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Respondent

5

Anonymous

2993:28

Time to complete

1. Name & office you are seeking *

Amber Sherrill, City Council Ward 4

2. New development activity has an impact on home cost, access and ultimately affordability. In 2019 the City of Missoula Office of Housing and Community Development presented a city housing policy outlining several private and public sector regulatory reform and development incentives. As a Council Member, what specific policies would you pursue to address the community's housing shortage? *

I am supportive of policies that encourage density as well as transportation. I believe land banking and partnering will be critical in easing up our vacancy rate and encouraging affordability.

3. Missoula is currently undergoing zoning "*code reform*"; what three changes would you propose for the update? *

Since we are currently reviewing of our existing code, I am waiting for our consultants suggested changes before proposing updates. Again, I am interested in density, transportation as well as incentivizing sustainable building practices.

4. A quarter of Missoula's workforce lives outside Missoula County. It is estimated that the lost property tax from commuters is in excess of \$6.6 million per year. As a member of the City Council what would you do to encourage people to live within the City? *

Having places for them to live that are affordable is the biggest challenge in my opinion. Developing long term affordable housing as well as just more housing is obviously important. Making the building permit process more predictable and streamlined would be a big step forward.

5. State Law provides for tax increment financing (TIF) and urban renewal districts. TIF is used within urban renewal districts to combat blight and promote economic development. However, critics of TIF say that these urban renewal districts can be in place for many years, and TIF diverts property tax revenue away from schools and local governments. What changes to TIF statutes would you recommend, if any, to respond to citizen concerns? *

I think TIF is wildly misunderstood by the public. I would first suggest better communication on how it works and that economic development takes time. I do believe we need to be more cognizant of and careful about extending the life of the districts. This is an issue I am interested in looking into in more detail.

6. Do you support the City's anti-discrimination ordinance? How would you support Fair Housing for all in Missoula? *

Yes, I support this ordinance. Since Fair Housing is a Federal statute like ADA, I obviously support those laws.

7. Property taxes are the primary source of funding for Montana cities. The City of Missoula's property tax rate has steadily increased over the last decade, putting additional financial pressure on the cost of housing. Given limited funding opportunities how would you prioritize city services? *

Public health and safety needs to be our first priority, and I believe climate change is one of our public health and safety issues. Infrastructure and those basic services is second. There are obviously many other competing interests that need to be balanced as best we can with limited resources.

8. What, if any, local option tax(es) would you support? *

I would support and advocate for a local option sales tax focused on tourist spending as well as luxury goods.

9. As a member of the City Council what do you believe should be the top three priorities for the City? *

Housing, Climate Change mitigation. Property Taxes

10. Given the upcoming zoning code reform project, what are the two to three resources that you will use to make informed decisions? *

Consultants, staff, developers and environmental partners.

11. Treasurer's Name, Address and Phone Number *

Barbara Berens

12. Will you accept REALTOR® Political Action Committee campaign contributions? *

☐ Yes

☒ No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.