

MEET *Your* CANDIDATES



PEREN TIEMANN

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 appreciate all the work that our City is doing to keep our community safe in a time of changing streets that now include ebikes, scooters, pedestrians, and traditional cyclists, along with the ever-present issue of distracted driving. I think we should continue evaluating our collision data to adapt to further change. We must balance a variety of factors in order to reduce collisions and to limit the severity of injuries from those collisions, and 20 is plenty is only one method to help in this process. We need to continue working alongside both police and traffic engineering to identify the biggest safety gaps in our community. From there, we can continue working to add, repair, and fill gaps between speed bumps, sidewalks, bike lanes, and more to ensure that our streets are safe and ready to be shared by all in our community."

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?

"As a candidate, I am working to make sure that I hear from folks across all backgrounds and experiences in our community. So far, I have knocked well over 2,000 doors in our community, meeting people where they are so that I can learn what they need and how I can help. In addition, I've been at countless events around town, listening to people out in the community, at neighborhood association meetings, nonprofit events, and city programming. I also believe that it is important to build spaces where our most marginalized residents feel welcome to speak up, which is why I partnered with the former executive director of Respond to Racism to host a BIPOC listening session. I also believe that government should be accessible, and I would continue my efforts to respond quickly to community concerns, seek out and share helpful information, and to be active in sharing news and information from council out in the community and online. I would hope to continue all of this work, listening to people and meeting them where they are, attending events, hosting my own, and showing up where people need me."

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?

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“In a city with limited buildable land, parking is an issue to be taken seriously. There is no one size fits all approach, and this is an area where working in close partnership with neighborhoods, the school district, local businesses, and other stakeholders will be essential. Especially when it comes to our parks, which vary vastly in size, types of use, and high use times, it would be worthwhile to explore options in a task force. One idea might be to require payment to park in surrounding neighborhoods during high traffic months, and to partner with the school district on shuttle buses during large events. Potential impacts to the neighborhoods, opportunities for city revenue, and potential harms to visitors and community members should be thoroughly considered before making these decisions. Our schools are a deeply important part of our community, and our city should always work alongside them to find solutions that will benefit all. As we work to create long term solutions, these conversations should tie in with other transportation ideas and developments, such as considering the best public transit systems and opportunities for our community, increasing pathways and lanes for walking and biking, and creating safer streets.”

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?

“It is absolutely essential to find the most affordable paths forward on all city projects. City Council must anticipate potential costs and work to reduce the impacts of those costs on community members and city budgets. This process requires planning for the most effective timing around different projects, costs, and infrastructure needs. For services as essential as utilities, we must work together as a community to find the best balance that will provide high quality service and support the everyday needs of our residents. When decisions come up that require heightened spending, there must be close communication and frequent input from community members. By combining strategic planning, budgeting, and learning where costs can be cut with the least impacts to service, city council can provide meaningful options to residents, whose input must be deeply valued in this process.”

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?

“As chair of the city’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Board, I deeply appreciate the work that our city has done to celebrate our city’s diverse cultures and residents, and I know that we can continue to make further progress. At the heart of this conversation is ensuring that our residents who are not of a majority group feel welcome and included in our community as a whole. We should continue this work by ensuring that every decision made by City Council considers the potential equity impacts.

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For example, when we build a variety of housing options that are accessible, we help not only low income and disabled community members, but also young families who want to expand their space and build a life here, and our aging residents whose previous homes no longer fit their mobility needs. By centering universal design, we create solutions for our community that benefit us all, and no longer leave out those at the margins. We must continue to celebrate and seek out our many diverse experiences and perspectives to find solutions that work for our entire community. “

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?

“I hope to live in Lake Oswego for decades to come. One of the biggest threats to our community’s future is continuing threats to our environment. I am committed to prioritizing sustainable investment and infrastructure, adapting to new technologies and finding solutions that ensure our parks and trees are prepared for the environmental disasters we face. As we suffer from increasing forest fires, ice storms, and problems like the emerald ash borers, we must work together alongside city teams, regional and state governments, and our community members. We will need to keep a close eye on updating our tree code, and continue working with community partners to remove invasive species and materials that can lead to faster spread of fire through our parks. In particular, it will be important to stay in close communication with environmental experts and stewards of our community resources to ensure that we are able to adapt to changing circumstances and keep our wildlife, trees, and community healthy for many years to come.”

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

“Most urgently, we need to plan for the many upcoming development projects that the city is taking on, and create a smooth transition for our city as it adapts to a new city manager and recruits a new city attorney. Our city is in a time of change. City Council must first focus on creating stability and strong leadership to maintain the culture of excellence that our city has created. Having worked alongside city staff for over five years, I understand the importance of a strong working culture, and creating a system of support that extends from City Council to our City Manager and city staff.

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These are the folks doing the work of our city day in and day out, and they possess not only deep institutional knowledge, but are dedicated to the future of our city. As we move forward during this transitional period, we first need to help the new City Manager set a tone that will support and uplift the needs of our city staff. This will help us retain the incredible wealth of knowledge and experience that we have here in our city, and to build effective and efficient communication across departments and projects.”

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?

“City Council should lead the city in setting a realistic balance of what is possible in large scale projects, and prioritize keeping costs low and timelines on schedule. Especially at the early stages of these projects, it is important to lean on the expertise of the city staff and contracted groups who create the plans and estimates, and to turn to the input of the community when there are decisions to be made. With decisions that so deeply impact the cultural heart and the financial stability of our community, there can be no fully formed decision without thorough input and support from the community itself. Once decisions are made, City Council must continue to shepherd processes along, ensuring that hiccups are addressed efficiently and in a cost effective manner. While City Council does not manage these projects directly, it is important for councilors to play an active supporting role. Councilors should continue to stay engaged with updates on progress, so that if issues or decision points arise, they are ready to jump in and help with an eye towards efficiency and fiscal responsibility.”