

Candidates:

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was removed from Umatilla County, and they are doing a great job with what they have, but it is not their duty. There are so many other things I would like to work on. I would also like to get the citizens within the county to help with coming up with solutions for some of the problem areas we are working on.

Susan Bower, 52, Pendleton, business owner

If you are elected, what is your plan to address homelessness in the county?

If elected county commissioner, it will be a top priority for me to identify and understand the resources currently available to support people dealing with homelessness. I have started this work already and will continue until and after becoming a county commissioner.

I will establish a county-wide task force, which will include a variety of stakeholders, resource providers, law enforcement, behavioral health providers and people who have both chosen to be



Bower

homeless and those who are homeless for other reasons than personal choice. Together we will work to better quantify and qualify the issue and we will call in experts who will broaden our knowledge.

The task force will also reach out to communities across the country to learn how homelessness has been dealt with in other areas. Together we will visit homeless camps to talk with people in the spirit of truly trying to learn from others. This task force will set goals, share transparently and will have deadlines to keep the work productive and results-oriented.

Too often, groups are formed with good intent, but do not generate useful information or reasonable possible solutions. Leadership, organization and accountability are necessary to move ideas forward. As a county commissioner, I will use my leadership, organization and accountability skills to work with others to look at, understand, and address homelessness to include both root cause and immediate solutions. I will seek and direct funding needed to address the root causes of homelessness, which will undoubtedly involve mental and behavioral health. I will work to support and enhance the work Umatilla County commissioners have already started with Community Counseling Solutions. I will meet with each hospital leadership team to discuss the need for acute

and respite care for people in crisis, and I will initiate a conversation with the state about why such facilities were closed and advocate that doing so has gotten us to some degree where we are now.

I will work with the task force to develop a sound business case and plan to bring back psychiatric care and places for people to get the help they need. This plan creates a win-win situation for people in need, community safety, economic development and social/moral responsibility.

List and discuss your top three goals if you are to be elected.

Please refer to my campaign FaceBook page and website at susanbower4countycitycommissioner.com for more detail and specificity.

Enhance quality of life in Umatilla County

My vision for Umatilla County is to be a place where people choose to live, work and raise a family. A place where every person, business and non-profit organization can thrive and fulfill its purpose. Residents and businesses benefit by having a healthier environment, more public safety, family-wage jobs, better schools, access to health care here at home, choices for housing and an increase in behavioral health and opioid awareness and resources.

I will form the task force discussed above.

I will work with leaders to consider the social impacts of economic growth and change. Ensure current needs are met and future needs are planned for. Invest in programs and services that are relevant and sustainable.

I will review county commissions and advisory boards to ensure relevancy of topics and full representation of the population served in Umatilla County. I will create new advisory groups for current unmet needs and community interests and I will use a multitude of ways to get the work out to everyone when there is an opportunity to serve on a new or existing committee.

I will work with cities, businesses and nonprofits to identify creative ways to partner in service to our communities. Increasing the quality and decreasing the cost of serving people.

I will establish a Hispanic Advisory Group to meet regularly with the board of commissioners to discuss matters of importance and nurture positive relationships.

I will establish a Native American Advisory Group to meet regularly with the board of commissioners to discuss matters of importance and nurture positive relationships.

County-wide economic development

Residents and businesses benefit by having more jobs, more tax base from industry to invest back into communities, more students in our

schools and more choices to shop and get services.

I will work with all cities county-wide to keep residents informed and a part of growth conversations.

I will work with leaders to consider the social and infrastructure impacts of economic growth.

I will work with cities and businesses to identify creative ways to help pay for both growth and business retention. I will share the information and network that I have gained by completing (12/2022) the nation's only Economic Development Institute.

Organizational health of Umatilla County

Residents, businesses and future industry leaders benefit by getting the best service by happy employees. Happy employees have less turnover, higher engagement and a greater commitment to the mission of the county — which is to serve citizens efficiently and effectively.

I will maintain and increase focus on the professional development of all employees.

I will increase internal communication by routine, compassionate, productive contact with all county employees.

I will work with county staff to assess each program and service and support changes where necessary to ensure current community needs are met.

David Nelson, 80, Pendleton, retired farmer and former state senator

If you are elected, what is your plan to address homelessness in the county?

The long term solution to homelessness is education and training leading to skill sets and a job. The short term solutions are complex as there are many causes leading to homelessness, including — but not limited to — job-loss, mental illness, medical bills, drug addiction, domestic violence and affordable housing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a fight against homelessness with a \$2.6 billion nationwide grant on March 14, 2022. The question is how much will come to Oregon and specifically Umatilla County. I would continue to build partnerships with cities, community nonprofits and religious organizations to answer the immediate need. I would not advocate for a county-wide tax for homelessness as Metro and Multnomah County have done.



Nelson

List and discuss your top three goals if you are to be elected.

A. Respect and value the taxpayers of Umatilla County. The demand for

public services will always be greater than the resources needed to fund them. What is the will and appetite of the taxpayer? The Rule of 72 suggests a 6% increase in annual taxes will double the tax in 12 years.

I would continue to explore the available monies under the trillion dollar spending program from the federal government. There is money for bridges, roads, water systems, broadband and the power grid. Additionally, Oregon may receive \$91 million under a settlement with Purdue Pharma combating drug use. Umatilla County needs to be present at the Salem table to receive these one time funding sources.

B. Strong families make strong communities. Family wage jobs are crucial. I would use enterprise zones and strategic investment programs supported by the state and work to withdraw water from the Columbia River. One percent of the current flow of the Columbia, spread across the farmland of Umatilla County, would create a billion dollar industry providing jobs, a tax base and shelter and forage for wildlife.

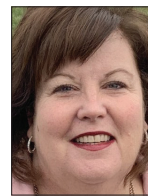
C. I would work to bring flexibility to Oregon's land use laws and other regulations that stunt growth, by using my legislative experience to educate legislators of the strengths of Umatilla County and Eastern Oregon. The 'one size fits all' mentality must be changed to create an avenue for progress.

Earlier this year, the Department of Land Conservation of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Housing reported that "The current housing planning system chronically underestimates housing needs ..." Those two agencies admit that our land use law are better suited to prevent developments with time consuming rules and regulations that delay or obstruct housing needs. The Oregon Legislature has not acted on this information. My role would be to make Umatilla County's presence felt on this issue.

Cindy Timmons, 58, Milton-Freewater, business owner

If you are elected, what is your plan to address homelessness in the county?

As vice-chair of CAPECO, homelessness is a problem we have identified and are addressing throughout all parts of Umatilla County. If elected, I will continue to work on ventures such as the Promise Inn in Pendleton and provide assistance where needed with the proposed regional homelessness project on the west end of the county.



Timmons

Homeless populations in more rural areas of the county receive assistance through housing vouchers.

List and discuss your top three goals if you are to be elected.

Address adequate housing needs: Every community in Umatilla County shares in a lack of affordable housing. I will oppose taxes and/or regulations that drive up housing costs and support policies that provide Umatilla County housing growth.

Prioritize elder/mental health services: Witnessing the impact of elder care and mental health issues and watching county residents attempting — and failing — to find adequate support makes these issues a priority. A global pandemic, coupled with lack of mental health facilities, has homeless numbers growing and drug use skyrocketing. Long-term effects of isolation have, not only families, but schools, employers and local officials addressing consequences. An aging population requires solutions to help residents who want to live at home but require assistance. I will work in partnership with communities, professionals and agencies to alleviate the problem.

Water: Always a talking

point, water issues are plaguing all parts of Umatilla County. Adequate supply for high value crops, cost of water for homeowners and preservation/maintenance of rivers and streams are a concern. Often referred to as the life blood of the county, I will engage all vested parties in finding working solutions for this limited resource.

Alvin Young, 64, Hermiston, retired firefighter and EMT

If you are elected, what is your plan to address homelessness in the county?

Homelessness is a very significant problem. Not only in Umatilla County but nationwide. If I am elected I would try to get the state, Umatilla County and local townships together at the table to try to figure things out. Town by town because every township has its own circumstances and one size does not fit all.

List and discuss your top three goals if you are to be elected.

My top three goals are to work on our infrastructure, roads and medical. Our roads are out of date and we need to start from the base up. We can't fix everything at one time. We can put them on a rotation starting with the worst and work from there. As far as medical goes, we need to get more doctors into the area. Including more specialists. Which we are very much in need of. We have a huge mental health problem in this county and we need to get the right doctors in here to help.

Last but not least we need to work on our ground water resources. Put more straws in the Columbia River so we can make our wonderful soil produce more. We need the water to help us be more productive

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