

# 2022 Candidate Forum Q&A

1. What is your position on Measure 114?

2. Do you favor, or oppose a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary ordinance in Wasco County?

3. What is your main priority if you are elected to office? How do you plan to accomplish your goal and where will the funds come from?

4. What are your thoughts about the SB 762 wildfire risk legislation?

5. What are your thoughts on how the pandemic was handled in Oregon? Knowing what you know today would you change anything?

6. Would you vote against your party caucus if you felt it would not be beneficial for your constituents?

7. What is your stance on the timber industry? Do you agree or disagree with harvesting and replanting timber?

8. Do you favor reducing or eliminating capital gains on investment properties for seniors?

9. How are you going to support our businesses?

10. What is your position on new taxes or fees for businesses in Oregon?

## City of The Dalles – Mayor

Rich Mays

1. While I agree with most aspects of this measure, I strongly oppose the requirement that local law enforcement agencies must conduct background investigations of those wanting to purchase firearms.

2. This is not a City issue.

3. My main priority is construction of a new high school financed, in part, with revenue generated by existing and future Google data centers. I also support a new outdoor sports complex financed with the same source of revenue and a new hospital financed solely through private funding mechanisms.

4. I support this legislation.
5. I think regulations should have been more flexible especially as they related to the number of patrons allowed in restaurants and their classifications as far as being High Risk and Extremely High-Risk businesses.
6. I am not a member of any political party.
7. I support harvesting with vigorous replanting requirements.
8. This is not a City issue.
9. Businesses will be more apt to thrive and prosper if we enhance their surroundings through beautification projects and promotion of the arts.
10. I do not support any new taxes or fees for local businesses with two exceptions  
- first, a reasonable increase in taxes necessary to fund a new high school and second, I support a very small fee for business licenses.

### **Councilor, Position #3 – City of The Dalles**

**Scott Randell**

1. I oppose Measure 114. These proposed restrictions on law abiding citizens do not prevent crime or otherwise serve to protect the public. There are numerous firearms regulations in place, many of them are not enforced.
2. While I support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, I am ambivalent about sanctuary county ordinances. If restrictions are imposed at the state level, I believe the appropriate response is to contest them in the courts and lobby the legislature.
3. My main priority as City Councilor is to ensure I am well informed on the various issues and concerns of the community in order to make prudent and sensible decisions when casting votes at Council.
4. I am reluctant to support SB762 because of the potential additional burden it places on property owners. I recognize the good intentions of this legislation but think it will have negative impacts on already stressed property owners.
5. Oregon's response to the outbreak of Covid 19 was heavy handed and constituted government overreach. Many of the rules imposed had no scientific justification, especially when it impacted children and schools. I believe citizens most at risk could

have been protected while the rest of the population continued life as usual during cold and flu season.

6. Mine is a non-partisan position.

7. The destruction of the timber industry in the northwest is tragic. Its impacts are still being felt in our rural communities statewide. This region grows timber better than most areas of the nation, and our forests can be responsibly and sustainably managed to the benefit of all Oregonians.

8. I favor eliminating capitol gain taxes on properties for seniors.

9. Support for local business from the position on City Council can be provided by various declarations, initiatives, policies and programs that ease permitting, appropriate zoning, maintaining infrastructure and working with state and federal agencies to obtain grants and funding for eligible businesses.

10. As a general principle and philosophical viewpoint, I oppose new taxes and fees for business in Oregon.

## **Congress**

### **U.S. House Oregon**

#### **Joseph Yetter – Democratic Party**

1. This is a state measure. As an individual citizen, I will vote in favor of it, because similar measures have reduced homicides and suicides by as much as 25 to 33% in other states, and because too many of our fellow Oregonians die because these weapons fall into the wrong hands. I believe that the measure's permitting process is too restrictive. But every law has flaws, and every law must be amended in the face of experience. I have been a gun owner for over 60 years, and I value both my weapons, and the Second Amendment. Most of all, I value the lives of my fellow Oregonians.

2. This is a local matter and as a resident of Douglas, not Wasco County, I don't think it is my place to tell others what to do in their county. As a general principle, I believe that law enforcement officers ought to enforce the law. Honestly, it's hard to believe that actually has to be said: Law enforcement officers must enforce the law.

3. I will faithfully represent the values and interests of the people of the Second Congressional District. As an elected official, that must be my priority. My first priority will be to bring local stakeholders throughout Oregon's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

together to find solutions for the water crisis we are all facing. I will introduce legislation that will address the crisis and funding will come from federal, local, state and private sources. Other priorities will be to defend our freedoms and Democracy. I took the oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America back in 1968, during the Vietnam War, when I voluntarily joined the United States Army. I remain faithful to that oath and look forward to renewing it as your Congressman. I will support legislation that assures that all eligible voters can vote, and that the votes determine the winner of each election. (My opponent voted to disenfranchise millions of voters, and thus surrender to the secessionists in the Capitol, just a few hours after the attack.) I will defend a woman's right to choose and the right to bodily autonomy for all citizens. I will work every day to ensure that our veterans receive the support and care they need and have earned.

4. It is a state issue, and not a Congressional one. But this law illustrates what I wrote earlier: no law is perfect, and every law needs to be revised in the face of experience. In this case, experience came quickly-and fiercely! It also illustrates the point that such challenges need to be addressed at local, regional, and national levels. When I was in the Army, we talked about the Pentagon and its "2000 mile long screwdriver," trying to make fine-tuning adjustments in the way we operated locally. So, I support wildfire risk legislation, but it needs to be a whole lot more thoughtful.

5. Only eight states experienced a lower (better) mortality rate than Oregon. We had a mortality rate about twice that of Vermont, the best in the country, and 1/20th the rate of Mississippi, the worst. (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1109011/coronavirus-covid19-death-rates-us-by-state/>). But grading on a curve is no comfort to the families of the deceased, or to the many more people who have suffered long term effects of COVID-19.

As an entire nation, we ought to have done better. The good news is, we can! As your congressman, I will support legislation that will establish detection systems throughout the world for emerging viruses, and to have already developed vaccine platforms and a broad spectrum of therapeutics to address every potential viral threat, along with communication systems so that a researcher in Africa, for example, might detect a variant of an endemic zoonotic virus with human epidemic potential, and within hours, scientists at the CDC and the, United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID, and around the world, will have genomic information needed to target the virus and prevent a pandemic. The program will cost a tiny fraction of the damage a pandemic would cost—but, of course, when it works, we'll barely see it. I mean: we know what it costs to have traffic lights in town, but we never see the accidents that didn't happen. So we won't see the trillions of dollars and millions of lives saved.

6. I will always vote in the interests of my constituents, and for their values. I will serve them. Period.

7. Well, of course I am in favor of harvesting! And, of course, commercial timber must be replanted.

It is a mistake, though, to confuse a cornfield with prairie, or confuse a timber plantation with a forest. Publicly owned forests must be managed in the interest of all of us, considering water, fire, wildlife, recreation, and so on; forests must be managed based on science and highly localized conditions. Harvesting timber from these forests—based on science and local conditions—is a good thing.

8. I believe that income is income. If an investor gains \$50,000 by investing in a commercial property, I see no reason why he should be taxed at a lower rate than, say, a Marine in a combat zone. Or a miner. Or a mechanic. I see no reason why anyone's passive income should have some higher moral standing than income earned through sweat and sometimes blood. Tell me I'm wrong.

9. Every business depends on customers. A thriving economy that works for everyone creates demand and creates willing, available, skilled workers. As your Congressman, I'll work to bring infrastructure and economic development to this Congressional District. (Note that my opponent has voted NO, NO, NO, repeatedly on infrastructure like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, and has declined Representative Peter DeFazio's invitation to submit projects for funding. But my opponent did ask President Biden to take millions of dollars in the bill he opposed and send it to Coos Bay. So, there's that.)

As your Congressman, I'll support universal health care, so that businesses (and their employees) can quit worrying about coverage. Period. (My opponent says he is opposed to all government health care—which means no universal coverage, no Medicare, no VA medical care, and no medical care for that Marine in a combat zone, too, I suppose. Or that Marine's family, back home.) I'll support the expanded tax credit for children, too; more money for young families to make their children healthier and safer—and more cash flowing into local businesses.

10. It's a state issue, not a Federal one. Specifically, though, as a voter and a farmer, I think it's kind of dumb to tax gross receipts instead of net.

## U.S. Senate Oregon

### **Dan Pulju – Pacific Green Party**

1. While I recognize that gun violence is a serious problem, I don't support Measure 114. I believe the core causes are socioeconomic, and that media sensationalism has played a role in the small fraction of gun homicides that qualify as mass shootings. I support common-sense measures to reduce gun violence, such as reducing poverty and ending the War on Drugs, which has alienated millions of Americans from the productive economy.

We also need an aggressive campaign to educate the public on the legal standards used in justifying use of deadly force in self-defense. This generally means having to prove a reasonable belief in immediate danger of serious injury, and having no other option but to use force.

To me, it makes no sense to add new layers of regulation to responsible gun owners, without addressing the root causes.

2. Not being a resident of Wasco County, I'll leave it up to you whether to lock horns with Salem.

3. My top priority is to end Joe Biden's trade war, centered around the Ukraine war. No one wins a trade war but the few financial elites who manage to profit. The people of the world, including our country, are suffering terribly.

We need to stop prolonging the war, allow a negotiated settlement, and restore global trade so that food and fuel prices drop and inflation gets under control.

This will cost nothing at all! We've already sent more than \$50 billion weapons and aid to keep the war going. All we need to do is let it end.

4. When I first joined a fire crew in 1994, among the first things we were told in training was that suppressing wildfires interrupts their natural cycle and leads to bigger fires, like the 250k acre Tyee Creek fire that year in Wenatchee, WA.

SB762 looks like an impressive 20-year bureaucratic project to achieve the vague generality of "healthy and resilient landscapes supporting Oregon's social, economic and ecological goals." I'm not sure what they mean by "resilient," or which of those goals they mean to prevail when they happen to conflict. But the prescribed burns and fuel

reduction are already proven methods and make sense. On the other hand, a landscape where controlled burns are required is hard to call a "healthy ecosystem" in my opinion, because it's under human cultivation.

5. Kate Brown's reaction to Covid was an assault on the human rights of every Oregon resident, and an autocratic power-grab that abandoned any pretense of democratic principles. This was an object lesson in the dangers of one-party rule.

Big Media, Big Tech, Big Pharma, and other industries with undue leverage over government played the fear angle for profit from day one. First we heard about "10% death rates" and were bombarded with unannotated "data" from websites like Worldometer. Even when the lethality turned out to be closer to influenza, the propaganda continued while the state destroyed our small businesses and imposed useless, manipulative mandates and regulations on the people.

Mandating experimental treatments with unknown long-term effects was unconscionable. We now know those treatments were at best modestly effective and are still not proven safe. As your US Senator, I will do everything I can to hold government accountable for this at all levels, and to see that it never happens again, no matter what the "emergency."

6. Yes.

7. Timber extraction is an integral part of Oregon's economy, and forest management and school revenue depends on it. I don't object to sustainable harvesting and replanting in general, but I don't support cutting old growth or damaging fragile ecosystems. My local party chapter played a role in the movement to keep the Elliott State Forest under public control.

8. I'm not quite sure what the question is asking. The exclusion is already 250k on the sale of a primary residence. In my opinion that is plenty.

9. All businesses will be helped by ending our Federal government's destructive monetary and international trade policies. The trade war is deliberate and quickly reversible.

## **Jo Rae Perkins – Republican Party, Constitution Party**

1. I am a no vote on this measure. It penalizes law abiding citizens.

2. I support it.

3. As U.S. Senator, my main priority is to cut back on government overreach. This will reduce spending, not increase it.

4. I am not in favor of a 20 year plan. After talking with and hearing from property owners in the Medford area, they are against it as well due to too many unknowns.

5. The pandemic was handled terribly. Closing businesses and telling them their business is not essential, while allowing box stores to stay open. Forcing children to wear mask, people forced to be vaccinated or lose their jobs? That is Marxism. I would make sure people hear the real facts and let them make up their own minds about how to conduct their daily lives.

6. I will vote in favor of bills that are clearly 100% constitutional, regardless of who sponsors the bill.

7. We need to cut more timber. It is a renewable resource. Too many acres are burned each year unnecessarily. Do you agree or disagree with harvesting and replanting timber? Yes

8. We should remove capital gains for everyone.

9. By working to reduce federal regulations where they are unconstitutional.

10. I think it is wrong. Too many business owners are leaving Oregon for more business friendly states.

## **Oregon Commissioner of Labor and Industries**

### **Cheri Helt – Nonpartisan**

1. The Bureau of Labor and Industries does not have jurisdiction over gun control measures like Measure 114. I am focused on issues affecting small businesses and workers in The Dalles and around the State of Oregon.

2. The Bureau of Labor and Industries does not have jurisdiction over 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment issues. I am focused on issues affecting small businesses and workers in The Dalles and around the State of Oregon.

3. My main goal is to make BOLI a source of new opportunities for Oregon workers and small businesses. This means cutting red tape and enforcing the state's labor laws in a fair, neutral and balanced fashion. It also means expanding apprenticeship programs,



especially to reach more high school students, so more Oregonians have access to the skilled trades and other careers that are in high demand.

To accomplish these goals, I will re-prioritize BOLI's activities away from politically motivated activism and harmful rulemaking toward bringing opportunities to Oregonians.

4. The Bureau of Labor and Industries does not have jurisdiction over wildfire mitigation. I am focused on issues affecting small businesses and workers in The Dalles and around the State of Oregon.

5. The State of Oregon handled the pandemic worse than any other state in the union. Small businesses, workers, and families all suffered – and continue to suffer – from the ill effects of the longest lockdowns in America. As a restaurant owner, I know just how badly this hurt our small business and our employees. We are seeing the effect of the lengthy school closures on Oregon's already abysmal student test scores.

If we are faced with another pandemic or similar emergency while I am BOLI Commissioner, I will first seek to do no harm. Government needs to help keep people safe, but it doesn't do that when it overreacts. Every day at BOLI, pandemic or not, I will advocate for the needs of workers and small businesses. That voice was missing among statewide elected officials during the pandemic. We cannot continue to be silent.

6. BOLI Commissioner is a non-partisan position, so I will not have a party caucus. In the legislature, I worked regularly across the aisle with members of both parties to achieve wins for Oregonians. I am the only statewide candidate endorsed by both Christine Drazan (Republican) and Betsy Johnson (unaffiliated former Democrat).

7. I strongly support harvesting and replanting timber as an important means of improving the economy in rural Oregon and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

8. The Bureau of Labor and Industries does not have jurisdiction over capital gains. I am focused on issues affecting small businesses and workers in The Dalles and around the State of Oregon.

9. I am a small business owner to the core. I will be a strong advocate for what small businesses and their employees need in order to succeed. I will change BOLI from an impediment to small business to an agency that helps generate opportunities for small businesses and workers.

10. I strongly oppose them. Oregon taxes businesses too much already, and it is hurting our economy and our workforce.

## **Christina Stephenson – Nonpartisan**

1. This measure is outside the scope of the Bureau of Labor and Industries and my campaign has not made endorsements of any candidates or measures.

2. This issue is outside the scope of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

3. Businesses are struggling with rising costs and worker shortages. In some of our high-skill industries, the worker shortage is already a worker crisis – industries like healthcare, construction, and high-tech manufacturing. This is why my top priority will be developing the skilled workforce we need by expanding our apprenticeship model to remove barriers and incorporate more industries. Funds have already been allocated by the legislature in order to expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs in many of these areas and I will work to make sure we are a good steward of taxpayer funds.

4. This issue is outside the scope of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

5. My outside impression of how BOLI handled the pandemic is that it sought to give businesses and workers clarity as to how existing rules applied to the unique circumstances of the pandemic. My hope is that we can expand our relationships and outreach in the business community so that we have trust and communication before crises occur. As a business owner myself, I experienced the ever-changing regulations coming from other agencies and found it to be a difficult and frustrating process.

6. This position is non-partisan and does not vote or make new laws. In any event, I am proud to be supported by a bipartisan and diverse coalition - Oregon's last Labor five Commissioners, Democrat and Republican, the Oregon Independent Party, business, labor, and 125+ organizations and elected officials. I will conduct the business of the agency on behalf of the people of Oregon and no one else.

7. All industries that interact with BOLI are entitled to the same service including fair adjudication, technical assistance, and workforce development assistance.

8. This issue is outside the scope of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

9. In addition to expanding job training, I would like to see more investment in technical assistance. We have 500,000 businesses in Oregon, and we have 6 people in Technical Assistance. In addition, over 98% of our businesses are small businesses, many without a dedicated HR department, BOLI should be helping

business owners by making compliance with Oregon's laws as simple and straightforward as possible. Simple things like checklists, flow-charts, and an e-mail alert system would make compliance easier for businesses.

10. This issue is outside the scope of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

## **Governor of Oregon**

### **Donice Smith – Constitution Party**

1. I, Strongly and Vehemently Oppose Measure 114 and everything about it. It is a dangerous measure that will further make it difficult, if not impossible, for more Oregonians to practice their natural birth right to own a firearm or self-protect themselves or their community. With the growing crime in this nation and especially in Urban areas, we need to retain the right to own and carry unheeded, by additional expensive if not impossible requirements and policies. They would only help the criminals, and harm good law-abiding people. Police often cannot get to you until it is too late. Cutbacks and defunding our wonderful law enforcement, have made it even more difficult for Americans to have protection and safety on the streets, and in their vehicles and homes.

2. I, absolutely favor a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary (SASO) ordinance in Wasco County. I would expect all 36 County Sheriffs to uphold their sworn Oath of office, and defend the US and State of Oregon constitutions, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and all it entails.

3. The first thing I would like to address with the input of Oregonians, is in regards to the Illegal Executive orders that were set in place by this current administration, especially that went beyond the 30 days without consulting with the Salem representatives in the Legislature and the county Commissioners in all 36 counties. No more violations of Oregonians rights and making sure the Oregon Constitution is respected and followed. We can never allow Oregon to be shut down again. This harmed School Children and our Educational standards and goal for their future success. Jobs and businesses were threatened or lost, and created a huge increase in Mental illness, Substance and domestic abuse, and harmed for years to come Oregon's economy. Dealing with the now increased Homelessness from this, leading to more mental illness and addictions and increases in Crime, especially in the Urban areas.

We do not need additional Funds to deal with this. We need to stop the band-aid approach and deal directly with the systemic Issues at hand. Throwing more money at the challenges and brushing them under the carpet is not the answer

4. I support much of the SB 762 on wildfire mitigation measures. It needs to be addressed regularly and improved upon often.

People need to be further educated on how to improve defensible spaces between their homes as buffers between a possible fire. A buffer provides an opportunity for firefighters to defend the home. The main three strategies of developing safer and more effective responses and making a stronger support system for fire-adapted communities. We should not use a one thing fits all approach to those communities or rural areas that are not going to be in the same situation as those living in heavily forested areas. If a Home or business is Not in the extreme risk class or they are outside of the Wildland urban interface, you can still make your home more fire resilient. The new code amendments should not impact these homes as to home hardening.

5. I was very concerned and even outraged in how the “pandemic” was handled in Oregon. Especially the so called “Leadership” examples of “do as I say, not as I do,” seen coming out of the Governors Office.

Knowing what I know today, I would have assured as a Leader, that we did not allow ourselves to be politically manipulated, especially by the Federal Government or the Media that is bought and paid for. I would have put a stop to the knee jerk reactions, emotionally manipulated fear porn, and how hospitals and other organizations were steering the situation to make money off the situation. Oregonians should be allowed to have total transparency, and informed consent, as well as have complete body autonomy when it comes to invasive procedures.

6. Yes, YES, I Would vote against the “party caucus” if it does not listen to, or benefit my constituents.

7. Yes, I have a Strong stance on the timber industry. We need to support the Original Timber Unity and its original Founders and their mission statement and goals. This should be a team effort including all Oregonians, and not special interest individuals or organizations. We need to have OREGONIANS in charge of ALL our Natural Resources. Not finding timber shipped off shore or out of state, and then brought back to us at a higher cost to purchase. We should be able to have Oregon in charge of our Natural resources and not mis managed further by the DOF or BLM. We should be able to Harvest and replant our own timber. The Federal government under the US Constitution is not suppose to be allowed to own any land or control anything but the District of Columbia, Veteran Administration (federal) Campus Lands, and military bases.

8. Yes, I do Favor both Reducing or eliminating capitol Gains on investment properties for seniors.

They have been paying increasing taxes all their lives, and even for “Federal” schools that they should no longer have to support. Unfortunately, here in Oregon with Property

taxes increasing three percent yearly, many seniors are forced out of their life long homes. If this happens and they are forced to rent, then the Landlords property taxes go up every year, and they pass it on to the Seniors on a fixed and limited income. Seniors need to know that the investment they made in their homes/properties, will not be taken by further capital gains- and this assures, they will not be reduced to poverty or being dependent on the nanny state.

9. I believe in American Free Enterprise, the greatest wealth producing economic engine the world has ever seen. The "Support" our businesses need the most today, is for the government to leave them alone, get out of their way and avoid unnecessary burdens and regulations. Yes, there are necessary matters that require governmental oversight. I believe though, that regulations taxes and fees are presently excessive and discourage the incentive businesses need to thrive. Let's not forget that businesses must pass the cost of their governmental burdens on to US the consumer. I will invite business owners small and large to round table discussions that will most assuredly lead to changes that in turn will make Oregon a more prosperous place to live and do business.

10. My fellow citizens who are actively working are in some form of enterprise, please hear me loud and clear.... Oregon needs a tax CUT, not a tax hike.

## **R. Leon Noble – Libertarian Party**

1. Measure 114 is completely unconscionable and unconstitutional.

For some details to those that are not aware: every single piece of that measure is under contest in the courts.

The recent New York State Rifle and Pistol Association (NYSRPA) v. Bruen (1; there's more than one case with this name) decision in the Supreme Court did not change the way the courts addressed our rights, but affirmed the correct method to use, specifically, text, history and tradition. This applies to all of our rights, not just the Second Amendment.

The NYSRPA v. Bruen (1) case specifically dealt with the licensing scheme.

Duncan v. Bonta (magazine ban), which was decided by Benitez was vacated and remanded (repeatedly) down the chain and is being dealt with again, but was already decided using the proper method and the remanding to the original court is to buy time for the inevitable.

Miller v. Bonta ("assault" weapons ban as defined by people that do not understand) was also remanded back down to the District Court level to the same Judge Benitez who addressed it the exact same way at the beginning as a stall tactic.

Even the NFA is being challenged (United States v. Hoover) in the defense of a

Wisconsin resident by the name of Matt Hoover (he operates a YouTube channel: CRS Firearms) and who is being charged because he advertised the "Autokey Card" which is an etched image of a lightning bolt on a credit card sized device as a novelty item. If the NFA is deemed unconstitutional, all gun laws are deemed unconstitutional.

My definition of gun control is "hitting your target". That said, the origin of gun control laws came from the Freedmen making the KKK look bad by shooting at them for committing arson on their lawns and it was furthered by people who were afraid of angry Black Panthers protesting while armed in the California Legislature (Mulford Act) which, in turn, gave us the Gun Control Act of 1968. Gun control has always been a racist construct: the right to self defense is universal.

Even if you do not agree with the ownership of firearms, I encourage the entirety of the public to vote **NO** on Measure 114 for the specific reason that it is our right to self defense and without the correct tools for defending ourselves, we, as a public, won't have any other rights and absolutely no way to restore balance.

#staystrapped

2. All gun laws are infringements.

Article I, Section 27 Oregon Constitution says:

**Section 27. Right to bear arms; military subordinate to civil power.** The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence [sic] of themselves, and the State, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power[.]

Each and every time the Legislature and the Governor create a law that infringes upon our rights, it affirms that they are not listening to the majority.

You should not have to have a preservation in place, but I support your right to speak against the imbalance. As such, I support your effort to apply a Second Amendment Preservation Act to Wasco County.

3. Removing the government from your lives is the only way that my platform can be met.

Government is waste.

You're going to get a lot of money back. I am absolutely positive that you will be able to spend your money better than the government.

It bothers me that there is no balance in Oregon. This is the fastest way to gain balance.

4. I think this could have been done with private entities better if the government had gotten out of the way.

I also think it's sad that they taxed you to provide a pittance to teach people how to have better fire resilience.

You know your areas better than the Legislators ever will. You walk those places daily. You should have control of the assets used and the measures taken.

5. The pandemic was mishandled, at all levels, horribly.

No one, especially a government, should tell you what to do. This is not the appropriate role for any government; the correct role of government is to advise and support. This is significantly true for a government that has no clue what it is doing, ignores the science, and spouts the "party line".

I would have handled it in the following manner:

- 1) Notified the public.
- 2) Made available the data from *every* source, not just the approved ones.
- 3) Left to the people to decide.

This is the only appropriate response, then, and now.

If any of our government agencies were serious about the response, then they would have instituted a MOPP-4 protocol. However, this was not feasible in any country because the manufacturing levels for that equipment do not exist for the volume of production needed.

6. Of course I would.

My party can be labelled succinctly as, "Take over the world and leave everyone alone."

The people know how to live their own lives. It is inappropriate to do anything that hurts the people.

I call this treason and would expect to be held to that standard.

7. The Timber Industry needs to be left to the market's management.

Our current planting policy is hurting our forests. Yes, replanting is a good idea, but that needs to be left to the market to decide. Our forests need good management, our government cannot provide that.

8. I support elimination of all forms of taxation, regardless of age. That particular group is a great place to start.

9. The best method of support is to reduce and remove restrictions to business. Anything that prevents a business from operating in a manner they deem correct, is an affront to the backbone of our existence.

10. The next step is to stop taxing our businesses, and by extension, the people, into oblivion.

Taxes and fees are ways that inhibit growth. We would have more jobs, housing, publicly usable assets, and better resource management.

## **Oregon State Senate District 26**

Raz Mason – Democratic Party, Independent Party

1. I am concerned that this measure's implementation is not adequately addressed, nor is the unfunded fiscal impact on police and sheriffs' departments. There is a lack of timeline mandated for OSP to complete background checks. I am especially concerned that the present lack of training availability and no caps on training costs would negatively impact rural communities and low-income gun owners. I will advocate strongly for legislative fixes for what is not working.

I understand the concerns about gun safety of many in District 26 and, as a teacher, I believe we should ensure our communities are safe. Young people look to us adults to lead. As a licensed gun-owner, I want to preserve the rights and privileges that responsible gun owners have earned. Gun permits, gun training, and background checks proposed in this measure sound reasonable; many years ago, this was the platform of the NRA. We have seen other states with similar laws show a significant drop in gun violence.

Oregon already does well with universal background checks, state database of background checks, and extreme risk protection orders.

2. I oppose a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary ordinance in Wasco County, as I do not believe that gun licensing, red-flag laws, and other common-sense gun safety measures are



unconstitutional. In addition, this type of ordinance is largely symbolic and carries no legal weight.

3. My main priority is affordable and accessible housing.

People who live here should be able to thrive here. As businesses struggle to find quality labor, workers struggle to find affordable housing. The current lack of it impacts workforce recruitment and retention, as rising housing costs lead to workforce migration - a key barrier to business growth.

A few ways we can boost affordable housing stock:

- Ease regulatory red tape by digitizing the permitting process.
- Continue to properly fund career/technical education: “Oregon needs 13,000 more construction workers per year to help close the housing gap...[B]ut city and county planning departments also will need 400-500 additional public sector workers per year to approve, permit and inspect these additional housing units.” [[Oregon Capital Chronicle](#), Sept. 2022] The state can assist with training/cross-training for public employees.
- Expand “medium zoning” housing (duplexes, triplexes); add more boarding houses and “mother-in-law” apartments.
- Develop more public-private partnerships to build affordable apartments. We cannot build our way out of the housing crisis only with expensive, single-family homes.
- Promote home-shares ([HomeshareOregon.org](#)) and allow on-driveway RV rentals that expand affordable housing and increase owners’ income.
- Increase and provide wrap-around services for shelters and transitional housing - providing temporary shelter is not a sustainable method to move transitional housing tenants to self-reliance.
- Facilitate co-housing and tiny home developments, as well as RV and mobile home parks.
- Increase mixed-use density in our small-town downtowns (stores below, apartments above).
- Incentivize next-generation building techniques, like [low-carbon 3D printed homes](#), straw bale construction, and mass timber construction.

How should we accomplish this? I support creating and maintaining coalitions and partnerships- bringing stakeholders and legislators together for a common purpose. I am focused on leveraging current resources to achieve new and additional objectives. Federal programs are already available to provide funding support and technical assistance for multifamily dwellings and can help pilot new, evidence-based approaches to housing projects. We need to both evaluate how we are currently spending our state dollars for maximum impact and cost-savings, and determine how to most effectively put federal funds to use.

4. “[Senate Bill \(SB\) 762 \(2021\)](#) created a statewide approach to a wide range of wildfire mitigation measures. The legislature directed the Building Codes Division to adopt fire hardening building code standards...that could be applied to areas of the state mapped as extreme or high risk and that are in the wildland urban interface.”

Note:

- No action is required at this time.
- **Building code standards do not apply retroactively.**
- The Oregon Wildfire Risk Map from the Oregon Department of Forestry has temporarily been withdrawn for further refinement.

*More information at the [SB 762 Implementation website](#).*

I support this legislation. Most Oregonians understand that wildfires are becoming more frequent and catastrophic; to continue without adapting imperils lives and communities. A statewide risk-assessment map was designed to hone where to focus fire-prevention resources, land-use restrictions, and building codes. Work on the map is ongoing.

This legislation highlights the responsibility of all people living in wildfire-prone areas for fire prevention and fire-spread prevention. It establishes dozens of new programs to help fight and reduce wildfires, help communities adapt to smoke, and improve the state’s building code within high-risk areas where wildland and buildings meet (the wildland-urban interface). This bill was passed in a bi-partisan manner; only 6 representatives voted against it, one of whom was my opponent.

There will be legislative involvement in the upcoming sessions to focus on implementation. As the co-founder of the C02 Foundation, which addresses responses to climate events such as wildfires, I am uniquely qualified to participate.

5. Certainly, COVID-19 placed considerable stress on our communities, businesses, families, and the healthcare system. [The Commonwealth Fund](#) released new data in June showing that Oregon experienced better health outcomes from the pandemic than all but 4 states, as shown in key areas: hospital and ICU capacity; vaccination rates; and “excess mortality,” or death rates that exceed historical norms.

On the economy, Oregon’s economy rebounded by 5.8% from this time last year, whereas our economy had retracted only 2.8%. [*CNBC*: “[Oregon Rebounds as America’s Most Improved State for Business](#),” July 2022]

However, COVID laid bare inequities impacting our frontline workforce, school personnel and healthcare workers - and the need for public support. Businesses were whipsawed between shut-downs. Without community support for basic measures preventing disease transmission, continued transparency by government decision-makers, and good-faith weighing of medical, social-emotional, and economic impacts,

our community will be at greater risk, if COVID resurges or a new zoonotic disease emerges, as is statistically likely.

Of course, we have the luxury of hindsight now. Again, I rely on creating and maintaining coalitions and partnerships, bringing stakeholders together, which would include the business community, state and federal legislators, school districts, and healthcare professionals for a **coordinated** response to an inherently tragic event.

6. Yes, I would. I will seek to communicate with constituents about whole or parts of proposed bills I agree or disagree with, and also respectfully communicate with my caucus during information gathering and deliberation about parts of legislation I find problematic. I will strongly advocate for rural interests.

I earned my degree in mathematics, with a minor in political science. I am able to identify strong questions to ask, remain open-minded and unbiased in exploring solutions, and be guided by logic and verifiable knowledge - always being willing to consider new ideas and information. As a STEM teacher, these are the habits of mind I tried to pass on to my students. These habits of mind also guided my work as the executive director of a climate change education foundation, the CO2 Foundation. I am a trained problem solver - willing and able to find solutions for significant challenges that face us.

7. Yes, I agree with harvesting and replanting timber. The timber industry is a historically foundational sector for Oregon's state economy, and an important resource for rural economies - from harvests to recreational activities. Over 60,000 Oregonians are employed by the timber industry, and 47% of the state is considered forest land, We have the privilege and responsibility of protecting this great resource for future generations.

I support jobs in our forests that include sustainable timber harvesting, forest thinning, juniper management, biomass expansion, and more biodiverse timber planting. One issue I have with Oregon's timber industry is the increasing number of out-of-state timber companies, as well as investment funds and real estate trusts controlling Oregon's timber industry. That, plus unfairly low tax structures, cause significant lost revenue for our rural communities.

Some good news: The Oregon Mass Timber Coalition has received a \$41.4M grant funded by President Biden's American Rescue Plan, to modernize and boost the forest product industry in Oregon. The Coalition aims to bring down the cost of building homes, provide good jobs, and restore forest health.

8. Currently, over 15 million (9.4%) seniors are economically insecure, living with incomes less than poverty levels in the US. Oregon fares a bit better, with 8.4% seniors living below poverty levels. I would prioritize ways to lift seniors out of poverty, and

consider proposals such as capping capital gains on mandatory retirement withdrawals before prioritizing eliminating capital gains on investment properties for seniors. I think we can work toward other ways to spur real estate markets.

9. Small businesses employ 55% of the private workforce in Oregon, with more self-employment in rural districts like ours. It's critical to develop and support a healthy economy, built on the services and industries of the future.

State-level partnerships with counties and municipalities, like the Governor's Regional Solutions Center, and our economic development districts supported by the federal Department of Commerce (MCEDD here in The Dalles), assist rural business owners to address specific issues they face. I will advocate in Salem to streamline/thin out onerous red tape required for start-ups and existing businesses.

A strong and competitive business economy means having an accessible economy, which includes adequate and affordable housing, access to quality education, and infrastructure development support. Infrastructure gaps create barriers for both employees and employers. Basic infrastructure like high-speed broadband is still subpar in rural Oregon. Financial support from USDA and Oregon's ROI program for rural businesses helps, but we need improved infrastructure for long-term success.

10. I am not a proponent of new taxes or fees. We do need to ensure that basic services are funded. With my business background and mathematics degree I will focus on ensuring the numbers match up, that tax monies are spent with care, and no sector is disproportionately burdened.

## Daniel Bonham – Republican Party

1. I oppose Measure 114.

2. I certainly wouldn't oppose a statement like that from our county government, but think it is unnecessary – the constitution and 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment provide all the protection we need.

3. My number one priority is bringing balance and common sense to Salem. The Democrat majority of the past 10 years has brought increased crime, homelessness, and taxes to our community and state, while simultaneously degrading the quality of our public education. The state is on the wrong track under complete single party rule. It's imperative that the Legislature remembers that all funds come from the taxpayers. The government doesn't produce anything – so it must be a good steward of the peoples' money.

4. I voted no on SB 762 for two major reasons: 1.) the wildfire risk maps proposed in the legislation were always going to lead to increased premiums for certain homeowners

and or cancelled coverage – an effort by Democrats to dictate to rural Oregonians where they can and cannot live, 2.) the state is in desperate need of investment in our State and Federal forests that have become overgrown with underbrush and too much density of smaller trees- thinning our forests will create healthier forests and mitigate against wildfire risk- SB 762 failed to fund the identified \$200 million per year investment over the next 20 years to do the forest treatment identified by the governor's wildfire council.

5. Oregon's pandemic response was authoritative and over the top. To this day, we still have a vaccine mandate to teach or volunteer in public schools. The school shut downs left our kids years behind, businesses were forced to close- some never reopening, and freedoms were taken unnecessarily. Other states and other countries proved that you could educate people about the risk, provide accurate information, and allow individuals to make decisions for themselves – all the while keeping people alive and healthy.

6. My vote consideration is as follows: the Constitution, my conscience, my constituents, then my caucus.

7. Timber is one of our most valuable natural resources and we should be doing more to ensure the long-term viability of this essential industry. Log it, Graze it, or Watch it burn- is a fair sentiment when it comes to our approach to forest management. Oregon drove out a lot of this industry in the name of saving the spotted owl. Today, we have less production capacity, less jobs, more trees, and more fires than ever- even as the spotted owl population continues to decline. Oregon historically has been a responsible steward of our natural resources with those in the Timber industry recognizing that responsible harvest today allows for continued harvest for generations to come. We should set policy that allows for reinvestment in mills and harvesting with long term certainty.

8. The most helpful tax change we can make for seniors is to freeze property taxes at retirement age. I know too many people who are on fixed incomes that now pay more for their property taxes than they did for their original mortgage.

9. Restoration of balance in Salem would allow for removal of unnecessary regulation and taxes that have made doing business in Oregon challenging. The state needs to invest in programs that develop well-trained and qualified employees to boost our workforce that has been lacking since the pandemic.

10. We need to remove tax burdens from business and allow small businesses to invest in their employees. Allowing businesses to reinvest in themselves will grow and strengthen our local economy.

## Oregon House of Representatives District 52

Jeffrey Helfrich – Republican Party

1. This law is likely unconstitutional and will cost the state millions to defend. This law goes way too far in restricting law abiding citizens from accessing their constitutional rights.

2. I support local control. Democracy requires flexibility on the local level to do what is best for a local community. I support 2nd amendment rights of every Oregonian, including Wasco County.

3. Restore balance back to Salem. A decade of one party rule has increased crime, homelessness, and the cost of living. We can do better and my first priority is to ensure harmful legislation stops getting passed. All funding for the state comes from the people and as such the government must be a responsible steward of that money, as opposed to the current system where there is a lack of accountability on overspending.

4. SB 762 mainly passed on new regulations to property owners and spent more tax dollars. The risk map that came from that legislation was poorly drawn and threatened to take away property insurance from thousands and thousands of Oregonians. That bill fundamentally failed to address the urgent question in our forests right now - which is poor management. We need to change the way we look at management and partner with the federal government to clean out overgrown and dried out forests.

5. Kate Brown and the legislature failed Oregonians when it came to pandemic response. Kate Brown had teachers jump seniors in the vaccine line, when we knew seniors were more vulnerable without any promise from the teachers unions that they would return to the classroom. School closures were devastating to Oregon kids - it set them back a year or more from learning key skills like reading, writing, and math. Business closures devastated families who rely on them for paychecks. The response was an overreach, people should have been educated about the risks and then given the choice to make their own decisions.

6. I represent my community first, not my party.

7. Responsibly managing our timberlands is a critical component of preventing wildfires. Timber is one of the most renewable resources in the world. Harvesting and replanting is part of responsible management.

8. Ever increasing cost of living for seniors is an issue that needs to be addressed. Republican legislators have already filed a petition for the 2024 election that would cap property taxes for seniors. I am open to other ways to reduce their burden.

9. Reform the CAT tax and tax code and regulatory environment in general to attract good paying jobs.

10. Already too high, we need to look at cutting them, not increasing them.