

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: Bre Irish
2. Office sought: City Council, Ward 1
3. Campaign website and social media accounts (if applicable):
BreIrish.com, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61592048956152>,
<https://www.instagram.com/bre.irish.forcorvallis/>

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION

4. Why are you running for this office? What do you hope to accomplish if elected?
I'm running for office because Corvallis is becoming increasingly unaffordable when it comes to housing. I am 30 and most of my friends do not anticipate being able to afford a home. To have a truly thriving future, more must be done to support housing development in this city! Working people must also have the supports that they deserve. We must work to support better child care access and affordability and affordable housing if we are going to be able to provide for a thriving future for all.

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.

I am a former US Senate Staffer, having worked for Senator Ron Wyden for years. I specialized in education policy while I worked for him, and wrote and introduced legislation in DC. While in DC, I also was the very first workplace advocacy steward for what is not (last time I heard!) the largest staff association representing congressional

staffers in the district. I negotiated with Senators Schumer and McConnell to win pay increases for Senate staff. I was a field representative for Senator Wyden here in Oregon once I moved back to the state, and was tasked with working with cities, counties, non profits, and more to bridge the gap between Washington, D.C. and Oregon.

Here in Corvallis, I am an active volunteer at the Corvallis Drop-in Day Center as a street outreach team lead. I also am an active community reporter for KORC, Corvallis's local radio station. I report on community news, statewide news, and more.

My time working in the US Senate and here in the Corvallis community makes me uniquely qualified to advocate for my community as a city councilor. I am adept at working cross jurisdictions, am able to get knee-deep in policy, and I have a wide network to make sure that Corvallis is represented on the dais.

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*?

I strongly believe that it is the duty of all elected officials to prioritize constituent outreach. My former job working for Senator Wyden was based around all that. There is no way that a government can be of the people, by the people, and for the people if the people are imbued in every part of the process. As someone who volunteers regularly with the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center, it is of utmost importance that we have marginalized neighbor's voices included. They are our community members, too!

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 career has been centered around serving everyone regardless of who they are, what they believe, or how much money they have. As a US Senate Staffer for a Senator representing Oregon, my job was to support ALL Oregonians, not just the ones that voted for my boss or had the right political affiliations. Every single day was comprised of helping anyone who needed it. When I was doing policy, I would work with other Senate staffers to represent both of our boss's interests to come up with a policy that we could get passed. We disagreed on MANY many subjects but were able to work together to get something done.

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?

Housing, climate resilience, and child care. For housing, I would dive head first in supporting the creation of middle housing, something that is much needed in our city. I have relationships with folks who work directly on this subject, namely, the Missing Middle Housing Fund. I want to find creative solutions to our crisis- because unless we act, we will be closing more schools and will have further reductions in services.

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

Part of the strategic plan is attaining long term fiscal sustainability, and I would dive head-first into supporting the folks who ensure that fiscal sustainability- our tax payers. Oftentimes in the arguments about fiscal topics we lean into tax breaks for businesses but I want to make it more financially advantageous for working people to live here, which will ultimately ensure robust revenue for the city. I want to invest into child care for all, affordable housing, and making it easier for women and minorities to access capital. With the university in our town, we would be remiss if we didn't make it more financially feasible for them to create the revenue our city needs.

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

We must first do a complete audit of our spending and identify where we are wasting our money. We have a duty to use tax payer money effectively and I'll make sure that happens. We also have to have a conversation about widening our tax base, something that does not wholly fall on Corvallis's shoulders. We must have these conversations on the city, county, and state level.

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)?

I believe our local government has a huge role to play. Our government is supposed to represent ALL people, and I intend to do just that.

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>

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?

Part of my advocacy statewide has been fighting against data center developments and the ridiculous tax breaks that we have given away to them statewide. I am committed to putting in a temporary moratorium until we have time to institute regulations, allow for community input, and ensure they are paying their fair share.

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 was part of the fight to end that contract in Albany. I am totally against Flock cameras and part of my campaign platform is to ensure that those technologies do not take root in our city. I do believe that the City should regulate the private use of them, too.

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)?

Local government has a key role to play in climate change. We all have a role. I believe that we must do more to reduce our emissions as the City has already committed to doing, make it more financially advantageous for residents to install solar and other renewable energies, and creating climate resilience centers for upcoming climate events.

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

As someone who is a team lead for our street outreach teams at the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center, I am frequently faced with the impacts of the City's enforcement actions on our unhoused neighbors. I want to stop the sweeps. They do not help. They cost money and re-traumatize. I have known folks who have gotten jobs and are making steps to better their lives, only to have their identification caught up in a sweep and they can't secure the job anymore. We must work collaboratively with Benton County to reduce the sweeps and save taxpayer money. We must engage with stakeholders in the community to come up with a plan, a managed encampment, or some other way instead of burning our money punishing people. And I'll say this, when we choose not to house people, we ultimately do end up housing them-- just in jail. Which is the most expensive kind of housing for those

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

folks. Our money goes further and it better spent when we find solutions before the damage is done.

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 mostly support them, however I am not too thrilled with the reductions of council members. I think that erodes democratic representation.

SECTION 6: YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

Canvassing! My opponent will likely have a lot of money to spend for his campaign. As someone who opposes money in politics, I want to prioritize constituent outreach and field to really connect with the people of Corvallis!

SECTION 7: CLOSING

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

I believe Corvallis is at a crossroads, as so many other communities are. We are deciding if business as usual really does serve us well, or whether we need to try something new. My candidacy and campaign is all about working to create a city that works for ALL of us, not just the folks who are well off and are fine with how things are. To truly create a world where everyone belongs and has what they need, we must change course. We must have people in office that have a distinct vision for our futures, instead of more of the same. I have worked in government for years and truly want to use my experience and knowledge to make our City a better place for all and ensure a thriving future. We have tried the same old strategies and the same types of candidates for decades, and I'm not sure its totally paid off for everyone. I believe its time that we actively fight for the future we ALL deserve, and that means elected and supporting candidates who do not fit the mold we have become so accustomed to.

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: Bre Irish Date: 8/11/2026

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/>

