



CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES 2016

The Bend Neighborhood Coalition asked this year's candidates for City Council to address important issues affecting neighborhood livability. We thanked them for their time and thoughtful attention to the following questions, and said we would circulate their answers, as written, to our members and other interested citizens.

1) **Name:** Rondo

2) **Why did you decide to run for City Council? What are your priorities?**

Sustainable growth. Slow smart growth. Prosperity for all. Most of our city council represents corporate thinking, for good and bad. Much of our city is completely unrepresented. I work for real people, not real estate.

3) **How do you differ from your opponent (if you have one)? If you were the second to file for the position, how did you decide to challenge the person you are opposing?**

I don't know much about my opponent. The job, not my opponent, is my focus. My defining differences will depend on the perspective of the voter. I am a candidate seeking a job.

I am qualified because I show up. I listen. I am qualified because I have the life experience. I am qualified because I have a comprehensive vision, which means I don't see just what I want to see.

I am qualified because the professionals in the room want to work with me.

4) **Some city officials have said that livability is hard to define or that everyone has a different definition, making it difficult to do anything to improve livability. What role do you think the city should have in keeping Bend livable? Please list specific areas of city policy that you feel apply.**

The definition of livability must include the basic ability to live.

As the city spends resource to increase growth, we do it knowing that some will prosper, some will find later a trickle- down benefit, and the rest just get trickled on.

Affordable housing is a necessary correction for the higher cost-of-living in Bend, but no one believes that it is a fix. So, the conscious question we must ask is, "Do we keep doing what we have been doing, and prepare to buy a lot more band-aids, or do we make an adjustment in the mechanics, make a change on the game-board?"

We must redefine tourism dollars to spend them locally to benefit resident and visitor alike, not just on more advertising to beg for more visitors. We must seriously revisit the contract we have with VisitBend, and our marketing strategy. We must return strong councilor oversight.

We can have the city we want. Or we can have a corporate city where we keep making every decision that requires more spending of our precious tax dollars that continues to drive up the cost of living, and that continues to make more and more of our people homeless.

5) With more density on the horizon, what changes in policies or code enforcement do you think would help protect the quality of life in Bend's residential neighborhoods?

Our streets and public spaces must be clear of camping. Alternative and workforce housing must be made common and accessible.

We must focus on our city's TrashWake. Create Welcome Centers for garbage.

Eliminate the Exclusion Zones. Stop wasting police resources on social issues. Charge businesses for excessive use of city resources.

6) Regarding the noise ordinance and special events, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following:

a) Reducing decibel levels in the noise ordinance to more closely match other cities

Neutral

b) Requiring a permit for outdoor music venues (including restaurants and pubs)

Neutral

c) Shifting responsibility for enforcing the noise ordinance from the police to a sound technician

Neutral

d) Requiring that noise and event permits be spread out in terms of frequency and location

Neutral

e) Requiring that event permits have a community focus, rather than a private commercial focus

Neutral

7) Regarding these land use issues, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following:

a) Establishing parking districts in areas where nearby uses (commercial, educational, etc.) create excessive demand by non-residents

Neutral

b) Creating neighborhood compatibility zones to buffer residential areas from the offsite impacts of adjoining commercial and mixed use areas (through a step-down in permitted uses)

Neutral

c) Establishing a university district to concentrate campus-related development in adjoining mixed use zones, while protecting the character of nearby residential neighborhoods

Neutral

d) Terminating the ability to transfer non-conforming short term rental permits on sale

Agree strongly

e) Planning for one or more entertainment districts where outdoor amplified music and late-night entertainment is concentrated and allowed to operate under more relaxed guidelines

Neutral

f) Directing staff to encourage property owners and developers to plan projects in line with the comprehensive plan and development code, and to reduce spot-rezoning and variance requests

Neutral

g) Adopting an occupancy limit or high occupancy permit as a means of avoiding single family homes being used as rooming houses or stealth dorms or mini-dorms

Neutral

- 8) City staff frequently bring the Council a single solution or preferred scenario or final draft for discussion and an up/down vote. Critics charge that this dilutes the Council's role as a policy-making body, and that staff should instead present alternatives, with an analysis of pros and cons. What is your view on whether the Council should insist on practices that strengthen its policy-making role?**

Council members should spend at least two hours a week in the planning department. I have developed relationships with many of our planners. Our council should do more than wait for a presentation, in my opinion. We must be proactive.

- 9) Momentum is building for a charter amendment to change the form of governance in Bend to one like other similarly-sized cities. As a leader in the City, what changes in the governance structure do you believe are needed as Bend continues to grow?**

Stronger accountable leadership. City-elected mayor.

Reasonable expense account for councilors (\$35 per diem).

Ward system to elect council.

Stronger Neighborhood Association role.