



HOW PROGRESSIVE IS PORTLAND'S CITY COUNCIL?

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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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