

## **If I Were Mayor**

Mayors play a vital role in shaping a city's future. They are leaders, problem-solvers, and advocates for the community. If I were the mayor of Lake Oswego, I would focus on creating a safer, more sustainable, and more inclusive city by enhancing public spaces, addressing homelessness, and supporting clean energy initiatives.

Public spaces are vital to a community's health. I would restructure and build public parks and bike/walk accessible paths. For example, proper paved, lit bike paths should be established to connect all neighborhoods to the schools, parks, and downtown so that neighborhoods can bike there instead of driving, easing traffic and improving greenhouse gas emissions. I would establish community gardens in vacant lots and greenspaces so people can grow their own food, get to know each other, and learn about sustainable gardening practices. Currently, we have summer concerts and movie nights in the park—I would add seasonal festivals with multicultural themes to celebrate diversity and get people to our parks for activities for all ages.

Homelessness affects more than those without a roof over their heads; it affects everyone's quality of life. Therefore, as mayor, I would focus on increasing affordable housing so everyone could live, love, and thrive in Lake Oswego. This would create neighborhoods with a mix of affordable and regular-priced homes, so different income levels can live together. It would also bring more nonprofits to the area to offer resources like shelters, job fairs, and mental health workshops. For example, a great housing project could be a "Housing First" program where low-income people get a place to live and then are connected to job fairs or mental health help so they can rebuild their lives. Being homeless isn't just about not having a home—it's about not having a stable life.

Lake Oswego is already on the way to clean energy, and as your mayor, I would continue down that path. For example, more solar panels on public-facing buildings—libraries, rec centers, and fire stations—would decrease the city's carbon footprint. I would push for making clean energy more affordable at home by using government financial help to lower costs and encouraging people to switch to options like solar panels or energy-efficient appliances. Another thing I would do is create a "Green Lake Oswego Day," where residents can volunteer to plant trees, clean up parks, and attend workshops about energy efficiency to build a sense of community. Clean energy science fairs could be held in schools so that even the youngest children can think outside the box about what clean energy means. With clean energy as a community effort, we can have a sustainably viable, green Lake Oswego for years to come.

At the end of my term, I hope to see a city that is better connected, more inclusive, and ready to face future challenges. By improving public spaces, addressing homelessness, and advancing clean energy, Lake Oswego would become a model for other cities to follow. As mayor, I would work tirelessly to ensure that our community thrives for generations to come. Together, we can create a city that values safety, sustainability, and compassion.