

Organization Name	Contact Name	Please explain to us in one sentence what your organization does.	What is the most important issue in Bend that your organization would like your local government leaders to do something about?	Why is this issue important to the community and why should it be a priority for the City?	Are there other community organizations working on this issue or that could be partners on this issue?
Bend-La Pine Schools	Kinsey Martin	Public education for all students and families in our community	I do not want to speak on behalf of all 17,000 students or 2,000 employees in our organization, or for our board of directors. That said, from my perspective (policy, advocacy, civil rights), I see polarization and segregation as a huge threat to our continued growth and cohesion as a community. I could pick 'housing' or 'transportation' or another urgent tactical issue, but the broader strategic issue of divisiveness and segregation underlies all of that. I.e., no use addressing housing without acknowledging and addressing the underlying segregation that continues to guide housing decisions in this town.	See above :)	All of us should partner on authentically engaging one another, beyond those who agree with us.
Commute Options	Brian Potwin	Commute Options increases access to transportation options across Oregon.	Safe and convenient transportation options.	We believe that everyone deserves the right to feel safe and secure while traveling throughout their communities.	OSU Cascades and COCC
High Desert Food and Farm Alliance	Sharon Maier-Kennelly	We believe everyone deserves good food and service that belief with programming in food access, farmer/rancher support, and consumer	Continue to support local food producers and increasing access to food for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.	A well nourished community will be stronger and healthier.	The Giving Plate, Bethlehem Inn, Family Kitchen.
Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity	Carly Colgan	Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity partners with the community to build and preserve affordable housing, empowering individuals and families through homeownership opportunities, education, and sustainable solutions.	Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity identifies the shortage of affordable, climate-resilient housing for low- and moderate-income families as the most critical issue facing the community. This challenge affects every aspect of community life, from economic stability and racial equity to environmental sustainability and public health. Addressing it requires local government leaders to prioritize investments, policies, and partnerships that expand access to housing while preparing the region for a changing climate. Low- and moderate-income families are disproportionately affected by the current housing crisis, facing rising costs that push stable housing out of reach. These families are also more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change, such as exposure to extreme heat, poor air quality from wildfires, and inadequate protection against extreme weather. Ensuring affordable, resilient housing is available to these families is essential for the overall health, stability, and future of the community.	1. Bend faces an acute shortage of affordable housing, leaving many families unable to access safe, stable, and affordable homes. Housing affordability directly affects the community's ability to retain its workforce, support economic growth, and build a resilient future. 2. Disparities in homeownership disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, Latino/a/x, and low-income families in Bend. Without targeted efforts, these gaps will perpetuate cycles of inequality, reducing access to generational wealth-building and community stability. 3. Central Oregon's susceptibility to wildfires, extreme heat, and unpredictable weather underscores the urgency of building climate-resilient housing. Investing in energy-efficient, sustainable housing not only protects residents but also reduces utility costs and mitigates environmental impact. 4. Affordable, climate-resilient housing enhances public health by reducing exposure to unsafe living conditions and improving mental and physical well-being. Families living in stable, well-designed homes are more likely to thrive economically, educationally, and socially. 5. The lack of affordable housing strains local businesses, as workers struggle to find homes within a reasonable commute. Additionally, incorporating green building practices into affordable housing stimulates job growth in sustainable construction, supporting the local economy.	Many other organizations are working on affordable housing, homeownership, sustainability, etc.
Restorative Justice and Equity	Sorahi S Harati	We use Restorative Practices to proactively work to reduce harm before it happens and then help those harmed heal.	Addressing and holding accountable entities who interact with youth regarding gun violence prevention. Specifically we have seen an uptick in youth bringing various types of weapons to their school sites. Moreover, this is about harm reduction BEFORE it happens.	When our youth are causing harm b/c they don't know any better and/or b/c adults in the spaces either don't address this or don't have the tools to do so, the potential for greater harm is a real possibility.	Yes, RJE is working on this. Bend PD, Deschutes County Sheriff, OHSU, Oregon Health Authority, Central Oregon Gun Safety Advocates, Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety.
Better Together Central Oregon	Gabriela Peden	We facilitate regional cross-sector collaboration to improve children and youth success from cradle to career.	Better Together Central Oregon works across sectors to address systemic issues. Here are the 3 general things that come to mind: 1. Housing: Bend, faces a severe shortage of affordable housing, which disproportionately impacts low-income families, communities of color, and essential workers. I would like to see policies that increase affordable housing stock, preserve existing affordable units, and provide resources for housing stability programs. This could include support for tenant protections, subsidies, and partnerships to develop affordable housing projects. Stable housing is foundational for educational and economic success, allowing families to focus on long-term goals rather than immediate survival. 2. Support for Culturally Specific Efforts: Communities of color and Tribal communities often encounter systemic barriers to accessing resources tailored to their unique needs. Support organizations and initiatives led by and for these communities. This includes funding culturally responsive education, health care, and social services, as well as creating spaces for their voices in decision-making processes. By empowering these communities we build trust, enhance equity, and ensures that all families have access to opportunities that reflect their cultural values and needs. 3. Cradle-to-Career Pipeline: Too many children and young adults in Central Oregon face barriers to educational success and career readiness. Investing in programs that support early childhood education, K-12 success, postsecondary pathways, and workforce development. Partnerships between schools, businesses, and community organizations are key to creating a seamless system of support. A strong cradle-to-career pipeline ensures all children, regardless of background, have equitable access to resources that prepare them for lifelong success.	I believe I gave this response in question 6. The issue, the action and the impact it would have for our community	Better Together, East Cascades work, St. Charles Foundation, Early Learning Hub
Central Oregon Center for the Arts	Laura Thompson	The mission of the Central Oregon Center for the Arts is to champion an inclusive, vibrant center for the arts that brings transformative and diverse cultural performances and experiences to Central Oregon during all seasons.	Support of the many non-profit arts/culture groups, making available open communications for advocacy.	With the growth of Central Oregon, providing a platform for the arts will become critical.	Yes
Family Kitchen	Olivia Townsend Parker	Family Kitchen provides nutritious meals to anyone in need in a safe and caring environment.	Homelessness and cost of living	It affects everyone!	NeighborImpact, Council on Aging, The Giving Plate
Central Oregon Community College - Office of Equity and Well-Being	Marcus LeGrand	We provide academic and advisory support, resources to live, and the ability to think critically and have agency while in college.	Better transportation for students to be able to navigate the city and behind.	Because students need access to make their lives early while attending college	Somewhat, but the vision isn't clear or what direction they are going to have them navigate the transportation issue.
Awbrey Butte Neighborhood Association	Mark Gentle/Hans Jorgensen	Awbrey Butte Neighborhood Association is a recognized neighborhood district operating pursuant to the Bend Municipal Code with 1351 registered members	As a result of a membership survey that resulted in 262 responses from registered members, public safety issues related to the risk and implications of wildfires is the top issue of concern among our membership.	The City of Bend is a critical component of our community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the fires, including urban fire storms and wildfire exposure	There are many key organizations, including other neighborhood districts that have identified wildfire risks as their priority concern. Because this is a public safety concern of urgent concern, virtually every community organization will have a vested interest in protecting the community from wildfires
Envision Bend	Matt Muchna	Envision Bend brings diverse stakeholders together to educate, engage and empower all members of the Bend community to have a voice in our city's future.	Based on our leadership survey results, the top 5 priorities for community leaders are: 1) Innovative Workforce Housing (Game Changer) 2) Expanded Access to Child Care 3) Mental Health & Well-Being for Students 4) Improved, Expanded, Well-Funded Public Transit 5) Housing Innovation & Affordability Coalition Additional Recommendations for City Council Goals FY25-27: 1) Community Belonging 1a) Neighborhood Vitality and Resiliency 1b) Community Education on Homelessness 2) Increased Core Area Engagement and Investment 2a) Drake to Juniper Pedestrian Corridor	1) Community Belonging. One of the results from our community outreach shocked some and affirmed what others have been saying for many years, Bend is not a welcoming place for everyone. This was shared by those under 18, over 65, veterans, the queer community, BIPOC leaders, Spanish speaking members, homeless, etc. Help us move the needle by elevating "Increasing Community Belonging" into City Council Goals. 1a) Neighborhood Vitality and Resiliency. We have a gap and we need to find a way to strengthen this. Many Neighborhood Districts need support recruiting new members, managing turnover, technology, coordinating events, etc. This is a role and a gap for Envision Bend to fill but we need your support and funding from the City to do this well. 1b) Community Education on Homelessness What's come from the vision has supported your actions on addressing the homeless such as - The Cleveland Commons, the Homeless Person Memorial Day proclamation, Homeless Leadership Coalition, collaboration with Deschutes County, etc are all huge steps forward. 2) Increased Core Area Engagement and Investment. Specifically, we need your leadership in regards to public parking, in regards to new city hall and civic plaza, supporting vibrant arts and makers	YES
Save Bend Green Space	Robert Anderson	Save Bend Green Space advocates for the citizens of Bend on issues relating to open space preservation, tree canopy protection, urban recreational trails, and smart growth planning principles.	The preservation of urban tree canopy and urban trails alongside new, affordable, walkable growth in housing. In other words, balancing development with preservation of open green space.	Bend must consciously work to preserve the features that make it attractive to those newcomers that drive its growth, lest we "kill the golden goose." If we just become another sprawling, congested, denuded town, growth will stall and property values (and, ahem, taxes) will plummet.	Don't know.
Bethlehem Inn	Gwenn Wysling	Navigational tools and services that help build and establish a safety net in a clean and sober environment that can be accessed long after they leave Bethlehem Inn.	Continued focus on filling the gaps on the housing continuum and helping to create affordable housing and needed accompanying services, specifically for the lower income levels.	Workforce housing and affordable housing for folks in service position have been being replaced overtime which makes staffing businesses and the ability to find hope and possibility too difficult.	Partners for Affordable Housing https://www.partnersforaffordablehousing.com/
Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association (SCNA)	Roberta Silverman	We are a volunteer group of neighbors working to have a positive impact on our neighborhood and the City of Bend.	Three issues are critically important to SCNA residents: Affordable Housing: concentrate on building housing for middle- and low-income residents Transportation: Develop coordinated master plan for transportation for SCNA where extensive growth is occurring or planned (i.e. Jackstraw, Timber Yards). It's being done piecemeal now. Environment: Preserve open green spaces to offset the negative environmental impacts of increased development and ensure equity and adequate parkland for Bend's growing population	The three issues outlined above have a major impact on the quality of life of current and future Bend residents...unless these issues are addressed Bend will become a less healthy and attractive place to live.	Save Bend Green Space (savebendgreenspace.org)