

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: Randy Groves

Position running for: Eugene City Council, Ward 8

Campaign Email: randy@randygroves.org

Campaign Website (if applicable): www.randygroves.org

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

- Emergency Services Consultant, Emergency Services Consulting International
- Fire Chief and Executive Manager, cities of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon (retired, 2016 after more than 36 years of service to our community)
 - Firefighter through Deputy Fire Chief (Operations Division)
 - Vice President, International Association of Firefighters, Local 851
- Eugene Budget Committee (unanimous City Council appointment in 2019)

I care deeply about our youth, and I've consistently volunteered in support of them. Including:

- Babe Ruth youth baseball coach and board member
- Classroom volunteer
- Events & Field Trips
- Fundraising
- Chain crew at Churchill High School football games

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

I've spent almost 40 years in public service. When I learned from Chris Pryor that he would not seek reelection, I knew this would be an area I could use my years of service, my understanding of the system, and my extensive relationships inside of the city, with our state and regional partners, with labor, and within our community to work for our collective good and hopefully get things moving again on the council.

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

Chris Pryor, Eugene City Councilor Ward 8 (retiring)
Val Hoyle, State Labor Commissioner
Heather Buch, Chair, Lane County Commissioner
Rosie Pryor, LCC board member

Lane Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 851
Eugene Police Employee Association, EPEA
Lane County Central Labor Chapter (LCCLC)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW, Local 280

Homebuilders Association of Lane County
Sierra Club, Many Rivers Group

Anne Marie Levis, 4j school board
Jim Torrey, 4j school board
Mary Walston, 4j school board

John H. Brown
Grace Serbu
Jean Tate
Jenny Ulum

Co-Chair Pete Knox, Eugene Neighborhood Leaders Council
Chief Dennis Murphy (Retired), Founder of FireMed

Mid-Valley Ambulance

25+ Individual Endorsements and more in progress at RandyGroves.org

Do you have a fundraising plan for your campaign?

Yes. To date I have raised just short of \$21,000, and I am still actively pursuing financial and human resources for my campaign. My plan includes connecting with members of our community, business community, labor organizations, and asking people to host parties. My goal is to connect with our community and get my message out.

\$21,000 may seem like a lot, but it's less than half of what we'll need. Anyone interested in donating can do so at RandyGroves.org.

If elected, what is your number one priority?

While I have a number of areas I want to work on, and feel that a number of them are interconnected, addressing our homelessness situation will probably be my top priority. I will tackle homelessness by promoting housing affordability, new job creation, early intervention for our youth, and the TAC report recommendations. The TAC Report on Homelessness provides us with a road map to begin addressing the problem. The City and Lane County both have funds set aside to begin working on areas of the situation, and the State is currently considering funding options for our state's metropolitan areas that are experiencing the largest surge in their population that is experiencing homelessness. I also recognize the adverse impact that certain behaviors are having on our business community.

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

I have a track record of bringing people together, centering them on what we have in common, building relationships, and moving forward with solutions to challenges. As an example, I set the vision and led the merger between the Eugene and Springfield fire departments which resulted in better service at a reduced cost for our two cities. This accomplishment required us to bring two communities, two city councils, two fire management teams, four unions and focus us on a common cause – to provide better service to our communities. During this process, we had to get all seven of our fire protection contract districts, which account for eight contracts, together to support our efforts.

My skills will help our business community move forward in a community that is frequently not aligned around common interests. A big piece of my campaign focuses on maintaining a strong economy that increases its diversity and resilience, and provides living wage jobs for a healthy 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?

This effort begins with building strong relationships and developing a good understanding of our business community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and obstacles, not only collectively, but in specific areas of production and commerce. As elected officials, it is imperative that we understand the "upstream" and "downstream" effects of actions we take (or don't take) in governing our community. I've watched from an executive manager's position as decisions are sometimes made in isolation that don't fully consider their impact on other areas of our system, including their effect on our economy. We frequently seek to solve one problem only to create new problems in other areas.

I intend to be thoughtful, informed, and develop relationships based on trust that will help us thrive as a community. The public safety payroll tax is a good example of where upfront conversations and dialogue led to a successful passage of a funding stream that will help address problems being faced by our community, which includes our business partners. I

understand the importance of business and industry in our community which serves as our economic engine.

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

I have already spoken with Brittany Quick-Warner and Tiffany Edwards to discuss how best to engage the business community if elected. My vision is to try and fold into existing venues to help build relationships, and be a part of regular part of the discussions already taking place. I also have a network of people in the business community whom I can access to learn more about opportunities and challenges presented to, or faced by our community. I will also use this network to receive feedback on decisions before Council. The local economy and jobs, is one my primary campaign pillars and I want to remain engaged and accessible as we work to improve our government/business relationships.

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

As your fire chief, and an executive manager I sat on both Eugene's and Springfield's executive management teams. On that team I consistently looked for ways to control costs without sacrificing the quality of our service, often through innovation and increased efficiency.

The capstone achievement of my tenure as Chief of Department, was to set the vision and lead the merger between the Eugene and Springfield fire departments as discussed above. This required that we bring two cities, two city councils, two executive management teams, two fire management teams, four unions and gain support from seven fire protection contract districts to achieve the merger. The merger improved our service delivery and has saved millions of dollars by increasing efficiency in: management, supply chain, order and distribution, development of SOPs, and supply purchases in larger quantities at a reduced cost per unit. We were also able to streamline our recruitment and selection process while spreading a reduced overhead cost over what was previously two separate systems.

Our low-acuity non-emergency inter-facility patient transports were threatening the stability of our emergency service delivery system. I worked with our firefighters' union to improve the efficiency of our ambulance transport system, which resulted in delegating some of this to another service provider. This allowed us to enhance our capacity while avoiding new costs that we could not afford in a fee for service supported system.

We need to look at the totality of our tax and fee burden and be strategic in how we implement these tax and fee structures. New taxes are easy to justify when considered in isolation, however when assessed collectively, the burden is stressing our business community and our residents, especially our lower wage earners. One challenge I've observed is that our different levels of government only look at how many measures will be on the ballot at the same time rather than asking the question, "what is the cumulative effect?"

I'd like to pay off existing tax obligations, and look deeper into efficiencies that I believe can be obtained in some cases by rethinking how we deliver services. Like the example of our successful fire merger, sometimes the most efficient and effective way to deliver service is to transcend geo-political boundaries.

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

If elected, I'll walk into office with an established relationship with the Mayor, most of the other city councilors, our city's executive management team, and labor. This past summer, I was appointed to the Eugene Budget Committee and was the only applicant to receive a unanimous City Council appointment. The addition of at least two new councilors will present us with an opportunity to build new alignments, partnerships and processes as we move our city forward and during this time I'll build relationships and consensus the same way I did as Fire Chief: by bringing stakeholders together, finding our common goals, and working from there to navigate our community towards the mutual good. The merger of the Eugene and Springfield fire departments was successful because whenever we got off track I brought people back with one simple question: "What's best for the people we serve?" That same ethos is how I will serve on city council.

I am very excited for what we can accomplish over the next four years!

Please return completed questionnaire to:

Tiffany Edwards, Director of Business Advocacy

Email: TiffanyE@EugeneChamber.com

Fax: 541-484-4942

Phone: 541-242-2352

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: Ryan Moore

Position running for: Eugene City Councilor, Ward 8

Campaign Email: Elect.Ryan.Moore@gmail.com

Campaign Website (if applicable): www.MooreForEugene.com

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

I worked as the Court Liaison for Lane County Drug Treatment Court for several years before accepting a position as a Legislative Aide for State Representative John Lively in the 2019 legislative session. I also serve on the Boards of Directors for the Laurel Hill Center and Springfield-Eugene Tenant Association, and I have volunteered extensively with NAMI Lane County. Through these various roles in the community and at multiple levels of government I discovered a passion for advocacy and public service. I believe this will serve me well as a City Councilor.

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

I decided to run for City Council after my partner and I were forced out of our last home due to the ever-rising cost of housing. We were thrown into the depths of the housing crisis and struggled to find something, *anything*, that we could afford. At the final hour, we did manage to secure a new home but I know that many people in Eugene are going through the same struggle and are not so lucky. Especially for my generation, the possibility of becoming a first-time homebuyer is being pushed further and further out of reach and we have a City Council that does not seem to appreciate the magnitude of the problem. Whether it is accessory dwelling units, upzoning, or removing barriers to construction, our city has been unable and/or unwilling to adequately address this crisis.

I bring perspectives and a background that do not currently exist on Council and I am the candidate in this race who is uniquely motivated to push for action. I know that the continued growth of our local business community, from tech to food service, is dependent upon employees being able to find sufficient housing and I believe we are natural allies in this fight. I can be relied upon to champion solutions to this crisis.

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

I was honored that our first organizational endorsement came from the Eugene Association of Realtors. They see me as the candidate most serious about tackling the housing crisis and they chose to support our campaign because of it.

Since then, we have received multiple endorsements from organizations ranging from the Joint Council of Teamsters to the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. We have also received individual endorsements ranging from Isaac Judd at Hearthstone Real Estate, to former Mayor Kitty Piercy, to Rob Zako at Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation, to 4J Budget Committee Member Maya Rabasa, and everything in between. Our full list of 30+ individual endorsements will be live on our campaign website later this week.

Do you have a fundraising plan for your campaign?

Absolutely. Local real estate professionals have been exceptionally generous with their support of our campaign and I am also leveraging many connections forged through my past activism and community involvement. Aside from that, I have been truly humbled by the number of grassroots donors that have seen fit to pitch in and our average contribution is now approximately \$150.

If elected, what is your number one priority?

My number one priority is implementing solutions to the housing crisis and this has two primary facets: 1) making it easier to build housing and 2) making it easier to *be* housed. We must not only remove barriers to construction but also find ways to keep people in their homes when they would otherwise be pushed out onto the streets. I was working in this realm long before I ever considered running for office and I am especially proud of the great things we are doing over at the Springfield-Eugene Tenant Association.

A further focus is doing whatever we can to work with and support our local developers and businesses. Fantastic firms like Arbor South have a more limited capacity when compared to large, out-of-state groups and it should be a priority for our City Council to find ways to better support them. Proactively leveraging local talent, whether that be through city contracting or otherwise, will keep resources in our community and create benefits invested here at home instead of leading to capital flight.

Again, I believe the housing crisis has terrible ramifications for our business community in both the short- and long-terms. Our ability to attract talent and continue growing local prosperity is directly dependent upon our housing inventory. This holds especially true for people my age. Young people should be the great energizers and innovators in our economy but we are instead dampened by higher and higher rents and increasing barriers to homeownership. There is currently no one on City Council with my level of connection to these issues and I will bring a renewed sense of urgency and focus to the table on implementing real solutions.

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

Having co-founded multiple successful non-profit organizations, I am accustomed to working with diverse (and sometimes ideologically opposed) groups of people on common goals and missions. Key to this is my sense of humility and a willingness to listen. I believe this will translate well to the role of

City Councilor. In my view, our Councilors are not supposed to be experts in every field, they are supposed to go out and *interface* with the experts to chart the best path forward for our city. I see the Eugene Chamber as a vital partner in these efforts and your members are certainly our best ears-to-the-ground in terms of our local economy. My perspective is well-informed by having worked for State Representative John Lively and by seeing firsthand how such a productive relationship can function.

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?

Our small business owners are the job creators that drive our economic future. I appreciate how tightly squeezed many of you have become and the razor-thin margins under which you operate, and I take seriously any threat to your wellbeing. Conversely, taxes, fees, and regulations can also be used to strengthen our local economic vitality and I believe we have a good potential example before us right now. Recently, City Council considered several modest regulations over short-term rentals in Eugene including a small annual licensing fee and several components to bring this new industry closer to the expectations we have for established sectors like hotels and bed-and-breakfasts. I have spoken out on this issue for several reasons, not the least of which being that we need to create a level playing field. Advocates for housing, neighborhood livability, and business seem to be united on this front and my hope is that Council will value our concerns.

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

To summarize my answers above, I see the business community as our best ears-to-the-ground of our local economy. As the experts in the field, City Council ought to be involving them in discussions of things like housing, climate, and other topics with economic impacts. From my perspective, we have already taken collaborative approaches in many of these areas and this is to the benefit of all. I will continue this proactive communication strategy.

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

First off, I see many possible solutions for housing affordability that do not require tax or fee increases. Indeed, some of the biggest barriers to increasing our supply of housing *are* taxes and fees. I support lowering and/or scaling things like system development charges to reduce government burden on our builders.

Much of my background is in the non-profit and mental health sectors where the best practice is often to decentralize client engagement and treatment. This approach is highly relevant to several local issues, especially the conversations surrounding homelessness. Aside from relationship- and community-based engagement leading to better health outcomes, it also tends to be vastly more cost-effective. By leveraging city resources through our local abundance of social service agencies, we can attain maximal gain with relatively minimal input of tax revenue. The city's and county's new approach to this issue is very much in line with my philosophy and I will bring added momentum to this practice.

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

In organizer circles there is a term called, "Inside-outside strategy." Essentially, this entails people on the inside of a decision-making process working to persuade their colleagues while simultaneously building a movement to apply pressure from outside the process. In the context of my role on City Council, this means I plan to not only participate in discussions and meetings with my fellow Councilors but I will also proactively engage with our community to identify and build broad collaboration amongst stakeholders. There are many specific tactics I will use to this end but it is important to note that not many of them are currently being employed by our City Councilors. From basic ideas like maintaining a regular newsletter, to more complex ones like issue-specific town halls in certain neighborhoods, I am eager to pour my heart and soul into this work. It is also worth mentioning to this audience that I view the Chamber as one of the important stakeholder groups in this approach and I look forward to our collaboration.

Please return completed questionnaire to:

Tiffany Edwards, Director of Business Advocacy

Email: TiffanyE@EugeneChamber.com

Fax: 541-484-4942

Phone: 541-242-2352