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Candidate for Bend City Council

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Economic Development & Business Climate

Bend businesses face rising operating costs, workforce challenges, and an evolving regulatory environment.

What specific actions can the City of Bend take to retain and grow existing businesses, attract new investment, and strengthen Bend's business climate? How would you ensure the cumulative impact of new fees, taxes, and regulations on businesses is considered in City decision-making?

As a former small business owner working with U.S.-based manufacturers, I have personally felt how fees, taxes, and service charges can affect a business's ability to keep its doors open, or to get off the ground at all.

As a City Councilor, I will listen to the needs and pain points of our local businesses, employers and job creators, and bring those issues to Council to be delivered on. That starts with making the City easier to work with, such as streamlining our codes and processes so businesses can navigate permitting and being more transparent about permit turnaround times while identifying areas where the city can improve. Throughout, I favor an incentive-based approach that works with the business community.

Housing & Development

Housing affordability continues to affect Bend's workforce and employers' ability to recruit and retain employees. The City also plays a significant role in permitting, land use, infrastructure requirements, and development costs.

What City-controlled policies would you prioritize to increase housing production in Bend and streamline the development process? How would you address buildable land supply, zoning and development standards, and the need for predictable permitting timelines?

While the City of Bend does not build housing, the City Council decides what is legal to build and what it charges to build it, and it can incentivize and encourage development in all parts of the city, especially workforce housing. We also need a relentless focus on first-time homeowners so they are not shut out of the market.

Teachers, nurses, childcare workers, trades workers, servers, and working class families cannot find homes they can afford in the city they serve. Young people who grew up here can't get a foothold, and seniors who built this town can't find a smaller home in their own neighborhood. On Council, I'll work to allow the homes that change that: starter homes on smaller lots, townhomes and duplexes, and housing options near jobs and transit. Because a mix of homes at every size and price means young families put down roots, workers live where they work, local businesses hire locally.

I would explore density bonuses for building near medical, grocery, schools, and parks to encourage complete communities; review and streamline the Bend Development Code; and identify incentives that help affordable housing developers bring units online faster.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Continued growth is increasing demand on Bend's transportation system and the infrastructure needed to support housing, businesses, and economic activity.

What specific transportation, utility, or other infrastructure investments should Bend prioritize over the next four years to support economic growth and regional connectivity? What role should the City play in advancing those priorities, and how should Bend address its infrastructure needs outside of new taxes and fees?

I will support and incentivize development that furthers complete communities, where residents are not dependent on a car, including a "build up, not out" approach that focuses density in designated corridors while leaving room for new neighborhoods for growing families. It also accelerates workforce housing near grocery stores, transit hubs and key public spaces, and doubles as climate policy: concentrating homes along transit corridors cuts vehicle miles and congestion more than almost anything else a city can do.

On meeting infrastructure needs without new taxes and fees: infill where infrastructure already exists protects open space and reduces how much new services and roads the City must build and maintain.

This includes a renewed focus on key business corridors and increasingly congested shopping experiences. From changes to parking enforcement more friendly to the businesses in paid parking regions, to infrastructure investments that make it easier for residents to access their local businesses without a car, the city has a positive role in increasing ease of access and a positive impact in key areas.

Managing Growth & Bend's Future

Bend continues to grow, creating both opportunities and challenges related to housing, employment, transportation, infrastructure, and quality of life.

How should Bend accommodate continued growth while maintaining a vibrant and livable community? How would you seek out and consider community input when making decisions as a City Councilor? When perspectives are divided, what would guide your decision-making?

As city councilor, I would ensure that Bend's business community and its needs are represented as they are strongly affected by the changes the City makes. We can take those needs seriously while achieving other goals, like rapidly accelerating affordable housing options and incentivizing infill to meet our climate goals. My decision-making is built on the idea that Bend can grow while preserving the vibrant, livable community we have, but only with smart policy that truly understands all perspectives.

On Council I will deliver for local businesses and show that our city listens and makes it easier to start or grow a business here. I share the Chamber's values and commitments to a strong business climate that supports businesses of all sizes.