



Candidate Name: Jeri Williams  
Commission Position: City Council seat#4  
Campaign Manager's Name: SAA  
Phone Number(s):

## 2012 Candidate Questionnaire: City Council, 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)

Elected officials can make issues a priority by highlighting them and taking a stand for the constituencies that create the solutions and support the efforts of that group. Which is to say I would support your efforts to increase the awareness of this issue and look for opportunities to support more small businesses for the creation of childcare. I know the issue well I have 8 grandchildren, 5 who live here in Portland and I have been an active participant in intergenerational child care.

#### 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



*(sick days continued)*

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)

Assign staff to research and work with stakeholders to draft a City ordinance to make it happen.

### 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)

I have spent a large part of my life fighting toxic emissions, which is why I was so disappointed I wasn't invited to your forum because I hadn't raised enough money for your standard. My history includes being a single mom raising two kids and fighting the toxic chemicals in the hotel I worked in. I then became an organizer and worked with many other workers exposed to toxic chemicals in places like Tyco- Mattel in Beaverton exposed to the highest level of TCE tainted drinking water in Oregon's history. From there I worked as the Director of EJAG defeating the expansion of the I-5 freeway because of the health issues of families in North and NE Portland. We also sued Oregon Steel mills for 52 violations of the Clean Air Act in 2003. I then sat on the CRC task force as one of only 2 "NO" votes on the mega bridge. Currently I am working to make sure the polluters of the Willamette River pay their share to CLEANUP the river, "If they spent 50 years of prosperity in the river they need to spend the next 50 cleaning it up- no quick, cheap and dirty fixes. I participated for quite a while on DEQ's air quality advisory teams and they just don't go far enough for me. But I am committed to fight pollution and support biophilic restoration of our beautiful city for 7 generations.

#### **AUDIENCE QUESTIONS:**

##### **4) Portland parks appearance**

Do you think that the Portland parks can be more maintained, (kept) a little cleaner? And also, can you help the grass grow so it's not just weeds? [Daniel G., 12 years old]

I think we can all work to make it better- it's going to take all of us.

##### **5) Impact of Urban Renewal Districts on Public Schools**

The PDC is collecting almost \$100 million in property taxes this year – money the county, city and public schools had to forgo. That's more than twice the money of only 10 years ago. For Portland Public Schools, it means the PDC – not our schools – got \$9 million from the local option levy Portland voters passed in May, 2011. That's enough to hire a librarian, art or music teacher at every school. What will you do to reduce the cost of urban renewal to county, city and school services that our families count on?

When elected there are several questions currently circulating at the City and within the neighborhoods. Over the last few years the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods have done a stellar job calling these questions. We are moving in a different direction but we need the community to lead the charge. Without community support it will not happen.

##### **6) 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?

That is a giant conversation , as a mom of color who knows too well the educational disparities of children of color this is of tremendous concern to me. What elected can do is make sure that this issue stays in the forefronts of the minds of Portlanders, find funding for parks programs , look to build partnerships with other community partners to create family friendly events and mentorship programs.

*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).*