

If I Were Mayor

By Sophia Lu

If I were mayor of Lake Oswego, I would address many important issues, including homelessness, public transportation accessibility, attracting businesses for a better economy and community, sustainability, and making the most out of our budgets.

One issue I would address is homelessness. I would set up a homeless camp on an area of city-owned land with public restrooms, so the homeless would have more support and feel safer. To do this, I would work with the Department of Engineering, the Department of Building, the Department of Public Works, the Redevelopment Agency, and the Department of Finance. I would hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss my proposal and community opinions and support. To gain funding for this project, I would propose a bond for the community to vote on.

Another issue I would work to tackle is public transportation accessibility. Right now, in Lake Oswego, we do not have much public transportation. We have a few buses, but not very many people ride them. Additionally, buses have a limited number of stops, and, many times, they are spaced relatively far apart. However, if I were mayor, I would work to implement a bike or scooter-sharing system, such as Lime or similar to Biketown, so that people could use it to get around and in the downtown area instead of driving. I would survey the residents of Lake Oswego to determine where the bike or scooter racks should be located, and use that information to plan accordingly. I would discuss this with the City Manager, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Sustainability. Finally, I would present a bond and let Lake Oswego residents vote on it.

Next, I would address the number of local businesses we have in the city. If we have more businesses in the area, more people will want to live in Lake Oswego to be closer to work, which will cause property values to rise. I would offer benefits, such as tax reductions, for businesses in the area. I would also encourage small businesses to start and continue in the community. Not only would this help boost the economy and raise property value, it would also create a greater sense of community because there will be more locally-owned and operated businesses.

We need to be more sustainable and environmentally-friendly. One of the first steps in doing this is to educate people. We can educate people through workshops and programs exploring and teaching how our actions affect the environment and the future, and ways to help the Earth. As mayor, I would encourage people to recycle more, compost, and be mindful of their water, gas, and electricity usage. On a larger scale, I would try to make all city-owned buildings powered by clean or renewable energy within 10 years. We could power buildings partially by solar power, and I would work with other mayors to discuss using hydropower from the Willamette River as a method of powering our cities.

In order to accomplish these tasks and improve our community, we need funding. An important part of funding is making the most of what money we have. After all, no one wants to support and vote for bonds that waste their tax money. I would do my absolute best to make the most of every tax dollar and not waste it on trivial or unnecessary expenses.

In conclusion, if I were mayor of Lake Oswego, I would help the homeless by setting up a camp and safer area for them to stay until they can get back on their feet, improve public transportation by implementing a bike or scooter-sharing program, help the economy and community by encouraging small businesses in the area, improve the sustainability of our city, and make the most of our budget.