

3. Many issues of livability can become sticking points on the streets of Portland. Please state your position on the following topics: Support for the current Sidewalk Management Plan, panhandling and the future of Right 2 Dream Too.

Charlie Hales: Clearly, we continue to have challenges we must address downtown, but the answer doesn't lie with simply moving the problem from one part of the City to another. Enhancing the City's nuanced approach will be the best way to help our homeless residents and make downtown a welcoming environment for all. New approaches are starting to take effect. For example, Central City Concern is participating in a low-yield bond program that has had initial success in workforce training. But we still have further to go. As mayor, I will be committed to working with Multnomah County and all of the nonprofit service providers in addressing mental health issues. We will work with organizations that help people find housing and employment options, and we will train a police bureau to de-escalate wherever possible, protecting the safety of everyone in Portland. There is great interest in the city getting these issues right. You have my commitment to keeping our downtown the livable center of a livable city, and to exploring all ideas and partnerships that will help us make that vision real on the streets. In the interim, until we can find and implement lasting solutions I support Right 2 Dream Too. It's not perfect, but it provides Portland citizens with basic fundamental rights of shelter, water and food.

Jefferson Smith: I support Dignity Village and Right 2 Dream Too. Going forward, we need to better link encampments with services. These are places where people living on the streets can get rest and feel safe. It's ironic that well more than half of Portland's residents don't feel safe at night, and yet, in so many cases, we are reluctant to recognize that people living on the streets also often live in fear. Opportunities such as the temporary shelters at Right 2 Dream Too are critical to finding ways to reach out to people on the streets and provide them with services they need. As mayor, I will actually build affordable housing rather than just discussing it, and I will work with the PDC and city bureaus to make sure affordable housing takes precedent over urban renewal type development.

The issues of the Sidewalk Management Plan and panhandling are clearly intertwined. Recently, I spoke to the Pearl District Neighborhood Association and heard their concerns about these issues. Protecting the constitutional rights of people on the streets while at the same time being aware of the concerns of people living in neighborhoods will require significant efforts to get at the root causes of homelessness and the fear associated with people on the streets. I will lead that conversation as I believe it has great implications on all of our city.

We can and should do a better job of meeting the needs and concerns of neighborhoods and the people who populate them. Providing meals and services to people living on the street, ensuring they have a safe place to go and warm food are critical to ending the conflicts we see today. There are no easy answers, but I will bring all sides together to work on real solutions.

5. MAYORAL CANDIDATES ONLY: Previous mayors, including Mayor Sam Adams, have spent countless hours and community capital in crafting city plans, only to see them pushed aside and replaced when someone new takes office. If elected, would you follow the current The Portland Plan as drafted, or would you create a new plan forward? If so, what would that plan be?

Charlie Hales: As Mayor I would use the Portland Plan as a framework in moving forward. We've done enough planning in this city over the past eight years. It's time to implement, starting with the very basics that will help make all our neighborhoods safe, livable and thriving.

Jefferson Smith: I will work to build upon the work rather than restart it. The issue is not one of developing plans, but of implementing them. The Portland Plan was an exhaustive look at our city's needs with significant outreach to many people and communities. But there has been too little work done to implement its recommendations. Far too few of our citizens are civically engaged and do not participate in the hard work of governing our city. There are limits to what city employees can do; there are far fewer limits on what 580,000 citizens of Portland can accomplish if we work together.

As mayor, my charge would be to analyze recommendations from the Portland Plan and put the best of them into action, developing specific goals, objectives and strategies that will address the needs of our citizens and our city. As part of my transition plan if elected, I will have a broad swath of citizens (and not just political people) analyzing each bureau, looking at current or past recommendations, determining the needs of our citizens and establishing our game plan moving forward. Plans are effective tools for determining what needs to be done. The hard work comes at implementing them and that is the area I will focus on as mayor.

Amanda Fritz: I support the Sidewalk Management Plan. I was instrumental in finding a solution that is working. It's not perfect, but complex solutions to significant issues rarely are. It has not been challenged in court, and it provides a mechanism to share downtown sidewalks. I continue to be the council's coordinator on sidewalks issues, meeting regularly with the Sharing Public Spaces advisory group I convened. I will work with all members of the incoming council, with the PBA, and other stakeholders including people experiencing homelessness, to continue to address this issue of significant importance to all members of our community. I helped resolve Cameron Whitten's hunger strike, by promising a regional summit on housing in November. This summit is a needed step to resolve the lack of affordable housing in our region, due to decreased support from the federal and state governments. We must address the root causes that lead to people panhandling and sleeping outside.

Freedom of speech expressed by panhandling is a constitutional right. I will continue to uphold the constitutions of the state of Oregon and the United States.

Everyone should have the right to sleep undisturbed when no public safety issues are violated. There are valid reasons why Right 2 Dream Too in its current location cannot be legalized, however community leaders there are providing an excellent demonstration of how safe, self-governed settlements can help reduce the impacts of homelessness. I will continue to listen to and work with advocates of people living outside, to find more solutions.

4. What do you fear most for the city if your opponent is elected?

Charlie Hales: If my opponent is elected I would support him however I can to make all of our neighborhoods safe, livable and thriving. However, I'm concerned that the "us-versus-them" mindset that is part of being in the partisan atmosphere of the State Legislature is really counterproductive in city government, where you need to be able to bring divergent groups and points of view together and not only reach a decision, but then implement a plan to get things done.

Amanda Fritz: I fear the citizens' voice in City Hall would be replaced by the political insiders' voice. I also worry that needed systemic changes in caring for people with mental illnesses will not happen without my expertise and leadership on the City Council.

Portlanders know that whether they agree with my decisions or not, I consider and value their input. I am not afraid to lead discussions on contentious issues like sidewalk management, homelessness and spending taxpayers' money wisely. I read and responded to over 20,000 emails from community members in my first three years in office. I limited campaign contributions to \$50 per person in the primary and to \$250 per person in the runoff. I don't accept money from corporations, unions, political action committees, or any entity that is not an individual human being. Corporations are not people, and money is not speech. Money in politics is a huge problem. My re-election would help buck that trend. If I lose, I doubt public campaign financing will return to Portland anytime soon, and that would mean the influence of Big Money in politics is here to stay.

I work well with other members of council and with the county board. I came from the community, I work hard to remain connected with all communities, and I serve all communities. I love interacting with Portlanders. I attended over 1,000 community events and spent quality time in all 95 neighborhoods in my first term. I believe Portlanders would be best served by re-electing me to continue listening to and advocating for all.

Mary Nolan: The fact that Portland even felt a need to establish a Sidewalk Management Plan, or that panhandling raises tensions between people who beg and people who pass them by, or that anyone should need the services offered by Right 2 Dream Too, the existence of these plans and services speaks volumes to the much deeper problem we seem to want to evade. Portland faces a slow but persistent (and probably accelerating) decline in its capacity to provide employment, self-sufficiency and upward mobility for a significant portion of its residents and neighbors. I support responsive and short-term social services to give people the help they need to get through a tough time. I also support (and in the legislature helped expand) long-term services for seniors, persons with disabilities and families with special needs as either new arrivals or historically excluded groups. But I am most focused on not just "giving a man a fish" but "teaching a woman to fish." I want to help existing companies that are locally oriented to expand and hire more Portlanders. I want to expand technical training and apprenticeships to be available to more people, I want to make it easier for hard-working Portlanders to start a small business and succeed at it for themselves and the people they will hire.

Jefferson Smith: The status quo. For 20 years now, we've had a succession of people who really think the same. They have the same funders, the same political consultants and the same way of doing business. If we want to change the status quo, we have to elect someone who understands that Portland needs to see the big picture and that our entire city must benefit from the decisions made in Council chambers. For too long, we've neglected significant populations and significant parts of our city.

Mary Nolan: My opponent is genuinely and admirably committed to improving Portland and the opportunities available to Portlanders. She has a good heart and good intentions. As the issues you've raised in these important questions point out, though, too many Portlanders are at or near crisis point. They urgently need actions and results more than new studies or task forces. Among the big differences between me and my opponent is that I am focused on delivering results, improving outcomes and getting important things done in ways that families can see real benefits right now. I have been a progressive leader in expanding access to health care, improving education and expanding college scholarships, supporting minority-owned businesses and culturally competent training programs. And I have delivered big results. I want to continue that sense of urgency and my effective leadership as city commissioner, and I ask for your vote and your engagement in making Portland better.