

Position 4

Jeannette Warren

OPB: One priority I'm seeing from most of the county commission candidates is to lower costs or increase affordability. Given that there are so many outside factors that influence the economy and cost of living, what will you as a commissioner do to keep costs down for Clackamas County residents?

Warren: Keeping costs down starts with making sure the county is using the money it already has in a responsible and efficient way. My background in tax, audit, and compliance has taught me how to spot waste, tighten controls, and redirect funds toward programs that actually work. As commissioner, I would focus on evaluating existing spending, identifying programs that aren't delivering results, and reallocating those dollars to higher-impact services instead of creating new costs for taxpayers. When we manage our resources well and hold ourselves accountable, we can improve services without asking residents to pay more.

OPB: In addition to affordability, several of you have listed public safety and "fully funding CCSO" among your priorities. The county's ambulance service provider, AMR, has historically failed to meet response time goals. The contract the county signed with AMR last summer also included a huge price increase for patients. How do you balance improved response times while also prioritizing affordability?

Community safety has to come first, and that shouldn't mean accepting slower response times or higher costs. The truth is, our emergency medical system needs a full reevaluation — not more band-aids. We should be looking at what's working in other parts of the country and redesigning our approach based on proven results. With my background in audit and compliance, I would focus on where the system is breaking down, how performance is measured, and whether we're holding providers accountable. Residents deserve fast, reliable care supported by a system that actually works.

OPB: As for CCSO, the county discovered some questionable financial management within the sheriff's office last year. For those that say they want to "fully fund CCSO" can you clarify, is CCSO not currently fully funded or has that been the case previously? How would you fund the office while ensuring sound financial management and fiscal responsibility?

"Fully funded" should mean the Sheriff's Office has the resources it needs to meet its responsibilities — **and** that those resources are managed responsibly. The recent financial management concerns show why strong oversight matters. With my background managing

multimillion-dollar budgets, I believe in clear controls, regular audits, and transparent reporting. Before increasing funding, I would want to see a solid financial plan, documented needs, and accountability measures in place. Public safety is essential, but so is ensuring taxpayer dollars are handled with care.

OPB: Some candidates are saying the county needs to build more homes to lower housing costs and help end unsheltered homelessness. What are your strategies for achieving this? In what ways does protection of rural parts of the county factor into this goal? If you feel building more homes is the wrong solution, what do you propose for lowering housing costs and ending unsheltered homelessness?

We need more attainable housing, but we also need to build on what's already working here in Clackamas County. Our Supportive Housing Services program has helped thousands of people avoid eviction or move into stable housing, and new projects like Clackamas Village are showing how supportive housing paired with behavioral-health services can help people stay housed long-term. I support focusing new development in areas with existing infrastructure and protecting rural areas from sprawl that strains roads and emergency services. To lower housing costs, we should streamline permitting, support mixed-income and workforce housing, and continue using partnerships and grants to reduce local costs. And for unsheltered homelessness, we need shelter options, behavioral-health support, and real pathways to stability — not one-size-fits-all solutions.

OPB: In the past year some Oregon counties have firmly stated their status as a sanctuary jurisdiction and stated their agencies will not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. Is this a stance you think Clackamas County should take? Why or why not?

This is an issue where people have strong feelings, and I respect that. For me, county policy should follow state law and focus on keeping our community safe. I don't believe county resources should be diverted to enforce federal immigration laws — that's not the county's role, and it takes time and money away from local services. Any decision we make should be grounded in clear legal guidance, transparency, and an understanding of how it affects public safety and county operations. My approach is to listen, gather the facts, and make decisions that support stability and trust in our community.