

Candidate Engagement

Candidate Questionnaire | 2020 Primary Election

The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes the opportunity to engage with candidates in our local non-partisan elections for the 2020 May Primary. While the Eugene Chamber will not be issuing endorsements for this election, we will provide opportunities for candidates to engage our members and for our members to be informed and evaluate candidates based on their alignment with the values of the business community.

Answers to the questions below will serve in evaluating candidates who are running in various local non-partisan races and may be available on the Chamber of Commerce's website. Please complete the following if you wish to participate in the Eugene Chamber of Commerce's candidate engagement process:

Full Name: Patricia W. Perlow (Patty)

Position running for: Lane County District Attorney

Campaign Email: patty@daperlow.org

Campaign Website (if applicable): daperlow.org

Please provide a brief bio including your professional background, volunteerism and any affiliations with local businesses or organizations.

I have been an Oregonian all my life and a Lane County resident since 1986. I graduated from the UO Law School in 1989 and was a Lane County Circuit Court judicial clerk until I started in the Lane County District Attorney's office as a prosecutor on January 31, 1990. I have been there ever since, prosecuting every level of offense including crimes of violence, property crimes, drug crimes and traffic crimes. I was a trial team supervisor before becoming Chief Deputy DA in 2009, where I managed the personnel and budget matters. On July 31, 2015, I was appointed District Attorney after a contested appointment process and was elected in the May 2016 primary.

I am on the boards of the Relief Nursery and Kids FIRST. I also serve on the Public Safety Coordinating Council, the boards of the three Lane County treatment courts, the Lane Victim Impact Panel and the Oregon District Attorney's Association.

I am not specifically affiliated with any business organizations, though the work of my office has an impact on the business community. My office has prosecuted embezzlers, burglars, and robbers who have a direct impact on the affected businesses.

Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.

I am running to continue the work I started in 2016 to take us from the mindset of emphasizing the things we can't do for lack of resources to what we can do as part of the whole public safety system with what we do have. And working together with my public safety partners, I have managed to obtain grants to create programs to get people out of the criminal justice system, to create a team to address sexual assaults on the UO campus, to conduct follow up investigations on traffic crashes and driving under the influence of intoxicant cases, improve services to victims of crime, and successfully collect child support for Lane County children. I am currently working on opening a shelter and resource center for homeless and runaway youth and to get 'round the clock medical assessments for sexual assault victims working with the Lane County Sexual Assault Response Team.

What individuals or organizations are either supporting your campaign, or are you seeking an endorsement from?

I am endorsed by:

Sheriff Cliff Harrold; Sheriff Byron Trapp (ret.); Lane County D.A. Doug Harclerod (Ret.); Lane County Assessor Mike Cowles; Lane County Commissioners Buch, Berney, Farr, Sorenson and Bozievich; Union County D.A. Kelsie McDaniel, Crook County D.A. Wade Whiting, Clackamas County D.A. John Foote; Jackson County D.A. Beth Heckert; Washington County D.A. Kevin Barton; Benton County D.A. John Haroldson; Linn County D.A. Doug Marteeny; Douglas County D.A. Rick Wesenberg; Jefferson County D.A. Steven Leriche; Lane County Circuit Court Judge Lyle Velure (ret.); Democratic Party of Lane County; Lane County Prosecuting Attorney's Association; Lane County Peace Officers Association; Eugene Police Employees Association; Florence Police Department Employees Association; Springfield Police Association; Crime Victims United; The Register Guard; The Eugene Weekly; Paul Solomon; Grace Serbu.

Do you have a fundraising plan for your campaign?

I have raised almost \$60,000 to date, the old fashioned way of making calls and sending out email pleas. My goal is \$70,000 to compete with my opponents single source \$100,000.

If elected, what is your number one priority?

My number one priority is public safety for Lane County residents and visitors. Achieving public safety requires more than one initiative. Criminal prosecution of offenders and treatment for those who are ready to leave the criminal justice system are key components. But to truly achieve public safety, we have to start with keeping kids safe and helping them to adulthood to be good citizens. My work inside and outside the office is with that objective in mind.

What important leadership skill would you bring to the position and how would these skills be applicable to the business community.

My best skill is bringing the right people together to solve a problem. Making all those fundraising calls gave me the opportunity to "meet" a number of business owners and leaders in the community with whom I haven't worked previously. There are a lot of smart, committed people here who, if brought into the right problem solving group, will make a tremendous difference for our communities.

The business community in Eugene is critical to our community's long-term viability. How would you propose that you, as an elected official, work with the business community to ensure that fees, taxes, regulatory structures, tax incentives and service philosophy allow businesses to be successful?

This question is truly outside my sphere of influence or expertise. I will continue to support local business personally and professionally within the bounds of my authority.

How does your role as an elected official impact the health of the business community?

Providing a safe community directly impacts the health of the business community. While only the felony cases from within the boundaries of Eugene are referred to my office, I am actively involved in a number of initiatives to resolve problems that affect Eugene including working on the Mental Health Summit and to provide a shelter and resource center for homeless youth. If people perceive the community is unsafe, the business community suffers. And now that the economy is in such a terrible

state, it is even more important to keep people with the right job skills in the community to help the recovery.

How would you involve the business community in a discussion about the future of our community?

The people in the business community are problem solvers. Representatives from the business community should be at the table on all of the major initiatives. I will encourage the Public Safety Coordinating Council to create a seat for a representative of the business community. We have “lay person” positions, but they are not specifically identified as a member of the business community. From that seat, the representative of the business community will have direct impact on how public safety is achieved in Lane County.

What strategies would you support to control government spending to lessen the need to increase taxes, fees or other charges.

To be completely transparent, because I represent all of Lane County, I actually would support an increase of some kind to bring back rural patrol in the Sheriff’s Office. Our highways are unsafe in Lane County, our traffic fatality rate is among the highest, and at any given time, there may only be two deputies covering 46,000 square miles to take reports of domestic violence, burglaries, rapes and unsafe drivers.

My office is a department within Lane County and my budget comes from the general fund which is subject to property tax limitations (as is the Sheriff’s). We lost 30% of the staff in 2012 because Lane’s economy had not recovered from the 2008 recession (we are always late to take the hit and late to recover). I was appointed July 31, 2015. By 2016, I had obtained enough grant money to bring us back to capacity. In the past two years, the economy was booming and the property tax collections allowed for the Board to back fill where the grant money had run out, though I continued to seek additional grant funding. This year, it is expected that property tax collections will be dramatically affected by the hit the economy has taken. I will continue to seek grant funding to keep us from the experience of 2012. That is not a sustainable funding strategy, but I will do what is necessary to continue full prosecution and child support collection, if at all possible.

Please return completed questionnaire to:

Tiffany Edwards, Director of Business Advocacy

Email: TiffanyE@EugeneChamber.com

Fax: 541-484-4942

Phone: 541-242-2352

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Full Name: **James Cleavenger**

Position running for: **Lane County District Attorney**

Campaign Email: **CleavengerForDA@gmail.com**

Campaign Website (if applicable): **www.CleavengerForDA.com**

Please provide a brief bio including your professional background, volunteerism and any affiliations with local businesses or organizations.

I'm running for Lane County District Attorney to bring **accountability, fairness, transparency, and trust** *back* to our criminal justice system.

For decades, our District Attorneys, including the current one, have been hand-picked by their predecessors and usually run unopposed, a trend that is fundamentally undemocratic in its side-stepping of the American tradition of free and fair elections. It's time to break this cycle of nepotism and ensure that the next person to fill this office is chosen by the people.

As an attorney, police officer, and recent whistle-blower against the corrupt upper rung of a local police department, I've proven to have the experience and courage necessary to challenge the status-quo and reshape the DA's office to *actually* reflect our community's values. In keeping with those values,

I've pledged to, unlike my opponent, not accept *any* corporate money whatsoever into my campaign, including from law firms or any other type of business.

I've been a Lane County resident for 15 years. As a licensed attorney since 2009 (WSBA #41398, OSB #175732, JD-University of Oregon 2008, LLM-University of Liverpool 2005, BA-DePaul University 2002, and coursework at Harvard and Oxford), I worked for four years in Federal Court in Eugene for US District Judge Michael McShane, and I'm now in part-time private practice in Eugene. As a police officer, I've served the communities of **Junction City** (2000-2014), **Coburg** (2014-2017), and **Oakridge** (2017-present), where I've seen first-hand how the current system is failing and the damage that does to the community. With your help, I will fix what's broken in our system.

I currently serve on the City of Oakridge Parks & Community Services Committee, which works to make the city more livable and attractive to new residents as well as to new businesses, through planning and grant applications. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Mountain Respite & Mission Animal Rescue Center.

Please share with us your primary reason for running in this election and what impact you would like to make in the community.

As the next District Attorney of Lane County, these are my priorities:

1. **Treating *all* Lane County cities equally**, regardless of size.
2. Supporting **alternatives to mass incarceration** while still recognizing that in many cases prison *is* the only solution; this will include **increased funding for mental health and drug addiction treatment services** and justice reinvestment programs, all of which are proven to reduce recidivism and homelessness.
3. Creating a ***separate* trauma-informed sexual assault clinic** for survivors.
4. **Increasing transparency** by *immediately* releasing police video and information after major incidents and collecting and releasing demographic data related to prosecutions.
5. **Improving relationships** with law enforcement, community groups, and elected officials.
6. **Providing annual legal training** (by me) at *all* Lane County law enforcement agencies.
7. **Increasing diversity** at the DA's office and instituting a **uniform hiring process**.

8. **Increasing accountability** by creating a **Citizens Advisory Committee** to the DA's office.

For more information on my platform, please visit www.CleavengerForDA.com

What individuals or organizations are either supporting your campaign, or are you seeking an endorsement from?

Marty Wilde, Oregon State Representative, 11th District

Claire Syrett, Eugene City Councilor, 7th Ward

Hon. Gary Carl, retired Judge

Clayton Tullos, defense attorney and 2016 candidate for Lane County DA

Jason Kafoury, Attorney

Mark McDougal, Attorney

Ray Smith, Coburg Mayor

Larry Larson, Police Chief

Kevin Martin, Police Chief and Oakridge School Board member

Kathy Holston, Oakridge Mayor

Chrissy Hollett, Oakridge City Council President, EMT/Firefighter

Dawn Kinyon, Oakridge City Council

Paul Forcum, Oakridge City Council

Trisha Maxfield, Oakridge City Council

Bobbie Whitney, Oakridge City Council, DHS Caseworker

John McClelland, Oakridge City Council

Matt Meske, Westfir Mayor

Thalia Lerin, Westfir City Councilor

Stephan Ball, Lead Writer for the Oregon Conservative, retired OKPD Officer

Andrea Ceniga, Junction City City Councilor and former JCPD & Florence Police Officer

Ken Jackson, retired Junction City Police Officer & SRO

Corey Mertz, retired Junction City Police Officer

Gary & Jane Mertz, lifelong Lane County residents

Ken & Jan Hooker, retired Junction City 911 Dispatcher

Kyle Lakey, real estate agent, former Junction City Police Officer

Michael J. Kello, retired state Court officer, owner of Kelldog Enterprises in Florence

Trudy Hammond, Executive Director of Mountain Respite & Mission Animal Rescue Center

Brock Butterfield, professional snowboarder & Bus Fair founder

The Oregon Conservative News

Additional Endorsements are pending approval and will be posted at www.cleavengerforda.com/endorsements-support when finalized.

Do you have a fundraising plan for your campaign?

From the start of my campaign, my plan has been to raise money from individuals only and to not accept donations from law firms, corporations, or any other businesses of any kind. To date, I've been able to adhere to this plan while still bringing in enough money to continue running a viable campaign. I've raised approximately \$108,000.00, all contributions coming from individual people and over 99% of those funds coming from Oregonians living in Lane County specifically. The fact that I continue to draw these individual contributions is proof that the people of Lane County are also ready for a change in leadership and want to make sure their votes count.

For more information on my fundraising plan, please visit www.cleavengerforda.com/donate

If elected, what is your number one priority?

As the next District Attorney of Lane County, my top priority is to **increase transparency** at an office that has sorely needed it for several years. I'll do this by instituting a policy to immediately release all pertinent police video footage and other relevant information after major incidents, collecting and releasing demographic data related to prosecutions, creating fair and uniform hiring practices across the county, and creating a Citizens Advisory Committee to provide oversight and input directly from a community that for years has lacked a full voice in matters that have an immediate impact on its health and well-being.

What important leadership skill would you bring to the position and how would these skills be applicable to the business community.

Courage, backed up by a clear sense of right and wrong. When I sued the University of Oregon Police Department for wrongful termination after blowing the whistle on the then-chief for her improprieties, all I heard was I couldn't win against such a big and powerful institution. I tuned out the naysayers and persisted, not only for my own interests, but for those of anyone else who's afraid of being pushed aside, or worse, just because they're willing to stand up and speak out when they see something wrong. I never have and never will be one who tolerates corruption or nepotism at any institution I'm a part of, and the same motives that guided me in my suit against the corruption at the top of the

University of Oregon police department will guide me as I make the Lane County District Attorney's Office transparent and fair.

The business community in Eugene is critical to our community's long-term viability. How would you propose that you, as an elected official, work with the business community to ensure that fees, taxes, regulatory structures, tax incentives and service philosophy allow businesses to be successful?

I intend to work openly and honestly with the Eugene business community in any way they and my office see fit, especially given the certainty that the entire Oregon economy will be dramatically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as it already has been. My main economic concern under ideal conditions, and especially as we come out of this pandemic, is to avoid automatically increasing taxes or fees on local businesses wherever possible, as doing so is never in the best interests of maintaining a good economy or revitalizing one that has been ravaged the way ours has been recently. There are more innovative and less punitive ways to restart an economy, and I intend to explore those with the help of the Eugene business community.

How does your role as an elected official impact the health of the business community?

As an elected official, I would promote the local business community at every opportunity and I'd continue to preach the undeniable value of keeping government spending as local as possible. Specifically, I'd support the following policy measure: When contract bidding for products or services, any local bids within 5% of the lowest submitted bid should be accepted over non-local bids. And by reducing rates of recidivism and homelessness, the District Attorney's office can and will help local businesses thrive by lowering cyclical crime rates, which have a measurable negative impact on businesses across the country.

How would you involve the business community in a discussion about the future of our community?

I am a strong believer in civilian and community oversight of government at all levels. This is why I've proposed creating a Citizens Advisory Committee to the District Attorney's office, which would meet monthly to give input on policy decisions directly to the District Attorney. Law Enforcement agencies have similar oversight and advisory groups and the DA's office should too. Doing this will help me deliver on my top priority of increasing transparency and helping establish sound civic policy. I would encourage members of the business community to participate by joining this committee.

What strategies would you support to control government spending to lessen the need to increase taxes, fees or other charges.

Increasing taxes or fees on businesses would not be in the best interests of revitalizing our economy, and I would not seek or support any such increases. There are more innovative and less punitive methods for restarting an economy, and I intend to explore those with the help of the local business community.

Please return completed questionnaire to:

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