

Brian O'Neill

I am running for the Clackamas County Commissioner position 4.

I am a life-long Oregonian and have lived in Clackamas County for nearly sixty years. I attended North Clackamas public schools through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and graduated from LaSalle High School in Milwaukie in 1979. I have been married to my best friend for 40 years, and we have four adult children. All of them attended and graduated from public schools in Clackamas County. We have six granddaughters, four of whom attend Clackamas County schools, and the two youngest will attend once they reach school age.

I am running for County Commissioner because Clackamas County leaders are not listening. We are not getting our needs met. We can do a great deal more with a 2-Billion-dollar budget to serve our community if we spend our time and resources prioritizing what our businesses, cities, and citizens need.

After graduating from high school, I joined the Ironworkers Local 29 Apprenticeship Program and graduated in 1983. I have spent 47 years working in the trade, during which I worked my way up from a Certified Journeyman to my current position as Northwest Regional Manager for JD Steel, with its corporate office located in Phoenix, Arizona. This path included many different responsibilities, including crew supervision, developing and managing budgets, interpersonal relations, billing and paying invoices, and project management.

I was active with the North Clackamas School District when my adult children attended public school. I was the President of the Putnam Youth Basketball program for 8 years and coached youth sports for 12 years. I served on the bond committee for constructing the new Clackamas High School and numerous other district-funded projects. I was on the fund board and advisory committee at Mclaughlin Jr. High.

My priorities for Clackamas County.

Roads, Bridges, and infrastructure

Affordable housingLow-income housing,

Child care,

Developing a budget that benefits the needs of our community

Attracting new businesses and reaching out to current businesses

Developing a Mental Health Awareness program

Holding regular public Zoom calls for updates

Roads, Bridges, and Infrastructure: This includes sidewalks, crosswalks with traffic signals on major roadways, and bike and walking paths.

The first item is to identify projects. The Second is to prioritize. Third, put in place a long-term plan to address them, and fourth, develop a long-term budget to fund these projects. Spreading over time, we can achieve these goals. If additional funding is needed, we can reach out to the state (ODOT) or seek grants to support these programs.

Affordable Housing, Low-Income Housing:

The first step is to identify properties and locations that could accommodate this need. I think reaching out to Habitat for Humanity to understand how their programs work and using some of their tools to accomplish the county's goals would be helpful. Funding may be difficult, but as I mentioned above, grants, state, and federal funding could be available. Some of this funding could require the county to provide matching funding, which I consider a priority. Funding for this program needs to be a long-term commitment. We would need help from TriMet to provide transportation to and from any location we identify.

Childcare

Our children are the future of this County. Currently, with both parents working away from home to make ends meet, we need to develop a program to help them support their children so they can thrive. I would be willing to find a way to provide long-term funding for a portion of childcare costs, if not all. This would include helping childcare providers set up in the county. The lack of providers in the county is a major issue.

Developing a budget that works:

I vow to go through the budget line by line to determine which items are needed, which are underfunded or overfunded, and which can be scaled back and/or eliminated altogether. I will ask the community to weigh in on any decision before implementation. Keep in mind that there are four other commissioners, and I would need at least two of them to agree with my recommendations.

Attracting new business:

We need to open our arms for those willing to relocate or start a business in Clackamas County. We can't wait for them to come to us. We need to be proactive and reach out. What are their needs, and how can we support them? This includes reaching out to our current businesses, to ask about their needs. Something I currently see is lacking in Clackamas County.

Readiness plan.

We live in an area with the possibility of Weather, flooding, wildfires, and earthquakes. I would like to see a one-page handout that provides contact information to all citizens and businesses that can be placed in a safe place for easy access.

Mental Health Awareness Day.

Every year in May, I want to sponsor a one-day event geared towards mental health. This would bring in guest speakers and mental health professionals, with tables around the perimeter for anyone who needs help, or for those who need help recognizing someone in crisis. This event would also provide additional resources for someone seeking help or wanting to help someone in crisis,

Town Hall Zoom call:

I propose a town hall Zoom call every few months to provide an update on the county's status and direction. I will also provide a social media site that allows the community to submit comments and concerns directly to my team without being rerouted through the front desk.

Wth your help, we can make these changes. VOTE in May.