



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:** Justin Livingston

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

I'm running for the Bend City Council because I believe the city can do a better job of addressing the problems of the residents of Bend:

- 1) Housing – the lack of affordable housing at all price points has a negative impact, which is felt across our entire community.
- 2) Infrastructure – we must make sure we set infrastructure on a sustainable course through a masterplan that won't put us in a situation where we have to play catchup again.
- 3) Budgeting – with limited discretionary funds, each department needs to be as efficient as possible.
- 4) Development code revamp – the Bend Development Code has many opportunities to be rewritten.

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 will defer to the endorsements from The Source Weekly & The Bulletin of my candidacy to define the differences between my opponent & myself.

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 city's role in defining & adjudicating livability should be limited. What the city should do is encourage housing diversity, so there are housing options that meet an individual's personal definition of livability for the season of life they are currently in.

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?**

Higher density should only occur in areas that are appropriately zoned. I personally would like to see higher density in the area between 3rd St & the Parkway. We could encourage this by raising the building height limit in this area & doing tax increment financing to build parking, which would allow for parking requirements to be reduced or eliminated.

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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)

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

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

No response

- 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 should never do anything that dilutes its authority. This is accomplished by clear, concise, and achievable goals and objectives. This lets staff know that anything that is brought before Council will be measured against those goals.

- 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?**

I'm a proponent of wards & a directly elected mayor .