



Homeless Voices for Justice Candidate Questionnaire 2022  
City Council – District 3  
Answers from Regina Phillips

**Introduction**

If you were to distinguish yourself from your opponent, what are three key differences you would highlight for voters?

I grew up in Portland, I have over 35 years of professional experience, and I'm a parent/grandparent

**Housing**

There are currently an estimated 1500 people seeking shelter in Maine compared to 750 seeking shelter before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Do you support the right to shelter for people experiencing homelessness?

Yes:  No  Comment:

Everybody deserves a safe, comfortable, affordable place to live.

Do you support government funding for shelters for Maine's increasing homeless population?

Yes:  No

Comment:

I think that it takes federal, state, and local government to work together to fund shelters, help take care of, and fund homeless programs, and build affordable housing.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, there were increased government restrictions on the use of public space, this has resulted in criminal enforcement against people experiencing homelessness. Would you support ordinances that decriminalize people experiencing homelessness? Yes:  No  Comment:



Do you support allocating government funds to build more affordable homes and subsidize housing for the low-income community? Yes:  No  Comment:

Everyone deserves a safe, affordable, comfortable place to live.

The City of Portland's campsite policy has adversely affected people experiencing homelessness. Do you support the City of Portland's campsite policy?

Yes  No  Comment: N/A

I'm not familiar with Portland's campsite policy.

Do you support providing legal protections for people experiencing homelessness who are subject of discrimination in housing, unemployment, and benefits?

Yes:  No  Comment:

I'm a strong advocate, and work to combat discrimination and oppression every day in various system beyond housing, unemployment, and benefits.

### Food Security

Do you support enacting work requirements for federal assistance programs, such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?

Yes:  No:  Comment:

I think it's unfair, and it has been proven that these types of requirements don't help people succeed and become independent. I think we need to look at the root causes of why people are in the situation they are in and determine how to help.

What is your top priority regarding food security in the City of Portland, and how do you intend to address this issue in our community? Comment:

I'm glad the state passed a law ensuring all students attending public school will have access to free breakfast and lunch. I'm also pleased that our local schools and providers have some type of summer program making sure kids have access to meals in the summer.

I think we need to look at the federal, state, and local government to increase funds for programs who are helping families access food.



## Referendum Questions

The following questions regard the upcoming referendum questions, outlined by citizens of Portland, that have a direct impact on people experiencing homelessness and poverty. The language is direct as the information was presented to the Portland City Council.

Do you support “An Act to Regulate Short-Term Rentals and Prohibit Corporate and Absentee Operation of Short-Term Rental Properties?”

- Prohibits corporate owners and non-local operators from registering short-term rentals in the city.
- Prohibits eviction of tenants for the purpose of immediate conversion to short-term rentals.
- Prohibits affordable and workforce housing from being used as short-term rentals.
- Increase penalties for disorderly properties and violations of the city’s existing short-term rental regulations.

Yes  No  Comment:

Do you support “An Act to Reduce the Number of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) in Portland?”

- Restricts all Portland STRs to those that are owner-occupied, tenant-occupied, or located in a two-unit building occupied by the owner.
- Increases annual fee for owner-occupied STRs to \$250 and non-owner-occupied STRs to \$750 and simplifies fee structure.
- Requires notification to all residents within 500 feet of a registered STR.
- Increases penalties for violations and strengthens enforcement of violations.
- Requires logging of complaints against all STRs.
- Allows the city to revoke STR registrations.

Yes  No  Comment:

Do you support “An Act to Protect Tenants in Portland?”

- Ensures that tenants receive 90-day notice for lease termination and/or rent increases.
- Discourages no-cause evictions by limiting the 5% rent increase to voluntary turnovers.
- Restricts deposits to one-month rents, prohibits application fees, limits the amount of standard annual rent increases to 70% of CPI.
- Strengthens protections for tenants who exercise their rights under the existing ordinance.
- Provides greater clarity and authority to the rent board to ensure landlords receive a fair return on investment and tenant complaints receive a fair hearing.
- Sets a \$250,000 fee for condominium conversions.
- Technical changes to the original ordinance.

Yes  No  Comment:



Do you support “An Act to Eliminate the Sub-Minimum Wage, Increase the Minimum Wage and Strengthen Protections for Workers?”

- Increase the minimum wage in Portland to \$18 an hour over three years and will eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers over the same three years.
- Tipped workers will receive \$18/hr. plus tips.
- Provides an \$18 an hour minimum wage for workers not currently receiving the minimum wage (taxi drivers and other ride services, personal shoppers, delivery workers, and those doing work for a unit of government).
- Creates a Department of Fair Labor Practices.

Yes  No  Comment:

Do you Support “An Act to Reduce Cruise Ships in Order to Reduce Congestion and Pollution”

- Limits the number of passengers who may disembark from cruise ships to no more than 1,000 people on a given day (in total).
- This ordinance will go into effect in 2025.

Yes  No  Comment:

### Opioid Crisis

The Homeless Opioid User Service Engagement (H.O.U.S.E.) is an established service program to provide 50 opioid users in the State rapid access to low-barrier treatment for substance use disorder and stable housing to support their recovery. Do you support the H.O.U.S.E. program's continuance? Yes:  No  Comment:

I think any successful program that can support opioid users should be supported and funded.



In 2021, there were 621 overdoses in the state of Maine, an increase of 26.7% from the previous year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Part of that is due to the lack of access to detox beds in hospitals and EMS. Do you support increasing the number of detox beds in these facilities?

Yes  No  Comment:

I think we need to fund short and long-term programs that can help support opioid user, and support and increase funding for those programs offering services that get at the root causes of the situation.

Do you support the decriminalization of the personal possession of drugs?

Yes  No  Comment: