

Steve Clark - Ward 1

Steve Clark is a lifelong Oregonian with three decades of experience as a newspaper reporter, publisher, and owner and 12 years as Vice President of University Relations at Oregon State University (OSU). Clark has served on several statewide and local boards and committees advancing access to transportation for rural and underserved communities. At OSU, Clark prioritized equity and inclusion in his decision-making and worked to collaborate among all university colleges, divisions, and organizations. He has championed environmental and social justice both as a publisher and at OSU.

Biographical Summary

- Lifelong Oregonian, has lived in Corvallis since 2013
- Education:
 - Oregon State University Bachelor's degree in Journalism, 1975
- Previous occupations:
 - Vice President, University Relations & Marketing, Oregon State University: 2011-2023
 - Newspaper Reporter, Editor, Publisher, Owner, President: 1975-2011
- Family/other: Long-time volunteer in youth sports, DaVinci Festival, and other organizations

Governmental, Organizational, and Leadership Experience

- Corvallis Downtown Vitality Strategy Task Force, 2025-26, Co-Chair
- Corvallis Community Engagement Task Force, 2023-24, Co-Chair
- Chaired Collaboration Corvallis committee in 2011-13, which recommended expanded community transit, safe parking areas, and pedestrian corridors on OSU campus
- Led efforts to expand free transit on OSU campus, in Corvallis generally, and between LBCC, Corvallis transit center and OSU
- Appointed to Oregon Big Look Task Force by Gov. Kulongoski in 2009 to bring recommendations to protect and advance the state's land use system and policies for the 21st century
- Oregon Industrial Land Availability Task Force, 2001-02
- Corvallis Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2020-2023
- Oregon Business Plan Steering Committee, 2002-2012
- Portland Business Alliance Executive Committee, 2002-2011
- Past President, Westside Economic Alliance, and Beaverton, Tualatin, Gresham area chambers of commerce

Priority	Proposed actions
Affordable housing and reducing homelessness	• Expand ADUs and middle housing for low-middle income families including those with children, affordable single-family, and mixed housing styles such as condos • Develop collaborative action plan involving the City, landowners, builders, financial companies, the school district, major employers, and OSU
Economic vitality	• Create and retain commercial, small, medium, light industrial business jobs, including partnering with OSU • Implement recommendations of Downtown Vitality Strategy Task Force • Collaborate with the public, private sector, local governments, including the County, the university, and nonprofits to address the needs of downtown
Reducing the cost of living	• Analyze costs of living in Corvallis, including city taxes and fees • Reduce municipal fees that are regressive for low-middle income earners • Expand tax base and supplement current reliance on property tax base

Bre Irish - Ward 1

Bre Irish is running a progressive, grassroots campaign. She has eight years of experience working on policy and community outreach in Senator Ron Wyden's office, focusing on education, as well as labor, finance, and healthcare; she also worked on wildfire response and tariff relief. Since moving to Corvallis, she has been active in political and community outreach. Her lived experience with housing insecurity and her outreach with the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center inform her focus on affordable and safe housing.

Biographical Summary

- Grew up in Southern Oregon before her family moved to North Dakota after losing their house in the Great Recession. Her family returned to Oregon when she was in high school.
- Education:
 - Oregon State University, Bachelor's degree in Political Science
 - South Albany High School
- Current occupation: Small business owner: housing consultant
- Family/other: Worked with grandparents at Wildlife Images to rehabilitate wildlife. This taught Irish the importance of protecting the environment.

Governmental, Organizational, and Leadership Experience

- Staffer and field representative for US Senator Ron Wyden (2017-2025)
 - First Workplace Advocacy Steward for the Congressional Progressive Staff Association, working for better pay for congressional staff. Negotiated with Senators Schumer and McConnell
- Campaign manager for Melissa Bird for 4th congressional district race
- Benton County Democrats Platform and Legislative Action Committee member
- Community reporter for KORC FM, covering state and local politics
- Volunteer on street outreach team of the Corvallis Drop-in Day Center for over a year
- Podcast called @Housing Voices focusing on secure housing for children/families

Priority	Proposed actions
Affordable, safe housing for everyone: including homeless, families, and seniors.	• Create tax incentives for homeowners who build and rent ADUs • Work with organizations, such as the Missing Middle Housing Fund, to create middle income housing. This would also expand the tax base and help address the budget gap. • Support increasing housing density through infill • Pass protections for tenants to make sure housing remains safe and up to code ○ "I worked alongside several community organizers to develop a Tenants Bill of Rights for Corvallis. This would include protections for children whose families are facing eviction, caps on security deposits, protections of rights for renters, and more."
Preparing Corvallis to be climate resilient	• Work with the county to establish climate resiliency centers in Corvallis and surrounding areas • Offer financial incentives for solar/other renewables
Better childcare access and affordability	• Learn from success of Preschool for All in Multnomah County • Get income information for residents of Corvallis to potentially target a progressive tax down the road to support childcare

Ward 1 Comparison

	Steve Clark	Bre Irish
Budget	• Manage budget for next two years, while reaching out to the community, the employers, and commuting employees to understand their needs and what they might afford, in terms of taxes • Then, create a uniform tax policy for the future and address long-term needs to build services for our community, as well as facilities in a timed way — a City Hall, a police facility sometime in the future • Develop local economy so more businesses are paying property tax	• Widen our tax base • Increase middle income housing to expand the tax base • Increase taxes on ultra-wealthy, at the state level, and consider locally • Audit our spending and identify where we are wasting our money
Affordability	• Support ADUs and middle housing for low-middle income families including those with children, affordable single-family, and mixed housing styles such as condos • Reduce regressive municipal fees • Ease the tax burden on homes by growing the local economy	• Create tax incentives for homeowners who build and rent ADUs • Work with organizations, such as the Missing Middle Housing Fund, to create middle income housing • Support increasing housing density through infill • Pass protections for tenants to make sure housing remains safe and up to code • Consider a progressive tax to support free childcare
Engagement	• The City Council and councilors must actively engage with community members in listening and discussions about community needs and priorities, strategies, actions, and investments. • Publicly engage with other governments, businesses, non-profits, OSU, LBCC, and local schools • Prioritize listening to, engaging with, and learning from members of historically underrepresented communities	• It is the duty of all elected officials to prioritize constituent outreach. • Former job working for Senator Wyden was based around constituent outreach. • Volunteers regularly with the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center; “it is of utmost importance that marginalized neighbor’s voices are included. They are our community members, too!”