

Hi, my name is Ryan A. Farmer, and I am running for Portland City Commissioner.

I moved to Portland in 2008 to attend Lewis & Clark Law School, and have made this city my home ever since. Since that time, we have seen great changes come to Portland. We came out of the recession and started to grow again. Half-built construction was finished and new businesses were opened. Then new construction began. Portland became a haven for people looking for a great cultural and affordable living, and we felt proud.

And then came more new construction. Old venerable buildings were demolished and in their place rose new. Businesses were purchased, and then consolidated. Housing prices started going up, and up, and up again. Parking was lost as our roads became increasingly crowded, and our food pods began to disappear.

Now, most rental housing costs about double what it did 10 years ago. We grew, but our infrastructure didn't. Our amazing public transit system shrank, with only about 6% of Portlanders using it. Portland is now ranked in the top 10 cities in America with the worst traffic. We were supposed to be bike-friendly, but the percentage of commuters that bike is lower now than five years ago. And our homeless population has sprawled into an epidemic, with tens of thousands of homeless people within the city.

Our city has stalled. We see massive housing developments maintaining high rent, and commercial space sitting empty. We say "keep Portland weird" while our local businesses close one after another, or are driven out so their space can be sold and demolished for generic space. Portland, we can do more for ourselves.

We can do more to make renting affordable by scaling rent to income.

We can do more to make transportation not just efficient, but clean, affordable, and safe, by dedicating local roads to small personal vehicles and bringing back fareless transit.

We can do more to ease the burden of homelessness on all of us by setting up safe zones for homeless people within the city and reminding the State that it is *their* duty to address the root causes of homelessness, not just Portlanders.

This is why I am running for office, because I believe we can do more for ourselves than we have been doing. I'm going to work to do more, and I hope you will join me.

My name is Ryan A. Farmer, and I am running for Portland City Commissioner. Thank you, and vote 2020.

Sources:

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