



Candidate Name: Loren Charles Brown
Campaign Manager's Name:
Phone Number(s):

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 feel that child care is too expensive and that the child care should charge a % of what the parents make. It would help people instead of always comparing the Jones to ourselves who are trying to get ahead--just to make ends meet. I am sure there are people who are in business that don't look out just to make a huge profit off of people which only devalues our countries morals and values. I feel if social service would also work out a plan to help out families, single mom's too... stop cutting this budget, and cutting this program--as it is not helping us get out of debt. Child care should be a "priority" as I am a single dad myself and I know if his mom was not in the picture--how could either of us work or save money so we don't have child care issues. I do know that my son is watched by a neighbor lady who has kids of her own--so he has someone to keep an eye on him-but it s a two-



way street, and without her helping the family--this may be the way to go without child care costing us so much money. It seems like child care providers only care about the money instead of taking a partial payment, or cutting prices down so all can benefit from this issue.

I will work with child care providers to see how all of our kids are having a place to go and that child care providers aren't making a lot of money off people since the economy has crashed and people can barely pay their bills. Something has to give--and once we get back on track and stop charging late charges like 1.00 p minute if a parent is late to pick up child--how can we pay for child care, or any other bills. This is why a friend of a family helps out with my ex while she works 60 hours a week. I would stop this nonsense of asking for more money after a certain time for pick up. That is my promise too all PDX families.

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)

I would contact Seattle and San Francisco to see how this issue is working for them and follow their lead. I always feel it starts with someone's idea and see if it will work for our city where we can benefit in helping those who have no insurance. We all get sick and so many employers are not spending the money to cover employees expenses. It costs too much money and employers are always wanting to cut labor costs and other costs if possible. It's effecting us all in the long run and I feel if employer's don't step it up and help employees receive sick pay and other benefits we are going to have more health issues and more people losing their jobs if they have kids and can't afford child care. Something has to give--and if we don't work together and solve these issues--we will sink faster than the Titanic did --back in the day.



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)

When I lived in Los Angeles everyone had to go thru an emission testing site, but there is still a pollution problem since cars are such a necessity on the roads. I feel in PDX we should all ride the bus and max, or ride bikes to work(even in the rain.) This would help clear up our skies and keep lots of cars off the road and we would also save our roads from being destroyed--wear and tear which can save us money in the long run. I agree that too much blame is going around and without the city's new mayor coming forward--and helping his/her people--we will be in a bigger mess than we are in now. I feel that pollution can be prevented if people use common sense to not use automobile's all the time and save gas, wear and tear on roads to lots of car repairs and making our air quality worse. I am sure if I do more research--someplace in Europe has a way of keeping their skies clean and it just takes a new inventor to come up with a new idea to keep pollution from appearing to harm our cities, health issues, and other factors that pollution can harm all of us. Maybe you have an idea you'd like to bring to my attention and we can work this problem out together.

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?



My interview with the PTA(PDX Teacher's Assoc.) I mentioned that I would be a hands-on mayor and would also meet with the PTA on a regular basis to make our schools better. We have failed our kids so bad--it is not funny. Classrooms are over crowded and when I hear of a classroom being 43 in size--how can any teacher assist in kids/students becoming superstars. Too many kids are falling thru the cracks, and if the new mayor (me) steps onto the scene in 2012 I will change how education changes so all kids/students succeed. I will also mentor to kids afterschool, or spend time at schools to help kids succeed if the teacher's need more assistance in the classroom. See hands-on. I will also work with the police and ask we hire more officers to patrol schools, be present and I will request we have a lot of meetings/seminars to educate our kids and school officials to help protect our kids. I will also ask that parents step it up and be more involved with their VOICE instead of the school board/principle/teachers have the last word. If we don't work together--how can we improve as a city, or nation. I plan on changing--believe me--vote me in and see my work this system like no mayor has done before.

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 1/2 months) off a year, very few working parents have anywhere 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?

I feel we need to go to a 8 hour, 4 days a week schedule. I know employers are working families to death and stress level is thru the roof. I feel if we have 4 days on, 3 days off, then 3 days on and 4 off work--(up the minimum wage) people could function at a better level and stress would come down. I know that I will bring on board a psychologist to speak to city council and other government officials to bring this problem face to face to help our families feel less stressed out. This working 50-60-70 hours p week is killing people where people drive themselves to drink, take drugs or commit suicide. I am done with this working our people longer than normal. Even 40 hrs is too much for people to complete any kind of task--especially if they have kids in soccer, football, cheerleading practices to any extra curricular activities. We can't have our kids studying and not enjoying themselves out of the classroom.

This is a huge problem and unless you vote me in as the next mayor--we will stay stuck if you put any of the top three candidates in office, or anyone else who says they will do the job. Look closely at your ballot and voter's pamphlet and read about the candidate's platform. I m all about NO MORE HOMELESS, to jobs and more jobs in the USA(not abroad), to community coming together for a change, are you with me?



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?

I feel the city needs to be more involved in what is happening within our city. We can't get better, or address these issues if we just blame others instead of working together. I feel as the next mayor (me) I will make us all STEP IT UP and I won't be like Sam Adams who cares about himself and only those who support him in his or their ideas. We as a city need to come forward, not the other way around.

So my answer to this question--city comes forward and becomes a community once and for all.

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

Equity means bringing in more money to our city and focusing on how we can build PDX to the place it needs to be. I have a vision to have PDX be the hub of all places to live, breathe and eat and if my plan works out--we will have more businesses like Google, and Intel to future businesses like sports(football, baseball) just to help us out. We could bring more tourists into this city with revenue coming out of the works if we just put our heads together. It s all about teamwork, and equity falls into that if in the right hands. Too many chiefs and not enough indians out there to make this work--instead of cutting off at the knees--which does not solve the issue of making money.

7) Pesticides in Parks

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

I don't know why we spray pesticides as I am sure there could be an alternative method to protecting our parks so we all don't get sick from some substance we don't even know what it's made of. I will work with the Parks and Rec to see other alternative ways to prevent from spraying anymore pesticides that can harm all of us. Children come first, but so do families--and our health is at risk if anymore substances are used to kill bugs -- why should they be killed. Become a Buddhist like me--and no more killings. The way to go--or we keep risking all of our health over products that just plain kill the wrong thing/person.

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.