# **Jeff Bissonnette Responses to Candidate Forum Questions**

Page 1 of 2

#### Land Use:

1) The residential population in Portland will continue to increase in the coming years. How can the city expand its residential population while ensuring that there are housing opportunities for all income levels?

We need to use existing house lots more creatively. There are local affordable housing developers that are building housing units on a standard lot that allows for a variety of households - single people, couples with children, seniors - with common areas that allows for patios, gardens and the like. We also need to make sure that new housing structures fit the existing neighborhoods where they are built.

2) The need to encourage increased employment and business vitality in the city will be critical to supporting Portland's expanding population. How do you propose to support business development in the city without sacrificing neighborhood livability and critical residential amenities such as open space?

We need to do two things: 1) recruit industries that fit with our overall social and environmental ethic and 2) expand resources to ensure Portlanders can start, grow and sustain locally-owned businesses. As an example, I want to use my background working with clean energy industries to make that one of our economic anchors. I also want to increase the capacity of existing micro-lending programs to provide additional start-up capital for local businesses.

### **Transportation:**

1) Increased congestion in the city will affect the local economy and public health as well as contribute to global warming. How will you ensure that the people and goods will be able to move smoothly in and out of the city? How will you pay for these improvements?

I support the proposed Safe, Sound and Green Streets Initiative to upgrade existing infrastructure. To support ongoing maintenance, I support including the utility franchise fee revenue in the discussion on how to make sure that we do not find ourselves with a similar infrastructure backlog in another 10 years.

2) Pedestrian and bicycle safety are chief concerns for Northeast neighbors. What initiatives do you plan to undertake to ensure that residents can safely walk and bike to work, shop and play? How will you pay for these improvements?

The Safe, Sound and Green Streets Initiative makes an investment of \$24 million in bicycle infrastructure. While substantial, we also need to increase the availability of Safe Routes to School and bicycle safety instruction in schools. To support these vital investments, I would like to explore increasing the presence of major bicycle events in the city and dedicate the revenue the city receives from these events to bicycle infrastructure. Also, the ongoing infrastructure maintenance I addressed in the previous question also needs to include bicycle infrastructure as an integral part of that planning.

### **Jeff Bissonnette Responses to Candidate Forum Questions**

Page 2 of 2

# **Public Safety:**

1) We have seen a significant spike in gang activity and youth violence, however the East precinct continues to be understaffed and funding for gang and youth intervention programs are also very low compared to historic levels. How do you plan on addressing issues of gang and youth violence in Northeast Portland? What increase in funding for the East precinct and intervention programs do you have planned?

There needs to be better coordination between law enforcement, youth services, substance abuse intervention and treatment, public health and community development work. This coordination needs to occur not only among city-provided services but between city and county agencies as well. Also, we need to fill the budgeted positions in the Portland Police Bureau and have as many sworn officers on the street as possible rather than in administrative positions.

2) Graffiti and vandalism continue to cost local businesses thousands and thousands of dollars. What initiatives do you have planned for supporting graffiti abatement, investigation of vandalism, and the prosecution of vandals in the city?

Graffiti and vandalism need to first be addressed at the neighborhood level. Store owners and residents need to keep an eye out and protect each other's property. New graffiti needs to be covered over immediately. I will support new neighborhood watch programs and will also seek to involve youth in activities as alternatives to vandalism graffiti and in determining solutions for graffiti abatement.

# **Neighborhood Associations:**

What role will Neighborhood Associations play in your policy development and policy making decisions? What specific initiatives do you have planned to ensure that neighborhood concerns are not ignored by council?

One of the key reasons I am running for get city council outside of city hall and reconnected to the neighborhoods and communities throughout the city. The City Council should meet at least quarterly outside of the downtown council chambers – in schools, in union halls, in homeless shelters and community centers. In addition, I am going to establish field offices for my office in different parts of the city so that people don't feel as though they have to make a pilgrimage downtown to city hall to get help from a city official or have input into a city issue.