaign was a well-intentioned step toward raising awareness, but signage alone has not been effective at meaningfully reducing speeding in our neighborhoods. Relying strictly on voluntary compliance without changing road design or increasing enforcement leaves residential streets unsafe for pedestrians, children, and cyclists. Changing a sign simply does not change driver behavior on its own. As the father of a 4-year old who just started riding his bike I am very concerned about this.

To deliver real traffic safety, our city needs to move beyond passive educational campaigns and invest in physical street improvements. As a city councilor, I will prioritize funding for proven traffic-calming measures like speed cushions, high-visibility crosswalks, and curb extensions on high-risk residential streets. I will also advocate using traffic data to deploy targeted enforcement and dynamic speed feedback signs near schools, parks, and senior centers. We must ensure our neighborhood streets are designed in a way that naturally encourages safer speeds rather than relying on signs that drivers frequently ignore.”

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?

“My candidate platform is built entirely on listening. Throughout this campaign, I have been meeting with residents where they are; at doorsteps at the Chamber of Commerce events, community events, neighborhood walk-about, and at the LO Farmers Market. Hearing firsthand how city policies impact daily life. Whether regarding traffic speed on residential streets, preserving park spaces, or managing local growth responsibly, has been essential in shaping my legislative goals.

If elected, my commitment to staying informed will be an ongoing priority throughout my four-year term. I will host recurring open constituent forums in different parts of the city so every resident has a venue to share ideas and concerns. I will stay closely connected with neighborhood associations, local school leaders, and civic organizations to track emerging priorities early. Council decisions should never happen in a vacuum. I will maintain an open-door policy, deliver regular legislative updates, and actively seek out resident feedback before taking critical votes affecting our community's future.”

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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?

“Managing parking spillover around our high schools and major parks requires balancing public access with neighborhood livability. In residential areas near George Rogers Park and our high schools, street parking frequently overflows onto narrow neighborhood streets, creating safety hazards and blocking access for residents.

The City must address this through targeted traffic management, including seasonal parking enforcement, clearer signage, dynamic digital messaging to direct park visitors to underutilized lots like Foothills, and evaluating residential permit zones where chronic overflow persists.

Long-term solutions depend heavily on a strong partnership with the Lake Oswego School District. Since high school parking constraints directly impact neighboring streets like Treetop Lane and surrounding corridors, the City and LOSD must collaborate closely. This includes optimizing existing campus lot utilization, exploring joint-use parking agreements, and encouraging active transportation or satellite pickup options to reduce total vehicular demand. By combining improved city parking management with joint planning alongside the school district, we can protect neighborhood quality of life while keeping our parks and schools accessible.”

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?

“Balancing family budgets with city infrastructure needs requires strict fiscal discipline and long-term planning. While rising household costs are very real for our residents, deferring core infrastructure maintenance, like water mains, wastewater treatment upgrades, and street paving, only shifts much higher emergency repair costs onto taxpayers later. The city's priority must be protecting existing public assets while ensuring every ratepayer dollar is spent efficiently.

As a city councilor, I will advocate for predictable, modest rate adjustments aligned with inflation rather than unpredictable, double-digit rate spikes. I will push the city to aggressively pursue state and federal infrastructure grants, pursue regional partnerships to share capital costs, and strictly prioritize essential health and safety infrastructure over optional, non-essential municipal expansion projects. Additionally, I support expanding utility assistance programs for fixed-income seniors and vulnerable households. By keeping a sharp focus on essential core services, cost-effective project management, and ratepayer relief, we can maintain reliable infrastructure without overburdening local residents.”

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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?

“Ensuring Lake Oswego remains vibrant over the long term means actively planning for a multi-generational community that supports aging seniors while welcoming young families and diverse residents. A thriving city requires varied housing choices, accessible public infrastructure, and an environment where everyone feels valued and connected.

As a city councilor, I support implementing our city's Housing Production Strategy to encourage missing middle housing, such as townhomes, cottage clusters, and accessory dwelling units. Diversifying our housing supply creates realistic entry points for young families, teachers, and municipal workers who want to live in the community they serve, while offering options for seniors wishing to downsize and age in place. Additionally, I support the ongoing work of the city's DEI Advisory Board to ensure city services, boards, and public spaces remain welcoming and accessible to all residents. By pairing smart housing choices with open civic engagement, we build a resilient, multi-generational Lake Oswego.”

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 natural parks and dense urban canopy are irreplaceable community treasures. To protect these assets for future generations, the City must focus on ecological health, risk mitigation, and strong community engagement. A healthy urban forest requires more than just planting trees; it demands active maintenance, protection of critical root zones during development, and rapid response to storm damage and emerging pests.

If elected, I will prioritize dedicated funding for natural resource management in our city budget. I support strengthening city stewardship programs that empower residents and neighborhood associations to tackle invasive ivy and restore native understory growth in parks like Iron Mountain, Tryon Creek corridors, and Springbrook Park. Furthermore, I will ensure our city tree code remains predictable, transparent, and grounded in sound forestry science so that development respects our natural contours and mature tree groves. By combining sensible code enforcement with volunteer partnerships, we can safeguard Lake Oswego's green infrastructure.”

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

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“If elected to City Council, my highest priorities will focus on protecting core municipal services, preserving public infrastructure, and maintaining fiscal discipline. First, we must balance long-term capital investments, such as upgrading our water and wastewater systems, with protecting household affordability and avoiding drastic utility rate spikes.

Second, I will prioritize neighborhood safety and traffic management. This includes expanding practical traffic-calming solutions on residential streets, improving crosswalk safety around schools, and managing parking spillover near high-use parks and campuses. Third, I will focus on prudent fiscal stewardship. As inflation impacts city budgets, Council must distinguish between essential health and safety infrastructure and non-essential expenditures, actively pursuing outside state and federal grants to stretch taxpayer dollars. By focusing on responsible governance, well-maintained infrastructure, and transparent community engagement, we can keep Lake Oswego safe, livable, and financially sound for generations to come.”

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?

“Managing major infrastructure projects like the wastewater treatment facility and the future of our public library requires balancing necessary public investment with strict fiscal discipline. Essential utilities must be updated to safeguard public health and comply with environmental standards, but council must ensure every dollar spent provides long-term value while protecting household budgets from unsustainable cost increases.

To ensure success under fiscal constraints, the City must maintain rigorous project management, realistic financial planning, and clear priorities. For critical infrastructure like the wastewater plant, Council must maximize federal WIFIA loans, regional cost-sharing, and non-city funding sources to buffer ratepayer impacts and prevent cost overruns. For major civic assets like our aging library, where structural and accessibility limitations must be addressed. We need transparent cost-benefit analysis, value engineering, and clear community consensus on scale and funding before committing long-term capital. Success requires treating essential safety and utility infrastructure as non-negotiable priorities while ensuring civic facility projects are carefully staged, transparently budgeted, and strictly managed to deliver durable, cost-effective solutions for Lake Oswego.”