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31 Cushman St. #2 Portland

+ THE PROGRESSIVE PORTLAND 2016 CITY COUNCIL SCORECARD



Greetings!

You're holding the first annual Progressive Portland City Council scorecard

This scorecard started when a group of Progressive Portland members went looking for information on the voting records of their city councilors and discovered that the information was surprisingly hard to find.

Frequently, the *Press Herald* doesn't list who voted which way on key split votes on the council. And to find the votes on the city's website, you have to go through PDF copies of council meeting minutes that include so much obscure shorthand and legal jargon that the average constituent is at a loss.

In developing the scorecard, we selected votes that we believe represent the key progressive values shared by the majority of Portland voters: Racial justice and gender equity. Strong public schools. Great public parks. Access to health care. Affordable housing for people who work and live here. A clean environment. Sane drug policy. A welcoming community for immigrants. An end to corporate handouts. An economy that serves the interests of working people, not just wealthy businesses.

Like all scorecards, this document by itself is insufficient to evaluate the performance of any

elected official. By sticking to objective, hard data, we are unable to factor in less quantifiable but often very important aspects of councilors' work, such as constituent service or leadership on key issues.

We also recognize that not everyone will agree with our view on the "right" vote was on any given issue. All the councilors believe their votes were the right votes, and most of the time, they can articulate clear reasons why.

This scorecard is intended to be a conversation starter, not a conversation ender. It's our take, from a progressive point of view. Portland is a place where many views thrive, so we know our view is not the only one.

We believe transparency and public accountability are essential for democracy. Elected officials should expect to be asked to explain their votes, even—and especially—to constituents who disagree with them.

We look forward to continuing the conversation. As always, thanks for all you do for Portland.

Sincerely,

The Progressive Portland Steering Committee: Bill Linnell, Karin Roland, Marena Blanchard, Michael Langenmayr, Patricia Washburn, and Steven Biel "I appreciate having a quick and easy resource to find out how Portland city councilors voted on the issues that are important to me."

—Joanna Frankel, Reiche Elementary School parent

"City councilors' voting records shouldn't be a state secret.

Thank you Progressive Portland for making it so easy."

—Eva Humeniuk, Deering Center resident

"Whether you're a conservative or a liberal, you shouldn't have to spend hours digging through city documents to find out how your councilors are voting."

—Jay Norris, Munjoy Hill community leader and businessman



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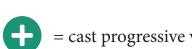
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2016 CITY COUNCIL SCORECARD



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= opposed progressive vote



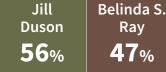
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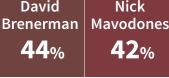
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ELKS LODGE PROPERTY REZONED FOR OFFICES, NOT HOUSING: PROGRESSIVE VOTE: NO

The council voted to rezone the Elks Lodge property on Congress Street across from the Portland Jetport for offices instead of housing, despite a lack of middle class housing in the city and skyrocketing rents. Amendment passed 6-3, January 20, 2016.

REDUCING FEE INCREASE FOR DEVELOPERS PROGRESSIVE VOTE: NO

While debating a proposal to increase building fees from 1.1 percent to 1.6 percent to pay for increased staffing to speed the processing of building permits, a motion was made to reduce the fee increase to 1.5 percent. Motion passed 7-0, March 7, 2016.

INCENTIVES FOR GREEN BUILDINGS PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

The council considered exempting buildings that meet green building standards from an increase in building fees. Motion failed 3-4, March 7, 2016.

EXEMPTING GRANDFATHERED DEVELOPERS FROM NEW PERMIT FEES PROGRESSIVE VOTE: NO

After voting to increase building fees, the council voted to grandfather developers who applied for permits before March 31, a windfall for wealthy developers like Federated Companies. Motion passed 6-2, March 21, 2016.

FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTE TO SHUTTER INDIA STREET HEALTH CLINIC PROGRESSIVE VOTE: NO

The India Street Health Clinic provided healthcare to more than 1,000 patients and was the only place in greater Portland that provided low-cost STD testing, free STD treatment, clean needles, and HIV care under one roof. Budget including India St. shutdown passed 3-0,

BAN STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL TO ANTI-LGBT STATES PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

The council voted to ban nonessential state-funded travel to Mississippi and North Carolina in response to laws allowing businesses to refuse service to LGBT people. Motion passed 9-0, April 25, 2016.

PARTIAL RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR INDIA STREET HEALTH CLINIC PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

The council voted to restore funding for the lease at the India Street Health Clinic for one year, allowing the needle exchange, HIV/STD testing and treatment, and Free Clinic to remain open, but closing the HIV Positive Health Care Clinic. Motion passed 9-0, May 16, 2016

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET PROGRESSIVE VOTE: NO

The final budget included the closure of the Positive Health Care Clinic at India Street. Motion passed 8-1, May 16, 2016.

RAISE MINIMUM AGE TO BUY TOBACCO TO 21 PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

The council voted to increase the minimum age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21, an important public health measure. Motion passed 9-0, June 20, 2016.

REMOVE TRANSGENDER RESTRICTIONS FROM THE CITY HEALTH CARE PLAN PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

The council voted to remove exclusions for transgender health coverage for city employees, bringing the city's plan in line with a federal prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex in health programs receiving federal funding. Motion passed 9–0, June 20, 2016.

OCEAN AVENUE LANDFILL SOLAR ARRAY PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

The council approved a major solar project at the city's closed Ocean Avenue landfill that will generate enough electricity to power City Hall and Merrill Auditorium. Motion passed 9-0, September 7, 2016.

TAX Break for ImmuCell Corporation Progressive Vote: NO ImmuCell received a tax break worth \$375,000 to expand its Riverside-area campus. The council rejected proposals to require ImmuCell

to hire 25 percent of its workers from Portland and meet "prevailing wage" standards. Motion passed 8-1, September 19, 2016.

ENERGY USE DISCLOSURE FOR LARGE BUSINESSES AND RESIDENCES PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES To encourage increased energy efficiency, the council enacted "benchmarking" to require large businesses, residential buildings with

more than 50 units, and most city-owned buildings to report their energy usage. Motion passed 6-3, November 7, 2016.

FAST TRACK MORATORIUM ON RETAIL MARIJUANA SALES PROGRESSIVE VOTE: NO

The night before the Nov. 8 vote on Question 1 to legalize marijuana statewide, the council considered an emergency moratorium on retail marijuana establishments. Portland voted to legalize recreational marijuana in 2013 with nearly 67 percent of the vote. Motion failed 3-6, November 7, 2016.

THAMES STREET BELOW-MARKET LAND SALE PROGRESSIVE VOTE: NO The council voted to sell a city-owned parcel of waterfront land appraised at nearly \$900,000 to a developer for just \$400,000. The

conditions of the sale also required the city to spend \$1.2 million to extend Thames Street, a net \$800,000 loss for taxpayers. Motion passed 8-1, November 21, 2016.

explicitly banned Section 8 discrimination. Motion failed 4–5, November 21, 2016.

LEEWAY FOR NO-FAULT EVICTIONS PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES

from Fort Sumner Park. Motion passed 9-0, November 21, 2016.



Spencer Thibodeau **67**%

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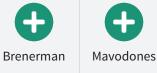
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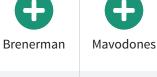
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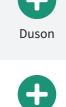
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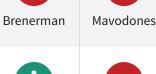


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BAN SECTION 8 DISCRIMINATION PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES Many Portland landlords routinely and openly refuse to accept Section 8 housing vouchers as payment. This amendment would have

The council considered a proposal to increase the notice required for evictions from 30 days to 90 days with landlord options to "buy out" tenants faster for specified dollar amounts. Motion failed 3-6, November 21, 2016.

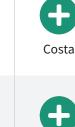
DEVELOPMENT MORATORIUM TO PROTECT FORT SUMNER PARK PROGRESSIVE VOTE: YES Saulnier Development's proposed six-story building at 155 Sheridan St. would have blocked views of Mt. Washington and the Back Cove





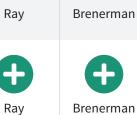


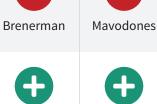
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The Office of Economic Opportunity was created to help immigrants and others who face discrimination find work and job training, allowing the city to address the shortage of skilled workers in the region. Motion passed 9-0, December 19, 2016.

Strimling