

The Neighborhood Pledge

A diverse group of stakeholders including community leaders and people who live and work in Columbia have outlined the following priorities for meaningful policy and local leadership. This pledge builds on the work started by Columbia leaders and Ward 1 residents who came together to put Columbia's working families first. By signing this pledge, you - the candidate - commit to ensuring your work as an elected official reflects these priorities, and to communicating your progress in advancing these priorities at least once per quarter.

Protecting & Expanding Housing

- Work to preserve and expand affordable housing: rental and owner-occupied.
- Work to enhance the Columbia Community Land Trust's efforts to build low-income homeownership.
- Enhance services and outreach to assist low-income homeowner property maintenance.
- Prioritize historic neighborhoods in growth and development.
- Explore diverse housing opportunities: incentivize low-income affordable rental housing.
- Strengthen tenant protections.
- Promote equitable code enforcement.

Strengthen Infrastructure in Columbia Neighborhoods

- Address urgent stormwater and sanitary sewer problems with targeted repair and maintenance.
- Strengthen stormwater code enforcement.
- Maintain and improve roads and sidewalks.
- Address inadequacies and inequity in public transit.
- Encourage planting and maintenance of street trees to lower urban island effect.
- The candidate, if elected, pledges to vote against any proposals to privatize city infrastructure, and will work to protect public ownership of infrastructure.
- The candidate must commit to pursuing equitable annexation and development: ensuring that new developments are not prioritized over working class/underserved neighborhoods
- Invest in streets and sidewalks that are safe and accessible for all users, people walking, biking, taking the bus, and driving.

Address Structural Inequality

- Proactively address policing policy and practices, considering nationwide social contexts, to make Columbia safer for all.
- TIF-funded, tax abatement-funded and bond-funded (tax-incentivized or taxpayer-supported) projects must pay prevailing wage and prioritize local responsible contractors.
- Targeted resource investment in working-class neighborhoods.
- The candidate should work with community partners to address community violence.
- Encourage collaboration between the city and higher education institutions.
- Explore PILOTs and other financial partnerships to support the community at large.
- Expand resources for minority & women owned businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Expand resources and access to resources for workers in Columbia: prioritizing marginalized communities.
- Look at policy decisions through an anti-racist lens that considers their biases as well as structural factors.
- The candidate must commit to prioritizing protecting and expanding public services: included but not limited to, public transit, solid waste, public health, etc.
- The candidate must commit to pursuing equitable solutions for the unsheltered community in Columbia.