

Indivisible Benton County — Candidate Questionnaire November 2026 Midterm Election

Thank you for your interest in an endorsement from Indivisible Benton County. **Please complete this questionnaire and return it to voter@indivisiblebc.org by Aug. 12.**

Responses will be reviewed by our candidate research committee, and excerpts may be shared with our members.

Please do not use generative AI (artificial intelligence) when completing this questionnaire. We would much rather see grammatical errors in answers that reflect you personally than perfect writing that doesn't originate from your own thoughts!

Please reach out to voter@indivisiblebc.org if you have any questions about the questionnaire or our endorsement process.

SECTION 1: CANDIDATE & CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

1. Full name: **Briae Lewis**
2. Office sought: **Ward 2 City Councilor of Corvallis**
3. Campaign website and social media accounts (if applicable):
<https://briaelewis.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/BriaeLewis/>

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

4. Why are you running for this office? What do you hope to accomplish if elected?

I am running for reelection because I know I'm done serving and giving back to a community that has so much for me on a personal level and there is work that still needs to be done that I want to see through to the end.

5. Describe how your prior experiences (such as public service, community organizing, professional expertise, volunteer work, schooling, family responsibilities, etc.) have contributed to the knowledge and skills you will use as a city councilor.

At this time, I will have served as the Ward 2 City Councilor for 4 years and have gained knowledge of how the city functions. I have also served on the H.O.P.E. Advisory Board before getting on City Council and gained understanding of how much collaboration is needed to get to solutions that benefit not just the city, but the county and the state as well. I grew up on public transportation as both parents worked for

the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA), so I have a deep understanding about both buses and trains and have been bringing that to council as well.

SECTION 3: ACCESSIBILITY, TRANSPARENCY, & ACCOUNTABILITY

6. How can the City Council and Mayor ensure that the Corvallis city government is transparent, accessible, and accountable to all constituents, *especially historically underrepresented voices*?

The City Council right now is currently working on this very problem. At the core, it's getting the most accurate information out to as many people as possible and the best solution would be to reach out to those 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 what is going on with their city.

In addition, if you are running for Mayor: How will you ensure that advisory boards, commissions, and committees are representative of Corvallis' population, range of experiences, and perspectives?

7. How will you approach working with people, both on the Council and in the community, with different political views, personal experiences, or approaches to decision-making than you? If possible, provide an example of a time (at a job or school, or within a community, political, non-profit, or other organization) when you disagreed with someone yet worked together towards a solution.

The simplest solution is to just have a conversation and respect that the other person does not agree with you. Listen to their reasons, give mine, and not take anything personally. Everyone is entitled to their opinions, whether I agree with them or not, as long as those opinions don't harm others as we all want the same thing in the end: A thriving, beautiful city where we can live and work peacefully. I have disagreed with many decisions Council has made, but I have expressed my reasons and concerns and then respected that the decision was still made i.e. the Marriott parking lot.

SECTION 4: VALUES & PRIORITIES

8. What are the top three issues you would prioritize if elected? What actions/policies can the City implement to address these issues?

As I have said previously, transportation runs in my family and will continue to work with MTR and other contracts to ensure everyone has an accessible way to get in, out and around the city. We recently passed the Transportation Safety Actin Plan which is part of the federally funded Safe Streets 4 All program to ensure that roadways are safe for every mode of transportation (walking, biking, skateboarding, etc.). There is

also the West Hills Road Corridor Plan that targets specific areas to update street designs that are safe, clean and accessible. This was a joint effort with Benton County and something that the City should do more often.

9. How would you approach Corvallis' current budget gap while honoring the Corvallis Strategic Plan?¹²³

We truly need to look into alternative and additional funding in order to not cut many of the services people use and come to rely on. If we have to cut services as the very last resort, then so be it but we have to look at all our options before doing so, whether it is introducing a tax or raising certain fees. I personally would love to see OSU pay more into the community as they contribute the most to the city's fluctuating population and housing.

10. How could/should city government address the trickle-down effects of decreased federal spending?

There are many factors to the decreased funding, most of which has to do with our sanctuary status and our continued stance that everyone has a right to be who they are. We can address this by working with our state representatives and getting our voices heard, presenting data-driven facts on what the funding is needed for, and getting across that this would be beneficial for all parties.

SECTION 5: SPECIFIC POLICIES

11. What role do you believe our local government should play in protecting the rights of marginalized or vulnerable community members (e.g., immigrants, LGBTQ+ residents, people of color, people with disabilities)?

As mentioned above, we are a sanctuary city. This means we have a duty to the community to ensure that people feel safe and welcome, that resources for protection and safety are available to anyone who seeks them, and to use the tools we have to reenforce the notion of everyone having a place in Corvallis.

12. What is your position on data center development in the Willamette Valley, including considerations like energy and water use, tax incentives, and community input in the permitting process?

¹ <https://www.klcc.org/politics-government/2026-06-17/corvallis-city-council-still-considering-new-taxes-weighs-other-options>

² https://gazettetimes.com/news/local/government-politics/article_21949038-0be4-5f95-856b-f76dc7b80de1.html

³ <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/mc/page/strategic-plan>

They are not welcome. The last thing we need is people worrying about their jobs, water supply and even more about the air quality. We just had two massive heatwaves and the smoke from the recent wildfires, adding more to that would not only cause more environmental harm but also a population drop. This would then strain the city services and put the city in a difficult situation. I don't believe we need any here, especially not in the valley.

13. Albany recently canceled its contract with Flock for Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs). Proponents of ALPRs, and other forms of mass surveillance technology, focus on public safety benefits such as solving crimes and finding kidnapping victims. Opponents emphasize the potential for, and history of, harms due to errors and misuse of data. What is your position regarding use of ALPR's and/or other forms of mass surveillance by the City? Should the City regulate use of this technology by private residents and companies within city limits?

I can see the pros and cons of both sides. On the one hand, we have the evidence and data that it's an unreliable system when used properly and that it can be mishandled when not regulated. On the other, it has the potential to be useful in protecting the people when regulated and that regulation is CONSISTENT. I emphasize this because that is usually the part that is overlooked, consistency with third party regulation. I believe that overall, until the technology is reliable and there are substantial regulations and consequences for violations, we need to hold off on any mass surveillance of any kind.

14. What role, if any, do you believe local government should play in addressing climate change (e.g., emissions reduction, sustainability planning, enhancing resilience to extreme weather)?

We all live on this planet and would like to continue to survive (I would hope), so would it not make sense for the government to have a hand in protecting the people it serves? Corvallis is one city that takes climate action seriously that we have the Climate Action Advisory Board who does meet with the Council and recommend solutions that benefit the community overall. We are currently working to get emissions below 1990s levels in the next 25 years thanks to the passing of the Green New Deal Resolution and working with community partners like the Sustainability Coalition to see what more we can do. The City has a duty to the people that live and work and pay into services, the least the City can do is ensure that the planet is still here for people to do so.

15. Based on January 2025 "Point in Time" data, Benton County had a total homeless count of 550, with 244 unsheltered in Corvallis. What is the City doing right to reduce homelessness and/or its impacts on the City? What could the city be doing differently? ⁴

Currently we are working with the Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) in order to implement HB 4123 (Oregon Homeless Services Act) here in Benton County and Corvallis. At the moment the city plans to buy properties in order to work with community partners like Housing First to turn them into transitional housing and permanent supportive housing to get people back on their feet. We are also working with the State to get more funding for emergency shelters, especially during severe weather. As of now, with federal funding the way it is, the most we can do is push harder for our representatives and governor to be speak out in our favor.

16. Corvallis voters will be deciding on reforms to the City Council in November. Do you support or oppose these reforms, and why? ⁵

I think that reducing the number of councilors has it's pros and cons. The main issue would be during elections where the candidate would have to reach more people but that is also a good thing as a lot of the wards are vey distinct and don't have that much overlap with one another. The changes will ultimate get the next Council to consider more heavily the other communities around them before making decisions. The City Council is there to represent part of a whole and to ensure that the decisions benefit everyone, not just themselves.

SECTION 6: YOUR CAMPAIGN

17. What volunteer support would be most helpful to your campaign between now and November?

Donations and having a chance to get out there and talk to the community are the two most important things to me at this moment and might be throughout the rest of the campaign.

SECTION 7: CLOSING

18. Is there anything else you'd like our chapter to know about your candidacy that wasn't covered above?

⁴ <https://communityservices.us/2025-point-in-time-count-shows-shifting-trends-in-tri-county-homelessness/>

⁵ <https://www.klcc.org/politics-government/2026-07-22/corvallis-ballot-measure-city-council-terms-seats>, <https://corvallisadvocate.com/corvallis-voters-to-decide-city-council-reforms-this-november-heres-a-deeper-look/>

I want to continue to be a voice for people that have long felt overlooked and unheard and a representation of the average person that can make City Council and a 40-hour work week coexist. This community came to support me in my lowest point in life and there is no amount of time and effort that would feel enough to giving back so the least I can do is make decisions that help the city be better than I found it.

As a candidate in the race for city council in the city of Corvallis, 2026, I pledge to run a positive campaign, without resorting to negative attacks against fellow candidates.

Candidate signature: _____ Briae Lewis _____ Date: _____ 8/15/2026 _____