



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet

Candidate Statement

JCVP-01

ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: 11-03-2026

This Filing is an: Original

Name of Candidate (as it should appear on ballot): Esther Leon

Filing for the Office of: Portland Councilor, District 3

"This information furnished by": Esther For Portland

Candidate Information

Submitted by (Candidate or Candidate's Agent): Esther Leon

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Email: esther.for.portland@gmail.com

Occupation (Present Employment)

Physical Therapist; Community College Professor

Occupational Background (Previous Employment)

Doctor of Physical Therapy, Educator

Educational Background (Schools Attended)

Whittier College, BA in Kinesiology & Nutrition; University of Southern California, Doctorate in Physical Therapy

Prior Governmental Experience (elected or appointed)

None

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As a healthcare provider who has worked directly in-home with Portlanders, and currently with inmates, I have a unique perspective on how societal structure impacts personal wellbeing. I understand how to guide people toward taking the hard but necessary steps for growth, and how to have difficult conversations with empathy. We need to have hard conversations about how our government is failing us, then reframe our community as **one body that can work in unison** for positive change. Let's heal Portland together by prioritizing:

Dignified, Affordable Living for All

- Implement a vacancy tax on corporate landlords that funnels into affordable housing
- Progress social housing initiatives in tandem with simplifying zoning to allow for affordable housing, the return of in-home small businesses, and maximized walkability
- Shift focus to long-term stability vs overnight-only shelters for high-need houseless neighbors through combined supportive housing + substance/mental health recovery
- Expand public restroom and waste disposal accessibility while increasing janitorial/sanitation staffing appropriately
- Invest in the Arts: explore universal basic income for artists

Community-Oriented Public Safety

- Full funding of Portland Street Response for 24/7, city-wide dispatch
- Mandate civics-informed education for Police, including nonviolent communication, trauma-informed response, and a restorative justice approach
- Stand up to fascism: revoke the ICE facility permit, incentivize city contracting with organizations refusing ICE collaboration

Climate Preparedness

- Moratorium on AI Data Centers
- Direct PCEF dollars toward cost-saving renewable energy, revamping CEI hub, resolving Ross Island toxic algae lagoon, wildfire mitigation in Forest Park
- Increase tree shade for urban heat islands and establish urban food forests
- Transition to publicly-owned utilities and accelerate net-zero carbon initiatives
- Expand street plazas, protected bike lanes, and late-night public transit hours

War on Corruption

- Fully audit use of public dollars; hold mishandlers accountable
- Disable corporations' reliance on public dollars to subsidize low wages & private gain
- Re-establish our social contract with transparent leadership

Visit EstherForPortland.com for a full list of endorsements.

Candidate Statement Attestation

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the candidate or candidate's agent and am the author of this Candidate Statement (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Candidate Statement, and
4. The portrait, if provided, is less than 4 years old

Warning

Any person who supplies information in the Required Information portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony; to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000; or both. ORS 260.715(1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

No circulators will be compensated based on the number of signatures obtained by the circulator on a prospective petition

Signature (Candidate or Candidate's Agent):

Esther Leon

Date Signed(or amended):

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