



**Homeless Voices for Justice Candidate Questionnaire 2021**  
**Answers from Anna Trevorrow**  
**Candidate for Portland City Council District 1**

**Introduction: Can you tell us why you are running for City Council and what you will do, if elected, to address homelessness in our city?**

I have served the city for 8 years a member of the school board, and as member of previous Charter Commission, and have served in a number of roles including board chair, finance committee chair, co-chair of the superintendent search committee, and more. I am interested in continuing my public service and using the skills I have developed on a broader range of issues on the council.

**Shelter Referendum: Portlanders will vote this November on whether they want to cap the size of homeless shelters. What is your position on the Shelter Referendum question and why?**

I support the concept of smaller shelters. I believe that socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods are healthy neighborhoods. I am concerned about interfering with the planning for the larger shelter, however, because from a humanitarian perspective, I feel an urgency to replace Oxford Street with a more dignified facility. While not a perfect plan, the Riverside shelter would be a major improvement in many ways.

**Low Income Housing: Before and during the COVID19 crisis, we have seen rents skyrocket in Portland, which is pushing more and more people into homelessness. What would you do to combat the housing crisis in Portland and how would you make housing more accessible for low-income Portlanders?**

I believe we need to come at this issue from every angle, with all policy avenues on the table. Everything from zoning changes, to direct assistance programs, to incentives for income-restricted housing projects, to limiting short-term rentals, and strengthening inclusionary zoning should be looked at.

**COVID19 & Shelter: Right now, Portland is sheltering hundreds of families and individuals experiencing homelessness, including many asylum seekers, in hotels throughout the Greater Portland area. The federal funding that pays for those hotel rooms is scheduled to end on December 31, 2021. What is your plan to provide shelter for these people once this funding goes away?**

We will need to use GA funding and any other available source of funding. We will need to have conversations with the Governor's office and ask for assistance. In the past, we have also set up a way for private residents to give to a fund that would go to support housing and basic necessities, which we should also pursue again.

**Racial Equity: We know that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color experience homelessness and poverty at disproportionate rates, including here in Portland. Where do you see systemic racism in our city government or city services? How do you plan to incorporate racial equity, access, and inclusion in your policy making as a City Councilor?**

On the school board, we underwent professional development in the area of anti-racism, and learned how internal bias affects the policy decisions we make as elected officials. I would love for the council to undergo similar training because, often we may believe we are simply



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responding to our constituents, not realizing we are actually responding to a subset of our constituents who are savvy and know how to navigate the system. This can lead to elected officials unknowingly upholding policies of privilege vs. disadvantage. I would like to see a commitment to policymaking through an equity lens, as well as support for the recommendations of the recent equity task force.

**Inclusion: How do you plan to incorporate unhoused people and people in poverty into your decision-making as a City Councilor?**

I would communicate with organizations, such as this one, and work to repair and strengthen relationships with service agencies such as Preble Street.

**Shelter Access: If you are elected to City Council, will you work and vote to uphold the city of Portland's long standing (35 year) commitment to provide emergency shelter to every person in our city who needs it?**

Yes. I don't believe in turning people away, and I believe that commitment, all these years later, still reflects the sentiment of the community as a whole.