

Oregon artPAC — 2016 Primaries

Contest: Mayor of Portland

Candidate Name: Ted Wheeler

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Candidate Web Site: www.tedwheeler.com

Date of Questionnaire Submittal: February 12, 2016

In a 140-character “tweet” format, tell us why you are running for office.

I’m running for Mayor because I know how to make real progress and I want to help make our City government as productive as our people.

How many donors have contributed to your campaign?

Nearly 800

How much money have you raised for your campaign?

Nearly \$400,000

What endorsements have you received?

Current & Former Elected Officials

Vera Katz, Former Mayor of Portland

Tom Potter, Former Mayor of Portland

Sam Adams, Former Mayor of Portland

Diane McKeel, Multnomah County Commissioner

Judy Shiprack, Multnomah County Commissioner

Rod Underhill, Multnomah County District Attorney

Lew Frederick, State Representative

Tobias Read, State Representative

Ron Cease, Former State Senator

Jane Cease, Former State Senator

Avel Gordly, Former State Senator and Former State Representative

Amy Kohnstamm, Portland School Board Vice-Chair

Serena Cruz Walsh, Former Multnomah County Commissioner

Maria Rojo De Steffey, Former Multnomah County Commissioner

Lynn Peterson, Former Clackamas County Chair

Shane Bemis, Gresham Mayor
LaVonne Griffin-Valade, Former Portland Auditor
Dwight Holton, Former U.S. Attorney
Barbara Willer, Former Multnomah County Commissioner

Business Leaders

Evelyn Bian
Eileen Brady
Peter Bragdon, Columbia Sportswear
Hilda Dibe
Bill Dickey, Morel Ink
Elisa Dozono
Krystal Gema
Debbie Kitchin, InterWorks, LLC
Thomas Landye
David Lorati, School Specialty Company
Bob McKean, Troubled Asset Solutions
Rick Miller, Avamere
Mark New, New & Neville Real Estate
Mary O'Connor & Gabe Schiminovich
Susanne Orton
Nitin Rai, TiE Oregon
Patrick Reiten, PacifiCorp
Paul Rosenbaum, SWR Corp.
Jordan Schnitzer, Harsch Investment Properties
Brian Scott, GXI, Inc.
Junki Yoshida, The Yoshida Group
Marianne Zarkin, Marianne Zarkin Landscape Architects
Mac Prichard, Prichard Communications

Community Leaders

Randy & Erin Acker
Rukaiyah Adams, Meyer Memorial Trust
Sarah Ames
Kim Bronz & David Spiro
Frank Bird
Ed Blackburn, Central City Concern
Clariner Boston, Better People
Duncan Campbell, Friends of the Children
Stephen Cassell, CODA
Nena Cook, Former Member of Oregon Commission on Women
Gerry Frank, Chief of Staff to former U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield

Mary Ellen Glynn
Tim Hartnett
Laura Imeson
Elizabeth Leach, Elizabeth Leach Gallery
Carol Lewis
Kathleen Lewis
Teri Lorenzen, Raphael House
Nichole Maher, Northwest Health Foundation
Juan Martinez
Robert McCullough, SE UPlift
Charles McGee, Black Parent Initiative
Robert McKean, Former Superintendent of Centennial School District
Bruce Murray
Rick Nitti, Neighborhood House
Wajdi Said, Institute for Muslim-Christian Understanding
Rachel Sample
Bob Shiprack, Former Exec. Sec. Oregon State Building & Construction Trades Council
Nina Portwood Shields
Doug Stamm, Meyer Memorial Trust
Deborah Steinkopf, Bradley Angle
Heather Weigler, Former President of Oregon Women Lawyers
*Organizations for identification purposes only

Organizations

Communication Workers of America Local 7901
Carpenters Union Local 271
Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48
Bricklayers Local 1
Cement Masons Local 555
Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens

What role do the arts and culture play in the life of our region and what do the arts personally mean to you and your family?

Arts and culture are a critical component of our region and Portland has long been recognized as a destination for the artistic community. Art has always been extremely important to me and my family, and it is important that we nurture and expand our support for the arts in a meaningful and proactive way.

How will you address the growing affordability crisis in our region for artists, arts organizations, and small arts businesses as it relates to housing and creative space?

I have consistently been a strong critic of the affordability crisis and the terrible impact it has had on our City. To address the issue of residential affordability I have proposed the creation of a city office within the Housing Bureau dedicated to landlord-tenant affairs; a Just Cause eviction requirement; improvements that will result in more affordable housing construction; and an improved application and rental process. We must apply these same protections and parameters when possible to help keep creative non-residential space affordable, as well. We cannot underestimate the importance of these spaces for artists working to share their art with the community.

How will you foster the growth of the creative economy in our region?

I will foster the growth of our creative economy by working as an active partner with the arts community throughout the City. The City government should be dedicated to building strong partnerships with arts organizations and artists in general to make sure that Portland's art community stays on the map and is renowned and appreciated locally and outside of the City. I will continue to proudly support the Percent for Art program and explore new avenues to increase revenue for art programs.

How will you enhance the delivery of and support for arts education in school and neighborhood settings?

It is lamentable that arts education has been systemically underfunded and placed low on the priority list as educational institutions develop curriculum. The City must stand strong in support of arts programs in schools and make sure that education measures treat art programs as a critical and inseparable part of school curriculum. I believe that elected officials must also hold schools accountable and work to ensure that arts programs are adequately funded and equally available in all schools, regardless of the economic standing or location of a neighborhood or school district. While the Arts Tax has provided a consistent stream of funding for Arts teachers, more should be done to ensure we are collecting the revenues and encouraging compliance.

How will you further the values of equity and access to the arts and culture? What do you see as the biggest challenges to progress in this area?

It is extremely important to me that we increase accessibility to the arts for communities that have been traditionally underserved in this regard. One of the biggest challenges in this area stems from the fact that art programs have often been difficult to access for those with limited economic options.

What other public policies would you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of our region?

The Arts community is effected as much – perhaps more so – than others by livability and affordability. Both these factors are under pressure in Portland, and my agenda and platform seek to address these challenges head on.

The following question is for candidates in City of Portland contests only. Do you support the voter-approved Arts Education and Access Fund and do you commit to maintaining it? What changes, if any, would you make to improve its administration?

I do support the Arts Education and Access Fund and I am committed to maintaining it.

The following question is for candidates in City of Portland, Clackamas County, Multnomah County, or Washington County contests only. Each year, you will have the opportunity to vote to approve a budget for arts funding through the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC). Do you commit to maintaining or increasing this budget allocation and funding level?

I am committed to maintain the funding budget for the Regional Arts and Culture Council and would consider increased budget allocations depending upon the budget environment.