

Sonja Mckenzie

1. -The next Portland City Council will be unlike any that we've ever experienced in the past. How should Council operate and what will Council need to accomplish in the next two years to make the new form of government as effective and respected as it can be?

The new city council members will now solely serve as legislators and will no longer be responsible for overseeing 26 city bureaus. In that new capacity city council members have the ability to gather feedback from their districts and provide that vital information to the council as proposed budgets and new policies are proposed, discussed and eventually approved by the council. What I want to see is a Commitment to working collaboratively with community stakeholders. I am committed to developing a working relationship with community organizations, labor unions and local government entities and work together to work toward the best possible outcomes for Portland.

2-Current City Council members have suggested that we need to relax environmental and natural resource regulations in order to address the housing crisis. What is your perspective on this issue? What is your top natural resource and environmental priority?

My perspective is that climate change and affordable housing crises are intricately linked, and I believe to address both, will require balancing plans both for land development and the need to protect the environment will be necessary. My environmental priorities are clean air, water and safe housing.

3-Vehicles are Portland's largest source of emissions and continue to climb. For example, a number of cities have restricted downtown vehicle use. How should Council address this issue?

City Council City Council should address this issue first by creating policies and providing resources and support for programs that reduce transport emissions. (Examples: incentivize public and sustainable transportation, expanding cycling and electric car infrastructure etc)

4-There are a number of new and recently built market rate apartment buildings listed for sale for under \$250,000 per unit. The Portland Housing Bureau is financing a number of affordable housing projects that are costing more than \$500,000 per unit. There are some extra costs associated with affordable housing financing and with building more 2BR and 3BR units, but not nearly enough to explain the difference.

What specifically would you do to use our limited resources more effectively for affordable housing?

As City Councilor I would propose that we explore opportunities to address housing affordability

while also prioritizing the increase of access to affordable homes. I would explore and support partnerships with local nonprofits to create community land trusts. CLT's provide an opportunity for affordable homeownership as the nonprofit maintains ownership of the land. In addition, I would support exploring the creation of an affordable housing trust fund to finance production and preservation of affordable housing and to overcome the expensive upfront costs of development of housing units.

5-Ireland used Citizen Assemblies to deal with difficult issues such as Abortion.

Please watch this two-minute video and let us know if you think Citizen Assemblies could help Portland come together

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKSgPtnN0s0>

I believe that Portland can certainly learn from the lessons of the Citizen Assemblies. Our new form of government and our role as City Councilors will require that our job is to be an active listener and to hear and be responsive to the concerns of our constituents and bring their points of view to the council, not just our own opinions.

6. What is another City doing that Portland should replicate?

Lexington, KY,-

They have been rated as one of the best run cities for a number of reasons:

- Clean water, relatively low air pollution and greenhouse gases
- 95% of Lexington's homeless population is sheltered
- It has the 13th-lowest violent crime rate in the country