

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: **Danielle Chambers**
2. Office sought: **City Council, Ward 7**
3. Campaign website and social media accounts (if applicable):
[DanielleForCorvallis.com](https://www.danielleforcorvallis.com)
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590923605939>
<https://www.youtube.com/@DanielleforCorvallis> (work in progress!)

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

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

Our democracy is in peril. In short, I'm running because I hope to help stop the slide into fascism, both for my wellbeing as a trans woman and for the sake of the city that I love and call home.

Local governments are guardians (and, unfortunately, often gatekeepers) of democracy. A well-functioning city can serve to keep the worst impacts at arm's length *if* protecting, empowering, and listening to its people become priorities. I aim to do just that. I also hope to enact the pillars of my campaign as I lay out here and on my website.

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.

My most relevant experience:

- **Serving on Housing Operational Committee (2025-Current)**
- **Served on Charter Review Task Force Phase 2 (2025-2026)**
- **Drafted, Organized, and saw unanimously pass the 2025 Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Diverse Sanctuary City Resolution**
- **Author of 2026 Anti-Immigration Enforcement Resolution, which partially passed**
- **President of the Corvallis Organization for Real Empowerment, a social-justice focused 501(c)(3)**
- **Leadership Corvallis Class of 2026**

All of these have contributed significantly to my knowledge of the city, civic service, and what it means to be a leader. I also aim to continuously learn, seek feedback, and improve my knowledge and skills.

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*?

As inheritors of government formed, sustained, and typically led by white men, many systems are disempowering and *why* historically underrepresented voices were and remain underrepresented. As a trans woman, humanist, and councilor, I will aim to help bridge this gap by deliberately *seeking out, involving, and empowering* these voices. This will involve an intensive process of building interpersonal trust with these communities, creating or reforming city-sanctioned bodies to incorporate them, and then delegating power to them as collaborators.

One way to accomplish community empowerment would be to reform existing boards, such as the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Board and the Climate Action Advisory Board, with binding powers to put motions and resolutions before the Council without requiring approval (but with Council still maintaining a veto). This small change serves to empower rather than gatekeep the ideas of informed, engaged citizens.

More can be done, too. Adopting community-oriented guidelines for policy implementation, including grassroots meetings and minimum outreach requirements, can ensure the community has ample opportunity to both give their

own ideas and monitor the city's actions well before it's too late to intervene, as is often the case. This will shore up flagging participation and strengthen the 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?

N/A (but I'll do my part as a Councilor to connect the mayor with more voices!)

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.

My approach is defined by deep curiosity. I am delighted to seek out and hear opinions that are different or even opposite of mine, because it means that there is knowledge and experience different than mine, which presents a chance for me to gain a new perspective.

After introducing the immigration enforcement resolution to the city, which was passed in pieces, I received a particularly combative five minutes of questioning from someone else in the BC Dems, who I'll call W. W's feedback was pointed and angry. He launched many questions in quick succession at me like rocks. But, I kept a cool head. Among these rocks were some gems that made me rethink the process of researching and writing the resolution. It ended up being the most productive feedback I received from anyone about the whole ordeal! I later asked W to help me with another resolution, and although he politely declined, he and I remain on good terms.

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?

1. Growing our local economy.

We are in a period of extreme inflation, stagnant wages, and low job growth, which disproportionately impacts lower-income groups and has ripple effects on housing. There are some low-hanging fruit policies which would greatly benefit Corvallis. These include:

- **Implementing the New Market Tax Credit program. The majority of Corvallis qualifies for tax credits intended to help underserved community members start up new businesses.**

- Connecting microbusinesses with starting capital, allowing more opportunities for local businesses to start up and scale naturally. Crowdfunded 0% interest loan programs like Kiva allow entrepreneurs to get off the ground with loan sizes and terms appropriate to their needs, with minimal resources from the city.
- Banning surveillance pricing at grocery stores. Algorithmic pricing allows large chains to charge more from people based on income and time of day, with customers being none the wiser.

2. Addressing barriers to housing.

Fixing homelessness requires addressing the reasons housing has become so expensive in the first place: lack of supply, artificial barriers to development, and lack of local builders. To address these interconnected issues:

- Initiate zoning reform. A 700-page land development code does not serve the city or its people. Instead of gatekeeping or dictating from top-down, we can start creating grassroot neighborhood-oriented solutions to our housing crisis.
- Host housing development conferences to share knowledge about navigating our local code and requirements, and to share skills and information.
- Invest money and organizational ability in proven housing-first solutions to homelessness.

3. Progressing toward our existing zero-carbon goal by 2050.

- Reducing restrictions on small-scale solar and battery installations.
- Begin shift toward prioritizing buses, active transit, and walking over driving wherever possible, including in the upcoming 2027 Capital Improvement plan.
- Electrification of city equipment, from buses to leaf blowers.

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

Two complementary approaches: pursuing progressive taxes and cutting regressive taxation, and pursuing taxes that won't be passed down onto the

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<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>

people. Our current model of raising flat city service fees on residents disproportionately affects lower-income residents while effectively subsidizing the wealthy. A progressive income tax is a far more equitable way of distributing our tax load.

Additionally, there are many potential taxes on unearned income which the city is leaving on the table. These taxes are taken from profits on rent-seeking activities. Although the most famous of these, the Land Value Tax, would be impossible to implement without support from the state, there are taxes on our monopolies which could be pursued, including higher licensing fees on garbage, electricity, and internet which, if structured correctly, could not be passed onto consumers.

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

Internal investment is the key to reaching a place of fiscal independence. The city, our businesses, and individual community members must put their money not in the hands of far-away billionaires and Wall Street, but in local ventures which prioritize the vitality of our own community. Local production is also pivotal—locally produced goods incur far less of an environmental impact than goods shipped from halfway around the world.

Every dollar spent at a local store goes anywhere from 1.5 to 2.5 times further than dollars spent at big chain businesses. Over time, as we trap more external money into our local ecosystem, we unlock greater revenue sources and all stand to benefit from the broader tax base.

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)?

The role of local government should be to protect and advocate for its own citizens, especially vulnerable communities. Mandates to discriminate against our own citizens must be met with deliberate non-cooperation, or, if forced, painfully slow bureaucracy. Similarly, if rights are being violated, the City must act to ensure that justice is upheld. Both of these ideas were the purpose of the Transgender, Intersex, and Gender Diverse Sanctuary City Resolution.

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 unequivocally and enthusiastically support a moratorium or total ban on the construction of data centers in the Willamette Valley. I would support mutual agreements with other cities and counties to do the same, as there are rippling effects across boundaries as large amounts of water and energy are devoured.

The strain data centers place on energy grids, water supplies, and the absolute few jobs they provide (less than a dozen per data center) means subsidizing them is both economic and environmental foolishness.

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 am actively working on an anti-surveillance state technology resolution with many of my friends at the BC Dems, which would ban ALPRs, cell phone tower simulators, data brokers, and more.

Surveillance technologies are wolves in shepherd's clothing, promising safety but delivering dire harms to women, minorities, and dissidents. We cannot allow them into our community without losing vital freedoms which are encapsulated in the First and Fourteenth amendments. Because the effects of this technology spill out into the community without much, if any, oversight, I believe the city has a strong reason to limit or remove these technologies from both private residents and companies in Corvallis.

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)?

Climate change is a tragedy of the commons, and it falls to governments of all levels to take the centralized actions needed to put an end to them. Local government must lead the way in mitigating both causes and harms of climate change. This may involve caps or taxes on carbon emissions, waste generated, and rethinking car-centric city planning, and pushing for adoption of these solutions at higher levels of government. Revenue generated from climate-related sources ought to be directly invested into communities most impacted by extreme changes in weather.

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 must identify and remove systemic barriers to affordable housing as I've identified in a previous answer, although this is the long-term fix that doesn't address current-day suffering.

The city could put a huge dent in homelessness in a variety of ways. A few ideas include a managed encampment zone, which would then be flooded with connections to community resources and opportunities, and that would provide stability for our unhoused folks. Another moratorium on evictions would cut off homelessness as the source for a temporary period, allowing our currently overstretched shelter system to reset (about 300 people are evicted per year in Benton County, which was reduced 10-fold during the COVID moratorium).

Lastly, the city could bring partners to table to solve the "wrong wallet" problem of housing-first solutions. Directly providing housing is expensive, but actually saves money in the long run due to reduction in usage of emergency services. These savings would be spread between the county, hospital system, and city, and so would require each to pool this saved money together.

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 was part of Charter Review Task Force Phase 2 which did the research, work, and made the final recommendations to Council. I am not fully pleased with the process that we used, as we did not perform outreach or citizen engagement apart from the public meetings themselves, but I do fully stand by the final results.

A government must be able to deliver on its promises to its people. Broken promises and dysfunction heavily damage our democratic institutions. Throughout the course of the task force, I became convinced that we do not have a functioning democracy or functional Council system in Corvallis, and that the changes we recommend will go a long way toward remedying this state of affairs.

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<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/>

Over 50% of our elections involve only a single candidate. By definition, democracies require two or more options to choose from, meaning that the majority of the time, Corvallis is de facto not a democracy. Because the pool of people to draw from in each ward is so small, it has historically been difficult to find candidates, despite active recruiting efforts on the part of the City Council. The only solution besides increasing compensation, which has huge potential for ill effects, is to increase the pool of people to draw from, hence the reduction in wards.

As to (dys)function, two year terms are, unfortunately, untenable. The vast majority of a new Councilor's first term is learning how the City operates, the role of city government, and the basics of making policy. By the time they know how to tie their shoes, it's re-election season, meaning they are either spending most of their time campaigning, or otherwise a new Councilor will start the cycle anew. Four year staggered terms ensure a critical mass of experience to have a functional body, a necessity for long-term stewardship of our city.

Term limits are also a no brainer. A guaranteed expiration date incentivizes training up new councilors and counteracts entrenchment that might occur under four year terms.

I apologize for the lengthy answer, but I'm in a unique position to answer this question, happy to answer in more detail in the future, if desired!

SECTION 6: YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

I want to host campaign events not just for the sake of campaigning, but to actively improve our community.

One event I would love to have help with is organizing voter registration parties. I would love to host one party before Oct. 13th at each of the apartment complexes in my ward, which have been unconsulted and underrepresented previously due to managerial bans on soliciting. The other facets of running a campaign leave me little time and energy to do so, though.

SECTION 7: CLOSING

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

Regardless of endorsement, I want to maintain connection and dialog for the good of our city and democracy. I pledge to as full transparency as possible. My campaign runs on small, \$100 or less donations from individuals and doesn't accept them from any special interests. All my campaign donations and expenditures are filed with the Secretary of State for maximum transparency. I welcome ideas and feedback for improving my campaign!

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: 8/6/2026