



Candidate Name: Howie Rubin  
Campaign Manager's Name: NA

## 2012 Candidate Questionnaire: Mayoral, Primary

### ABOUT US:

#### What is The Mother PAC?

We are mothers. Oregon mothers. Who came together in 2010 because we envision a better Oregon with strong, pro-family public policies. And we're fighting for it. Because we know from experience how dated and inadequate our current system is for families – especially for mothers.

#### What does The Mother PAC do?

Our goal is to build an Oregon where today's families can thrive. To do this, we need more pro-family elected officials. So we're pooling our resources to elect key pro-family candidates who will champion the strong, family-friendly public policies Oregon families need.

### ABOUT YOU:

#### 1) Child Care:

Parents across the city are experiencing a shortage of child care, with 2-year long waiting lists in some cases. What exists, often, doesn't adequately meet the needs of working parents. Parents tell us they pay too large a percentage of their wages on child care and that they can't find child care that is conveniently located to their workplace. This also impacts employers, who benefit when employees are focused on work, rather than juggling child care issues.

Parents across the city need accessible, strategically-located, affordable, and high-quality child care. What can you do to make sure Portland makes child care a priority? (unlimited response allowed)

*I would focus on Urban Renewal program which should incorporate business which should be looking for support of family requirements including schooling, child care, food sources, public health and safety, Transportation, houses of worship. So when we build schools and Community/Neighborhood Centers they should be designed for multi-use. When PPS buildings are closed, refurbished or built; these are opportunities to include businesses which can function as child care facilities as well. We need to look at those who are unemployed or under employed as potential candidates to operate child care centers in their homes or community locations....or on-site at businesses using current SCORE/SBDC/Mercy Corps NW funding and training in this area. We can use the Police Bureau to do background investigations, the Fire Department and Safety/Medical Teams to review locations and get the State and County more involved in this activity for those who need child care including children with special needs. We need streamlining and standardization of licensing procedures, training and screening.*



## 2) Earned Sick Time:

40% of all private-sector workers in Oregon and 80% of low-income workers lack access to a single paid sick day from their job. These workers don't have PTO, vacation or another source of time off. They literally lack a single paid day to recover from illness, seek medical care, or stay home with a sick child.

Employees who lack earned sick time are concentrated in restaurants, retail, child care and home health care – also people who also have regular and ongoing contact with the general public, which means their lack of access to sick time should be a public health concern.

Our neighbors to the north and south (Seattle and San Francisco) have both recently passed ordinances that require employers to let employees accrue earned sick time so ALL workers can recover from illness or take care of sick kids without losing critical income – or their jobs.

Do you support this?  Yes  No (check one)

And what would you do to make Portland next? (unlimited response allowed)

*Unfortunately, the Oregon State Bureau of Labor and Industries controls the labor conditions and workplace rules within the State leaving other governmental bodies lack of direct control and change. With that being said; our Citizenry can, with my involvement, insure our voices are heard in Salem with both the Executive and Legislative Branches are privy to our concerns with families and child care requirement. We can do this the same way as medical assistance was gained in our State for Children Health Services.*

## 3) Air Quality:

We want Portland's economy to get back to work, but believe that dumping 1.7 million pounds of air toxics into the air our children breathe shouldn't be the price we pay to do it.

Here is the problem: Without meaningful efforts to limit toxic emissions from industrial sources, even in one of the greenest cities in America, the air pollution rises when the economy does. That meant almost 10% more pollution in 2010 than 2009. And there is no foreseeable limit, since many of the biggest polluters are playing by rules established almost 50 years ago - rules that don't fully consider the health impacts of pollution such as asthma and cancer. These legal, but toxic emissions, mean the air at 35 Portland schools is ranked among the worst 5% in the nation due to exposure to industrial air pollution - and that **does not** include vehicle pollution. Not one single Portland school ranks better than the bottom 30% of schools in the nation.



We know that the state plays an important role in air quality regulation, but the city can't just blame the state or hope it'll do something.

What will you do to help reduce industrial air emissions in the city? (unlimited response allowed)

*As you have stated, the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as the primary function to monitor and enforce these actions. The City of Portland does have a group which enforces and monitors DEQ rulings within City boundaries. We can use this source as a Public Information Source to highlight problems to DEQ and the State Government through the media channels making them aware of the problems, means to obviate/control certain things and review hazardous instances. For new construction in the City, then there must be requirements under LEED building and sustainability to insure these air quality standards are met. As we plant more trees under the "Friends of Trees" all neighborhoods need to be more active in planting trees to reduce these air quality issues. We believe that Parent-Teacher Associations need to be more active and vocal about the air they breath in order to bring about change.*

#### **AUDIENCE QUESTIONS:**

##### **4) School Funding and Equity:**

We know the Mayor doesn't have direct control over the city's schools, yet the educational outcomes of our students and the quality of our public schools have a direct impact on livability, city services, crime rates, property values and a host of other very relevant city concerns -- that affect *all* residents. What will you do to work with the 6 Portland school boards to ensure that our kids are receiving an equitable, top-notch education from safe, stably-funded schools?

*The State Lottery was supposed to supply the necessary funding for our schools,; I would need to take inventory and meet with our state lottery to get a clearer picture of how monies earmarked for education were diverted elsewhere. The PPS Blue Ribbon Task Force program has been successful and I would like to continue with what is successful and to insure that the success is spread to all K-12 grade levels and insure that the School Boards involved are knowledgeable about this program and others which can insure our mentorship opportunities are available.*

##### **5) School and Work Gap:**

Our kids' school schedules and parents' work demands are clearly out of sync in today's economy: while our school-aged children have almost 18 weeks (4 ½ months) off a year, very few working parents have any where near that much vacation time. This creates added stress on already tight family budgets and also contributes to other problems when so many kids are unsupervised for long stretches of time. What can the city do to help fill this gap, which also has significant and well-known educational downsides for children - especially in low-income families?



*We need to work with scheduling competitions and other events which could be conducted by our Parks & Recreational Services Bureau along with other Bureaus (Police, Fire, EMT, Environmental) so that students would be at other events supervised and trained by our outstanding City Workers in both general information and job skills at an early level of intervention/involvement.*

#### **6) Equity for Families**

What do you think the city's role should be in addressing disparities in health, income, education, and access to services that families experience in Portland?

*No one should be left behind. If someone or a group of citizen feel they are being left out; they need to take it to the Mayor as an Awareness Briefing so it can be addressed.*

What does equity mean to you with regard to Portland families?

*It means opportunity for all.*

#### **7) Pesticides in Parks**

If the parks in Portland are so important for children, why do we spray pesticides all over them?

*We are working with both chemical and natural methods of pest and insect control throughout the Nation and we will look into methods which promote use of both at our parks and recreational facilities. As more eco-friendly means become available, I would urge the City to make use of them.*

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please email your completed questionnaire – saved with your name in the document name – to [andrea@motherpac.org](mailto:andrea@motherpac.org).*