

Briae Lewis - Ward 2

Briae Lewis is serving her second term on the Council, providing a working-class voice and balancing her City Council position with a 40-hour work week. As a frequent and lifelong user of public transit and the daughter of two employees of the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA), improving public transportation is a key element of her platform. As an African American lesbian and someone who has experienced housing instability and mental health challenges, Lewis brings unique and important perspectives derived from those experiences to the City Council.

Biography

- Born and raised in Maryland, has lived in Corvallis for 7 years
- Current Occupation: Daycare director for Corvallis Early Learning

Governmental, Organizational, and Leadership Experience

- Current City Councilor for Ward 2 from 2022—present
- Council liaison assignments include:
 - Community Police Review Policy Advisory Board
 - Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy Advisory Board
 - Visit Corvallis
 - Historic Resources Commission (past)
 - Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (past)
- In 2025, sponsored a BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) resolution against Israel
- Previously co-chair of the Home, Opportunity, Planning and Equity (or HOPE) Advisory Board, a joint effort between Benton County and the City of Corvallis to coordinate a response to ease the homelessness crisis

Priority	Proposed Actions
Housing affordability	• Support housing developments across the housing spectrum: from single family homes to apartments and from town houses to affordable housing units • Develop tools the city can use to incentivize new housing • Continue working with the Coordinated Homeless Response Office to implement HB 4123 (Oregon Homeless Services Act) • Continue with the current plan to buy properties for transitional and permanent supportive housing, in collaboration with organizations like Housing First • Increase the number emergency shelters, especially during severe weather
Public transportation	• Implement the recently passed Transportation Safety Action Plan, part of a federally funded program to ensure that roadways are safe for every mode of transportation • Implement the West Hills Road Corridor Plan, targeting areas to update street designs to be safe, clean and accessible • Continue joint efforts with the County • Continue to work with MTR and other contracts to promote transportation accessibility and safety
Climate action	• Get emissions below 1990s levels in the next 25 years, thanks to the passing of the Green New Deal Resolution • Work with community partners like the Sustainability Coalition

Tarsa Weikert - Ward 2

Tarsa Weikert is a first-time candidate for City Council who feels that her life trajectory has led her to this endeavor. As a first-generation college student, she experienced infringement of her first amendment rights by her community college, which inspired her to major in philosophy and later to get a master's degree in applied ethics following the 2021 insurrection. Those experiences, as well as her experience as a paralegal, have informed her desire to find solutions to societal problems. Weikert's childhood experience with dependence on government assistance in addition to being the first in her family to go to college would provide for a valuable diversity of perspective on the City Council.

Biography

- Born & raised in Iowa; Oregon resident since 2018; has lived in Corvallis since 2022
- Education:
 - Oregon State University, MS, applied ethics
 - Northern Arizona University, BA, philosophy
 - Muscatine Community College, Associate of Arts
- Current Employment: Office manager/paralegal at Hunking Law specializing in personal injury cases

Governmental, Organizational, and Leadership Experience

- Planning Commission for the City of Corvallis, 2025 – present
- 2026 graduate of Leadership Corvallis
- Served on the PAC for Measure 2-140 (May 2023), supporting investments to strengthen Benton County's health, safety, and support systems, included addressing needs of unhoused.
- Helped design campaign materials, develop messaging, and advocate for Measure 2-141 (Nov. 2023), funding essential Corvallis community services
- Has written stories for *Muck Rack* and *The Daily Barometer* on a wide variety of local subjects
- At Muscatine Community College, started a college newspaper called *The Spotlight* and wrote investigative stories about the community

Priority	Proposed Actions
Downtown economic development	• Strengthen downtown economy and vitality by supporting local business • Encourage sustainable economic growth by making it easier to apply for a business license and find space • Ready infrastructure for business needs • Improve access to the river and attract a diversity of businesses and cuisine
A more engaged community	• Proactively go to those who are underrepresented/underprivileged to ask their opinions • Offer free childcare so parents can attend city council meetings • Create education initiatives to keep residents informed • Encourage participation on the City's advisory boards and committees by talking with the community (at high schools, colleges, businesses, local events) about the importance of these positions and what they do for Corvallis • Offer more opportunities community members to talk to council
Safer streets. for all users: drivers, pedestrians, cyclists	• Make Harrison safer, specifically Harrison and the intersection with NW Kings Blvd. • Improve road design, signage, and infrastructure to reduce preventable crashes

Ward 2 Comparison

	Briae Lewis	Tarsa Weikert
Budget	• Cut services as a last resort; look into alternative and additional funding first • Consider introducing a tax or raising fees, but have to have a good reason why (e.g., infrastructure) • Have OSU pay more into the community • Provide our state representatives with data-driven facts about the benefits of needed funding (e.g., for emergency shelters) • Support an Urban Renewal district for downtown Corvallis, which would allow for further public-private partnerships and direct investments in a thriving downtown, resulting in increased revenue	• Make it easier for businesses to come to Corvallis, which would help the economy and thus ease our budget issue • See if there are any inefficiencies that can be identified • If must raise taxes, start with land developers first, then property owners • Show people the data, then put it to the voters all as separate options for increasing taxes or adding fees
Engagement	• Get the most accurate information out to as many people as possible • Reach out to underrepresented voices first • Mailers, newsletters, town halls, an updated city website, etc. are just a few solutions and tools we can use to inform the community.	• Increase opportunities for community members to talk to council • Proactively go to those who are underrepresented/underprivileged to ask their opinions • Offer free childcare so parents can attend city council meetings • Create education initiatives to keep residents informed • Encourage participation on advisory boards/committees by talking with the community (at high schools, colleges, businesses, local events) about the importance of these positions and what they do for Corvallis
Affordability	• Support housing developments across the housing spectrum: from single family homes to apartments and from town houses to affordable housing units • Develop tools the city can use to incentivize new housing	• Encourage more affordable housing and more diverse housing options, for students, working families, seniors, and longtime residents