

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: Charles Frederick Maughan
2. Office sought: Mayor
3. Campaign website and social media accounts (if applicable):
www.maughanformayor.com
FaceBook: Re-Elect Maughan for Mayor
Instagram: Maughan4mayor

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

4. Why are you running for this office? What do you hope to accomplish if elected?
 - I am running to continue the work that has been started; Housing, infrastructure, Sustainability, Downtown Vitality, and Better Governance
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.
 - Volunteer for Corvallis for Bernie 2015-2016
 - Co-Founder of Our Revolution – Corvallis Allies 2016 – Current
 - Precinct Committee Person for the Benton County Democrats 2016 – Current
 - Delegate for the Democratic Party of Oregon Central Committee 2017 - 2023
 - Vice Chair for the Benton County Democrats 2018 – 2021
 - Corvallis City Councilor 2019 – 2022
 - Corvallis Mayor 2023 - Current

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*?

- All City Council Business is done in public
- All meetings are open to the public both in person and virtually
- Community Comments are welcomed both in person and virtually
- It is challenging to keep the community informed when people are not engaged with the city, but we continue to find new ways to inform and involve the community.

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?

- As Mayor I have made sure that advisory boards have a broad representation, making them more diverse than the city population.

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.

- I have served as an elected official for nearly eight years in a non-partisan position. To be successful in these roles you must represent all people in the community and work with them on solutions.

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?

- Budget Gap (top priority) Corvallis is an amazing place in large part to the services the city provides. We need to find a way to continue to pay for these services well into the future.
- Housing. Even with the progress that has been made, there is more work to be done so the people who want to live here can find a home.
- Re-Vitalizing our downtown and supporting local business development.

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

- Economic Vitality: Foster a wide range of employment and housing opportunities where residents and businesses can prosper.
- Excellence in Governance: Continuously improve the effectiveness and efficiency of delivering services through respect and teamwork.
- Infrastructure & Amenities: Maintain, replace, and expand the City's capital assets for community development and growth.
- Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability: Provide stewardship of Corvallis's financial and physical assets to ensure the long-term fiscal health of the City.
- Safe & Resilient City: Support community safety and resilience.
 - The fourth Bullet is about Fiscal Sustainability, this is what we are working on, without addressing the Budget Gap none of this is possible.

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

- The City has pushed back against the federal government's requirements for funding, including seeking legal action, but, there is no real way to address this locally. All we can do is continue to work with our legislators to help secure funding.

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)?

- Corvallis was already a Sanctuary City meaning that our Law Enforcement will not work with I.C.E. and does not ask a person for their status as a citizen, and as mayor I am proud that Corvallis became a Sanctuary City for the Trans & Intersex community. We will continue to protect everyone in our community from discrimination and harassment.

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?

- I oppose A.I. data centers due to the resources they require and the limited number of jobs they create, and will use any authority I have to not allow them in Corvallis

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>

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?

- Corvallis does not use this technology and has no intention of doing so. I oppose using anything that can collect data to be used by private companies and or outside entities (including the federal government).

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)?

- I am a supporter of the City's Climate Action Advisory Board and their recommendations. As Mayor I cannot force the council to act on these issues and recommendations.
- During my time as a City Councilor, I pushed to change our Strategic Operating Plan to include making City municipal buildings use 100% renewable electricity. The city has made significant progress on this goal, by adding solar, transitioning our fleet to electric vehicles, police vehicles to hybrid, and purchasing new electric city busses.

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

- The City has taken an active role on addressing this issue. We work closely with the Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO) that is operated by the county. We have also purchased two buildings that are currently being renovated, one to be used for transitional housing and the other to be permanent supportive housing, both operated by Benton County.
- The City has also worked with affordable housing developers to create set aside units that have even lower rents to help house our more vulnerable population, we need to continue this work.

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

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/>

- Early in my term as Mayor an issue arose that showed that there was a part of our City Charter that was determined to be “unconstitutional”. Due to this I wondered what else could be wrong with the charter. I initiated a Charter Review Task Force to do a wholistic review of our City Charter. This task force became phase one of the process, identifying sections of the charter that should be reviewed and updated and making recommendations of changes that should be sent to ballot for voter approval. I am happy to say that the Phase One ballot changes passed by very large margins. During Phase One’s work the City Council directed Phase Two to work on our form of government to address Council Size and Term Lengths to meet our city needs and follow best practices. It turns out Corvallis is an outlier in Oregon. Most cities have 5 or 6 councilors. I approve the recommendations of the Task Force, by moving to fewer councilors there can be more deliberation and better decisions. Also looking at past elections, many council races have been uncontested, meaning that there is only one person to vote for, this is not good for democracy. Fewer Wards means more contested races, giving people choices in their representative not just settling for the one person who runs.
- Term Lengths: Having served the city for nearly 8 years; I have seen the challenge with councilors trying to learn how to be effective while serving in the role. By the time a new councilor becomes effective there is a short window to work on issues you care about before needing to run again for the seat. This ends up being discouraging to many, sometimes causing people to not seek a second term. With four-year terms, a new councilor can learn the job and still have time to work on long-term goals before needing to campaign again for the seat. This also provides stability for long-term planning. With four-year terms it will also allow us to stagger the elections, meaning that the entire council cannot change all at once, this will help new councilors be mentored by longer serving councilors to be more effective.

SECTION 6: YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

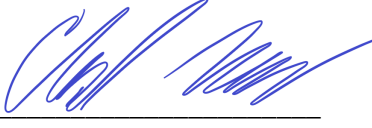
- As with any successful campaign, I need people. Campaigns are won when people show up and are excited about the campaign, so that would be my ask.

SECTION 7: CLOSING

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

- I am passionate about serving my community. I am not running on a single issue or so I can use the position as a steppingstone for a bigger title. I love Corvallis and will continue serving the community, whether it is as mayor or just a community organizer/volunteer.

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: _____

Date: August 12, 2026