

Next up  
333 SE 2nd Ave  
Portland, OR 97214

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Re: Response to  
questionnaire

Dear next up:

Below is my response to your questions:

- ①. Prior to my incarceration in 2004, I was ~~a~~ a registered voter & consistently voted. I even voted while confined at the Multnomah Co. Jail as a pre-trial detainee.
- ②. In the past, I have subscribed to the Oregonian as recent as a couple of months ago. I read other publications & try to stay reasonably informed.
- ③. ~~I~~ Prior to my confinement, I went to the Multnomah Co. elections office if I needed to submit an update.
- ④. I fully support allowing inmates the right to vote, like Vermont currently does. I don't like to be cut off from the voting process.  
(over)

①⑦

5) It gives me an opportunity to be involved in the community & gives me a sense of ownership in the political process. Instead of being completely cut-off ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> the process, it provides an opportunity to participate. It provides a sense that my input matters just as much in the outcome of elections as it did before my incarceration. I know that sometimes elections on the local level can be decided by just a few votes and I believe that I am perhaps just as informed or even better informed about political issues than the average person.

8. Do not disenfranchise incarcerated people. Most will be released back into the community. The responsible thing to do as an elected official is to invite incarcerated people to actively participate in the political process and allow them ~~to~~ to have a sense of ownership into the process. Preventing the incarcerated to vote and criminalizing ~~the~~ ~~act~~ voting when you are in prison truly sends the wrong message to incarcerated people. The members of the legislature should ask themselves how this would make them feel. The incarcerated are isolated in institutions far from the

communities where they had lived with very little opportunity to remain connected to their communities. Allowing them to vote is a way to give them a sense of being connected. Provide them with voter pamphlets and other materials to keep the incarcerated informed. It will enhance efforts to provide reformation. It sends the message that their opinion matters and that they are still part of what is an essential part of being an American citizen.

Please feel free to share these comments,

Sincerely,  
MB

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