



**CITY COUNCIL
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
RESPONSES 2018**

The Bend Neighborhood Coalition asked the candidates for City Council and Mayor to address several issues affecting neighborhood livability. We said we would circulate their answers, as written, to our members and other interested citizens. Here are the responses from one candidate.

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1) Name: Victor Johnson

2) What do you see as the main threats to the livability of Bend's neighborhoods as the City grows?

What I see as a threat, is only considering the needs of some, instead of acknowledging and addressing the needs of the diverse population that exists in Bend. When rents continue to rise, and there is very little affordable housing to be found, that is a huge problem for many people in Bend. Not to mention, people that have been living in homeless camps. Too much attention and resources are focused on tourism and not enough on the infrastructure and coming up with solutions to create more sustainability.

3) What changes in City policies do you support to address those threats?

Creating a tiny house village for the homeless population. Exploring ways to create more affordable housing. There needs to be protection for people who can't afford rents that continue to rise. Perhaps there needs to be a policy set in place for some sort of rent control. I would also like to see support of local music and arts become more of a priority. We have big festivals that draw tourists but the majority of local musicians and artists do not see any direct benefit from them. How can Bend, as a city, do more to create more visibility for local musicians/artists, showcase their work, and help them to prosper and thrive? In other cities, like the Bay Area and Toronto, many artists/musicians have been forced to leave because of astronomical living costs. It would be a shame for that to happen here.

4) On which of these issues do you expect to take a leadership role on Council.

Being a local musician, songwriter, children's educator, I am seeking to advocate for music and the arts, to be a voice for this community. I would expect to take a leadership role in seeing that music and the arts are being nurtured, cultivated, and encouraged to thrive.

5) Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following:

a) Establishing parking districts in areas where nearby uses create excessive demand by non-residents

Agree Somewhat

- 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)
Agree Somewhat
- c) Establishing a university district to concentrate campus-related development in adjoining mixed use zones, while protecting the character of nearby residential neighborhoods
Agree strongly
- d) Terminating the ability to transfer non-conforming short-term rental permits on sale of the property
Disagree somewhat
- 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
Disagree somewhat
- f) Developing code regulating events on private property (e.g., duration, frequency, proximity to other uses, requirements for parking, public safety, etc.)
Disagree strongly
- g) Reducing decibel levels in the noise ordinance to more closely match other cities
Disagree strongly
- h) Adopting an occupancy limit or high occupancy permit as a means of avoiding single family homes being used as rooming houses or stealth dorms
Disagree somewhat

6) How can the impacts of tourism be mitigated to protect the quality of life for Bend's residents?

By being proactive, and addressing the needs of Bend's residents, through building community and working towards creating a sense of unity.

7) Do you believe the STR code passed in 2015 has successfully curbed the loss of inventory of residential homes to tourist use? What improvements to that code would you support?

Yes. None at the moment.

8) What changes to the role of the elected mayor should be made to better address the City's needs?

Whatever changes that will support the elected mayor in building and cultivating unity in the city of Bend, and help them to provide leadership in creating a more livable city for the diverse population of people living in Bend.