

## 2022 Mayoral Candidates' Responses re. Climate Action

Each candidate for Corvallis Mayor was asked the following questions by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Steering Committee:

1. **[Buildings & Energy]** Energy conservation, efficiency, and renewables are identified in the Buildings & Energy section of the Corvallis Climate Action Plan as the highest priority strategy. **As a city councilor, what actions did you take to promote and advance energy conservation, efficiency, and renewables, and what actions will you take as mayor to implement this strategy?**
2. **[Climate Adaptation/Community Resiliency]** Due to climate change, our region will continue to encounter increased heat events, flooding, droughts, and significant human health impacts. **As a city councilor, how have you supported and, as mayor, how will you address climate adaptation and long-term community resiliency?**
3. **[Land Use & Transportation]** **As a city councilor, what actions did you take to promote and advance alternative transportation opportunities in Corvallis, and what actions will you take as mayor to implement the Land Use & Transportation section of the Corvallis Climate Action Plan?**

Their responses are outlined below, with the candidates listed in the order in which they are presented in the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet.

### CHARLES MAUGHAN

1. **[Buildings & Energy]** During my time on council I fought to make changes to the Strategic Operating plan to set a goal of 100% renewable electricity for municipal buildings by 2030. Once this specific goal was set, staff was compelled to find ways to meet it. In performing this work, they found that they were able to exceed the goal by seven years. The city of Corvallis is now on track to have 100% renewable electric power in all municipal buildings by 2023. As mayor I will continue to advocate for strategies to combat climate change.
2. **[Climate Adaptation/Community Resiliency]** According to Worldbank.org's Article The Adaptation Principles: 6 Ways to Build Resilience to Climate Change "No adaptation strategy can be successful without ensuring high-vulnerability populations have the financial, technical, and institutional resources they need to adapt." By providing safe sustainable affordable housing we meet people's basic needs, which will allow them the financial ability to attain the resources they need to adapt. As a City Councilor I took action to address our housing needs by rezoning land and allocating funds towards the development of affordable

housing. I believe that by providing affordable housing and promoting active transportation and public transit we can reduce single occupancy vehicles and build more resilient communities. As mayor I will continue this work. When considering new development I will advocate for the city to adopt Passive Building Principles for increased efficiency and sustainability.

3. **[Land Use & Transportation]** As a city councilor I worked with Councilor Lytle and ODOT on traffic safety improvements to the South Corvallis 99 corridor which included bicycle pedestrian safety, lower speed limits and traffic calming strategies. I also have worked to promote bicycle pedestrian improvements throughout Corvallis including buffered bike lanes to support the reduction of single occupancy vehicles. The results provide safer crossing of highway 99 and an overall increase in safety. This helps to promote use of Active Transportation and a reduction in vehicle traffic.

As Mayor I will focus on reviewing all areas for opportunities to increase Active Transportation and safety, with a focus on urban density and mixed use developments. I will prioritize the city fleet's transition to electric and increase infrastructure for electric vehicles. I will work to transition the Corvallis Transit Service to city employees. If we bring them in house, we will be able to provide better training and oversight which will ensure a higher quality of service and increased ridership.

## **ANDREW STRUTHERS**

1. **[Buildings & Energy]** As a City Councilor, I have had many opportunities to promote and advance this strategy and work to continue to implement this strategy.

Currently, the City is undergoing a massive facility assessment, planning, and strategy to renovate and potentially build new facilities. I have supported adding solar panels to Fire Stations #2 and #3 as part of the renovation process and supported the study for solar panels to be added to the Taylor Water Treatment Plant.

I also serve on League of Oregon Cities policy committees, like Community Development, that will discuss legislative policy that all cities in Oregon support and advocate for during legislative sessions.

I supported the Climate Action Advisory Board funding recommendations in 2020 for resolving loan funds to address the community section of the climate action plan and funding for low-income weatherization projections in Corvallis.

Other examples include discussing the advantages of heat pumps with community members, supporting the Tiny House reach code, and wanting to see legislative action for CPACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy).

As Mayor, I plan to be active in our region and state to advocate for additional resources and policies to help Corvallis implement the buildings and energy strategy.

2. **[Climate Adaptation/Community Resiliency]** As a City Councilor, I have taken different steps to help address climate adaptation and long-term community resiliency. Well, more work is needed; the following are just a few examples.

I supported the City's development of its Water Master Plan, which focuses on water and system resilience. The plan ensures that it considers climate change as the master plan implementation happens.

I have been involved in conversations with individuals and groups like the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition for their work on the Neighborhood Roots project, specifically increasing the tree canopy along NE Conifer. Discussion with Sunrise Corvallis and adaption of the Corvallis Green New Deal resolution and YouCAN Corvallis organization to discuss implementing commercial food waste ordinance.

In 2019, I supported the 2019 Climate Crisis Resolution requested by the League of Women Voters of Corvallis through the Climate Action Advisory Board, including helping with minor edits during the Council meeting.

As Mayor, I believe it is crucial that we continue discussing how we can adapt and address climate change and how policies are viewed with a climate lens before being implemented. I'll keep pushing for projects and working with City staff and the community to adapt our City for the future.

3. **[Land Use & Transportation]** As a City Councilor, I have done most of my work on Land Use and Transportation issues; here are a few examples.

As the current representative for Corvallis and chair of our metropolitan planning organization (CAMPO), I work to ensure transportation issues are proactively addressed in our region. During the update of the regional transportation plan (RTP), we worked to ensure the major coordinators, high trafficked areas, are being addressed.

Initially unsure of my position on the road diet for NW Circle Blvd, I am happy with the result. Updating the RTP, I worked to ensure there was a project looking at Walnut Blvd for a potential road diet. The City has now secured funding to complete a feasibility study.

The City received a grant to purchase two electric buses and charging stations. I was a signatory on a letter of support for these buses, and I am happy the City will be receiving those soon.

Now, and if elected Mayor, I believe we need to expand our housing in Corvallis if we want to address long-term transportation issues, including parking. On average, we see 20,000-22,000 individual commuters coming into our City; to address this, we need more housing.

## ROEN HOGG

1. **[Buildings & Energy]** Energy efficiency is critical to solving the climate crisis and one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gases. We need to promote energy-efficient appliances, products, homes and offices; support sealing and insulating homes and offices; and advocate for renewable energy like solar.

I was on City Council when we voted to make climate change a City Council goal. The question was how to implement the bold changes needed to address this issue. Barbara Ross, our former state representative and county commissioner, demonstrated how to do this for needed housing when she advocated for Housing First. Barbara was a strong advocate for evidence-based decision making. She presented the data and the facts regarding Housing First programs in other cities.

Housing First in Corvallis was a success. It successfully helped others and was successfully introduced to the community. This evidence-based approach is one that other individuals and organizations can emulate by looking at successful programs in other cities and making a case for similar programs in Corvallis.

The mayor can help with energy conservation, climate adaption, and transportation opportunities by helping individuals and organizations present their ideas and facilitate solutions by bringing different groups together to achieve a common goal.

2. **[Climate Adaptation/Community Resiliency]** We need to reduce the negative impact of climate change and take advantage of any new opportunities. This includes preparing for longer and more intense fire seasons, protecting air quality, and ensuring the city and county disaster plans account for more severe weather.
3. **[Land Use & Transportation]** Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation account for about a quarter of US greenhouse gas emissions. Over half of these emissions are from passenger cars and trucks. We need to increase the efficiency of vehicle technology, change how we travel and transport items, and use lower-carbon fuels like electric vehicles.