

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: Lucy Vinis

Position running for: Mayor

Campaign Email: info@lucyvinis.com

Campaign Website (if applicable): lucyvinis.com

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

Lucy Vinis was elected Mayor of Eugene in 2016 and took office in January 2017.

As a resident of Eugene for 28 years, Lucy Vinis has worked on behalf of the community through her professional career and as a dedicated volunteer. Drawn to Eugene's natural beauty, inviting community, and quality schools, she relocated here from Washington, DC with her late husband, Lawrence Vinis to raise her two sons.

In her professional career, Lucy worked for nonprofits addressing policies around land use, natural resources, agriculture, housing, and homelessness. As mayor, her priorities continue to be addressing the dual challenges of climate change and population growth; increasing the supply of housing people

can afford; supporting efforts to stabilize people experiencing homelessness; and encouraging equitable economic development.

As mayor, she has chaired the Ad Hoc Work Group on Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance, and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Protection of Individuals and Groups, leading to the adoption of Eugene's sanctuary ordinance. She is the current chair of the Metropolitan Policy Committee, a member of the Public Safety Coordinating Council, and a board member of the Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN), which promotes and supports homegrown emerging businesses. She also serves on the Poverty & Homelessness Board and the HOME Board, which oversees the granting and allocation of federal housing funds.

She is focused increasingly on championing Eugene's emergency preparedness programs, and on creating a culture of inclusiveness as Eugene grows from a large town to a small city and emerges on the world stage.

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 seeking reelection because there is more work to do on issues that are important to the city. I am looking forward to building on the progress we have made in the past three years, and to put my experience to work for the city for another term. In my next four years in office, I will continue to focus on the climate crisis through the Climate Action Program 2.0; push for improved services for the homeless by implementing the TAC recommendations; advocate for inclusive preparedness for emergencies, particularly with respect to the half of our community who are renters and vulnerable to extreme weather events and a possible earthquake; target my attention on housing affordability; and celebrate our increasingly diverse community through projects like the Kindness Campaign as we prepare to welcome the world in August of 2021 for the IAAF World Athletic Championships.

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

I have received an endorsement from the following organizations, elected officials and business leaders: Eugene Realtor Association, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon PAC, United Academics of UO, Teamsters Council 37, Many Rivers Group Sierra Club, Lane Professional Firefighters Local 851, Lane County Central Labor Chapter, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555, Congressman DeFazio, Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle, Former Mayor Piercy, City Councilors Zelenka, Syrett, Yeh and Pryor, State Senator Manning and Prozanski, State Representative Holvey and Wilde, County Commissioner Buch, LCC Board Members Rosie Pryor, Lisa Fragala and Melanie Muenzer, 4J Board Members Judy Newman, Mary Walston, Martina Shabram and Gordon Lafer, EWEB Commissioners Sonya Carlson and Mindy Schlossberg, Jen Bell & Dave Funk owners of bell+funk, Teresa Damron owner of Sperry Tree

Care, Shawn Donille owner of Mountain Rose Herbs, Isaac Judd owner of Hearthstone Real Estate, Thomas Pettus-Czar owner of the Barn Light, Julie Tilt owner of Hummingbird Wholesale, Marilyn Milne owner of Public Relations Services, Caroline Cummings Executive Director of Oregon RAIN and Sherie Hawley owner of Hawley & Associates Real Estate. We are seeking endorsements from the Eugene-Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Eugene Police Employees Association, the Carpenters Local 271 and the Building Trades Union.

Do you have a fundraising plan for your campaign?

Yes. Our campaign aims to raise between \$85,000 and \$100,000. We have raised a little over \$51,000 as of March 5th.

If elected, what is your number one priority?

My top priority continues to be alleviating the suffering of our homeless community. This starts by ensuring every part of the TAC report is carried out and I am committed to seeing that happen. In order for our City to continue growing, we must be committed to making it easier for people to stabilize their lives here. This means building more affordable housing and creating good paying jobs as well as investing in mental health and addiction services to give people the support they need to be stable.

I am also committed to connecting our actions on climate change to housing, transportation and economic growth. Eugene is facing a problem that many cities have faced before us; we are largely a suburban community that is growing into a more urban environment. Largely, that begins with transit, biking and walking. It also requires us to be thoughtful about the housing we are building. We must prioritize building housing that people can afford and housing that is along key transportation corridors as to make it easier for people who work downtown to get there in a way that is less reliant on cars. Our economy is also growing. We must have our sights set on job creation, supporting our small businesses and fairness in the workplace.

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

I am committed, as Mayor, to continuing to bring underrepresented voices to the table and reaching across the aisle to create solutions and pass policies here in Eugene that benefit everyone. I led the way for our City to create an Equity Panel to engage communities of color, who are not broadly or often represented in our policy discussions, to reflect on climate impacts on their lives. These conversations are a model and lead to broader conversations about authentic and diverse representation. This means that we must support our local business owners, especially women and minority businesses, to ensure that they have the support needed to succeed. I believe in supporting

our businesses and fueling economic development in Eugene as a way to create equal job opportunities for everyone. I have championed the City's investment in several city-wide initiatives including supporting job training programs, investing in local businesses, and bringing in new, diverse ranges of housing options to give our students and graduates opportunities to settle here in our city.

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?

As Mayor, I know how important it is for the City Council, Chamber of Commerce as well as the business community as a whole to have good communication. Continuing to have two way conversations allows the City Council to proceed thoughtfully through policy decisions and gives them the ability to see the full impact of policies on our business community. The work the Council and Chamber did to come to a compromise on the Construction Excise Tax is just one example of the way that two way communication allows for us to come to compromises that work for everyone.

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

As Mayor, I am committed to including business leaders in our city conversations. I have worked closely with the Chamber through my first term as Mayor on projects like the Construction Excise Tax and the Parks and Recreation SDCs. I am also interested in setting up regular lunches or meetings with members of the business communities in order to increase our communication between the City and business community. I would also like to work with our City Manager to do more specific outreach and setting up a more formal and intentional system for the City Council to be able to communicate with our business community. We have so far left it to the Chamber of Commerce but I would like to be more focused and intentional about our outreach.

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

We are a growing community, and it is clear to me that we are struggling to meet the needs of a growing community with the current tax base we have. Short of a major tax reform in the State of Oregon, the City of Eugene has to make some thoughtful decisions about where we are spending our tax dollars, what revenue streams we are using and what our general capacity is. I do agree that as we look at our taxes on businesses and property taxes, we are reaching a breaking point. We must keep a conversation going about our priorities and how much our community is prepared to spend. I value and want to work on the City of Eugene's communication with the business community and as mentioned

before, the Construction Excise Tax is a great example of the Chamber supporting a policy because we took the time to be thoughtful and deliberative about our work.

As a member of an elected body, how would you work with your colleagues to build relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

My intention and goal is to sit down with as many colleagues as possible and to listen to them with open ears about what they have to say and how their thoughts will contribute to our final decisions. I always try to keep my door open for anyone who wants to talk to me.

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: Matthew Yook

Position running for: Mayor of Eugene

Campaign Email: matthewyook@gmail.com

Campaign Website (if applicable): <http://bit.ly/YookforMayor>

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

From Treasurer to Civic Engagement Coordinating, I've juggled a lot of Data and Spreadsheets. I've been on the We The People - Eugene Steering Committee, OSPIRG Board Member, OSCC Board Member, Asian Council Board Member, Asian American Foundation of Oregon Board Member and Secretary, Asian Celebration Committee, PACAlliance Steering Committee and Web Maintenance.

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

Transparency. I feel there's too many committees making recommendations that aren't accessible to the public, or have them feel like they're being heard. I want to increase that by:

Making all public Televised via the LCOG channel. with podcasting of the audio -- we need to find out how these decisions are being made that the City Council votes to approve.;

Increase Neighborhood Association accessibility by providing food from a neighborhood restaurant, video or audio from the local high school if they have a department, and Childcare from Early Childhood Education Programs. These are needed so we families can participate in neighborhood councils.;

All public meetings will be accessible by video and audio submissions, and we'll open up the ones that don't allow for it now. This would take the front loading off of Monday nights that are now a roulette wheel of privilege. We need to remove barriers from civic engagement as the city grows, not throw more in the way.;

Approved contracts or tax breaks over a certain amount need to have someone available to answer any questions within 48 hours;

Of particular interest to y'all: Invest in manufacturing solar panels, batteries, or other renewable energy infrastructure the old Hynix plant or the manufacturing space off Chad Dr;

and try to work with the TAO again to create a website incubator to help local business to compete with Amazon.

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

City Club Exec Director Silver Mogart, Our Revolution Lane County, AFSCME

Do you have a fundraising plan for your campaign?

I've budgeted capital for the first \$750 filing cap. There's some ADPIA elders I can lean on in the community and some connections in Portland when my candidacy goes past May.

If elected, what is your number one priority?

Bring Eugene Together

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

I've walked two paths all my life, as a Korean Adoptee. This unique duality makes it easy for me to talk to folks from all backgrounds and encourage them to see that we all want to prosper. My ability to see and connect factors and resources helps give folks hope, and helps make the organizations I'm with stronger. As the divide becomes more reactionary and inflammatory, we need to move the conversation to focus on the development of everyone in the community, and I am practiced and versed at that though developing connections.

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?

It's hard to say how much someone should pay from their blood, sweat, and tears. Our funding mechanisms for Oregon are antiquated or broken, and it's stressful seeing fees and taxes piling up for folks in our community. There's been too much reactionary stop gapping on a city level that doesn't seem tied to a longer development plan. I do not know what fees, taxes, regulatory structures, tax incentives would be considered successful for business, but that's a space I hope to grow and learn to make sure the economic drivers of the community still have road to drive on.

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

They need to be at the table

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

I am very Keynesian in my Economic views. "Controlling government spending" is what the

ballot box is for.

Oregon's funding structures are limited and cumbersome, restructuring brackets and taxing luxury apartments would be a good way to make sure small up and coming businesses have a fair shot.

As a member of an elected body, how would you work with your colleagues to build relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

By helping keep the focus on "We're all in this for the community, as members of the community."

Please return completed questionnaire to:
Tiffany Edwards, Director of Business Advocacy
Email: TiffanyE@EugeneChamber.com
Fax: 541-484-4942
Phone: 541-242-2352

Full Name: Zondie Zinke
Position running for: Mayor
Campaign email: zondiez@hotmail.com
Campaign website: N/A

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

I am a mother and an activist for climate and social justice. I work at Looking Glass Community Services. I volunteer delivering survival items to impoverished people in critical condition on the street and occasionally with Burrito Brigade. My greatest business affiliations are as a patron of New Frontier Market, the Kiva, Tsunami Books, Govindas Restaurant, S.A.R.A.'s Treasures, St. Vincent DePaul thrift stores. I am also an intermittent member of the YMCA and of Elevation Boulderling Gym.

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 gravely concerned that the city has not come close to acting as we need to prepare for climate change and prevent the worst effects of climate catastrophe. I am gravely concerned about the perpetuation and criminalization of poverty. I am concerned about racist police profiling and brutality by the Eugene Police and a correspondent lack of truth-telling by the DA and our mayor.

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

I would hope to adequately represent the concerns of indigenous people, XR, Sunrise, 350, Huerta de la Familia, Climate Revolutions by Bike, LILA, Ward 9, House Everyone, Beyond Toxics, NAACP, RECLAIM UO, ESSN, CALC, DSA, Occupy Medical, Peaceworks, ROAR, KEPW, antifascists, the Human Rights Commission, and many vital others.

Do you have a fundraising plan for your campaign?

Grassroots.

If elected, what is your number one priority?

A local Green New Deal.

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

I am practiced in telling the truth and am invigorated by moral imperatives. My skill and disposition in this regard apply to all aspects of community.

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 don't know that I would ensure any of that.

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

I would include all community in plans for a local Green New Deal.

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

I support a wealth tax. I encourage you to extrapolate from my broad position in this regard.

As a member of an elected body, how would you work with your colleagues to build relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

I would speak baldly about broad and specific truths and demonstrate connection to those representing communal concerns.