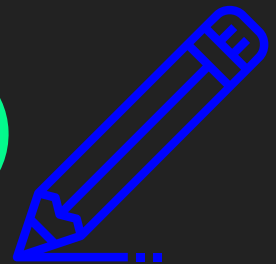




**THINK**

**CREATE**



**WIN**

**2021 IF I WERE MAYOR STUDENT CONTEST**

**3 CATEGORIES: 4-5 GRADE; 6-8 GRADE; 9-12 GRADE**

**\$150 FIRST PLACE & \$50 SECOND PLACE PRIZES**

**SUBMISSIONS DUE APRIL 8**

**[www.sthelensoregon.gov/news](http://www.sthelensoregon.gov/news)**



# If I Were Mayor...

## Student Contest

### 2020-2021



**The Oregon Mayors Association and your city invite you to enter the "If I Were Mayor..." contest.**

Share your creative ideas about what you would do as mayor.

Local winners are entered into the state contest for a chance to win a prize worth \$500!

**LOCAL CONTEST DEADLINE:** Thursday, April 8, 2021, 4 p.m.

#### Contest Rules:

##### GENERAL RULES:

- All submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form. All forms for students under age 18 must be signed by the student's parent or guardian. Entry forms may be photocopied.
- Only one submission per student will be accepted at the state level.
- Previous statewide winners may participate, but are not eligible to receive a prize in the same category (grade level) they previously won in. They are eligible to receive a prize in a new category.
- State level submissions become the property of the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA).
- OMA retains the right to publish state-level entries along with the names and likenesses of each student.
- League of Oregon Cities (LOC) employees and dependents are not eligible to enter.

##### POSTERS:

- The poster contest is open to students enrolled in grades 4 and 5 or being home-schooled at the same grade level for the 2020-21 school year.
- Poster size must be a minimum of 17" and a maximum of 28" in height or width.
- Students are encouraged to be creative and may use any art medium (e.g., poster paints, felt pens, colored pencils, pastels, crayons, three-dimensional art, etc.). The poster may be in color or black and white.
- The student's name and a daytime phone number or email address for their parent or guardian must appear on the back of the poster.

##### ESSAYS:

- The essay contest is open to students enrolled in grades 6 through 8 or being home-schooled at the same grade level for the 2020-21 school year.
- Essays must be 500 to 1,000 words in length and typed.
- The student's name and a daytime phone number or email address for their parent or guardian must appear at the top of the essay.

##### DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATIONS (MP4 video, Pitcherific, Videoscribe, etc.):

- The digital media presentation contest is open to students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 or being home-schooled at the high school level for the 2020-21 school year.
- Presentations must be one to three minutes in length and may be submitted on disk or emailed.
- The student's name and a daytime phone number or email address for their parent or guardian must be written on the disk or disk sleeve or in the body of the email.

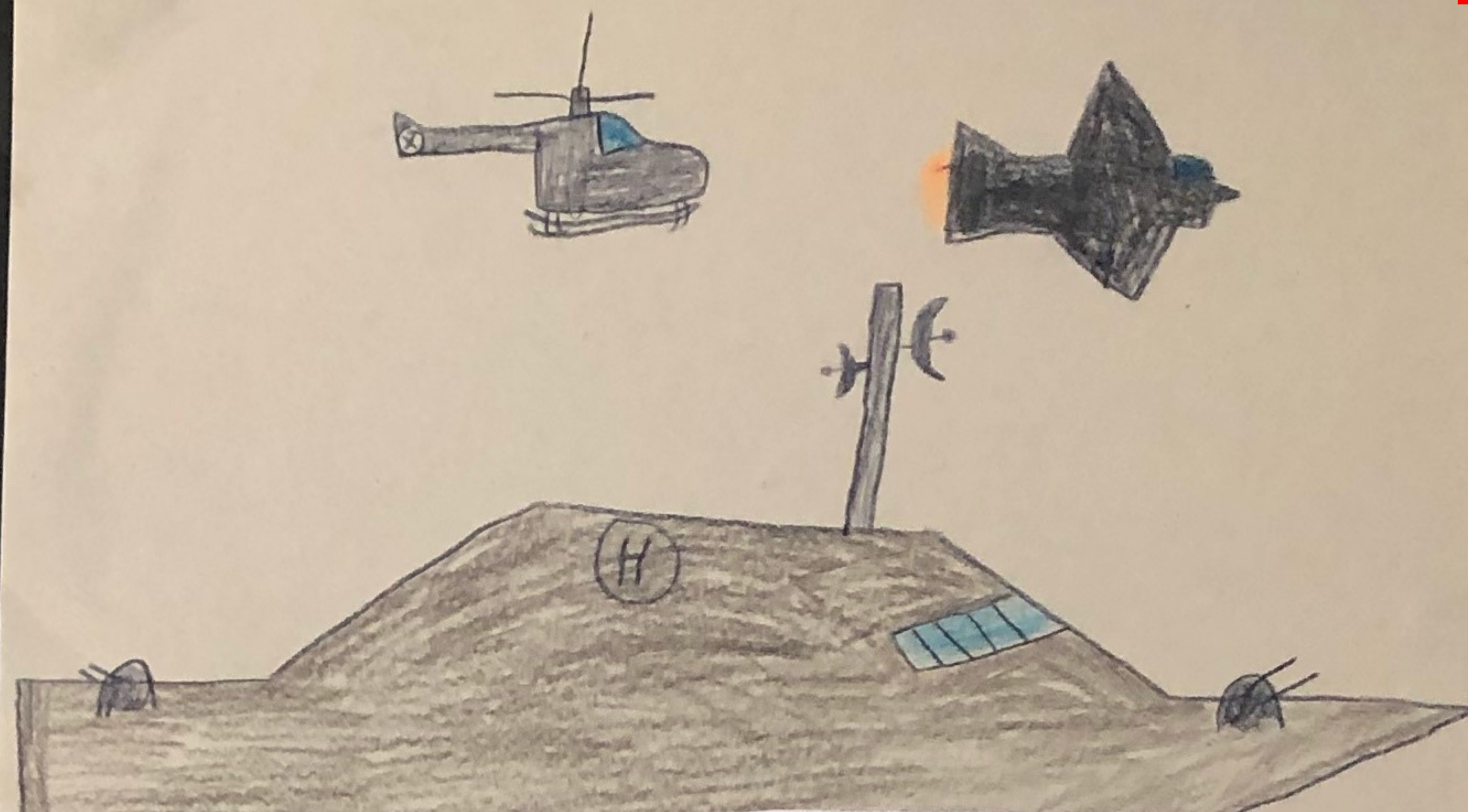
*First-place statewide winners will receive their prizes during the **OMA Summer Conference, to be held July 29-31, 2021 in North Bend at Mill Casino.***

For more information about the state contest please contact Debi Higgins at [dhiggins@orcities.org](mailto:dhiggins@orcities.org) or Kelly Richardson at [krichardson@orcities.org](mailto:krichardson@orcities.org).

For more information about your local city contest, please contact your city at Deputy City Recorder Lisa Scholl 503-366-8216 / [lisa@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:lisa@ci.st-helens.or.us)



# IF I WERE MAYOR



I would set aside a lot of tax money to give the Oregon National Guard a place in Columbia County where they could have a responder boat so if there were any big ships sinking they could have all the people get on to it.

I would vote to build a hospital to keep people safe and have some Covid vaccines and give them to people for free.

I would fill in some of the potholes on the road because there are potholes that make it really dangerous at winter so it makes it really dangerous to drive in the winter, because the road freezes and if you hit one of those potholes your car can spin out and crash.

I would make a motocross park at McCormick Park so people could ride their dirt bikes, etc.

I would build more homeless shelters because there's people in the streets and when it turns winter they get very cold, and they can freeze and get really cold. I would like them to be nice and warm like we are.

I would set aside tax money to fix and build docks with railings so little kids and older people don't fall in. I would have people vote how good they are.

I would fix the crosswalk button on the way to the library because that one doesn't always work and hire people to fix it and see if all the crosswalk buttons work.

I would make some of the tax money go to foster care so the DHS buildings could get better toys for the kids and better movies for when the parents come to the building to visit their kids so they could watch movies together.





I Would build a  
new 24 hour hospital.

If we had an emergency  
day or night a hospital  
in our town would be able  
to help us right away  
without driving 45  
minutes to another one.

A hospital would provide  
more jobs for people in  
our community.

I would build a 24  
hour emergency vet clinic

A new vet hospital would  
provide more jobs for  
people who love helping  
animals.

A 24 hour emergency vet  
hospital in our town could  
help save our pets if they  
had an emergency much  
closer to home.

IF I WERE MAYOR...

Planting a community garden  
in one of our parks would  
be fun for the whole  
community to enjoy and come  
together.



It would be wonderful to  
upgrade the play grounds in  
some of our local parks in  
with new and exciting  
equipment.

Plant more trees in the  
parks to provide more shade  
for us and more homes for  
wild animals.



I would fix up our  
Parks and add cool new ones.

Add more trails to existing  
parks or to new parks.



We could add new parks to  
areas that do not have any.







# Saint Helen's Learning Convention for Kids

4\8\2021

## SAINT HELEN'S LEARNING CONVENTION FOR KIDS (ALSO KNOWN AS SAINT HELENS LCFK)

If I were mayor, I think I would have a convention held for kids. This convention would be something kids could enjoy and still be educational. I have been thinking long and hard about this and I think I have all the parts figured out, now I will explain them. The main parts could be a book, science, art, and cooking convention. In each section there would be a contest for children in grades fourth grade through ninth grade. That's not all though, there would be an area for local vendors and restaurants to have their own booths . It would be called St. Helen's LCFK.

First, the place I think the convention would best be held is on the fairgrounds. There will be different sections for different events. For example, the book contest, book selling/book signing would be held in one area, while things like the science invention contest and science exhibit would be held in another.

I will start with the book section. There would be a writing contest for kids. The prize for the contest will be that all the winners from different age groups get their entrees in a book that will be published. The contest would be judged by published authors from Oregon. The authors invited would be: Madeleine Rose (wrote the series featuring "Priscilla The Pig,") John Dashney (wrote the three-book series "Walter The Were Mouse,") and Eric A. Kimmel (wrote over a hundred and fifty children's books). There should be an area where the authors can sell their books and sign them. I think librarians and volunteers could help run the book section.

Next, I will talk about the science section. In the science section there would be an invention contest for kids. The contest would be judged by inventors from Oregon. The judges I would invite would be Ken Austin, (invented an airlock used in standard prisons, and the air and water syringe used by dentists.) Tim Leatherman, (invented the Leatherman tool,) and Dr. Albert Starr, (was co-inventor to the first artificial heart valve.) The prizes from the contest could be sponsored by local companies. There would be an area where the inventors can

demonstrate their inventions and have the option to sell them if they desire. I think volunteers could help run the science section.

Next, I will talk about the art section. There would be an art contest for kids. They could turn in any type of art they want, paint, markers, pencils, or even a clay sculpture. The contest would be judged by artists from Oregon, the judges we would invite would be Sherrie Wolf (a photo realistic painter and printmaker,) Phyllis Yes (an Oregon-based artist and playwright,) and James Lavender (An American painter and printmaker.) The prizes for the competition could be sponsored by a local company. There would be an area for the artists to sell art if they want to. Volunteers could help with the art section.

The final area would be the cooking section, there would be a cooking competition for kids. They would cook their food at their houses and send in a video of them cooking it, but they will bring the food to the convention to be tasted and judged. The chefs of local restaurants in St. Helens would be the judges. They could be the chef of Zhen's Chinese Restaurant, the chef of Sunshine pizza, and the chef of Dockside Restaurant. There would be a place where the restaurants can sell their food. The prizes for the competition could be sponsored by a local company. Volunteers would help run the cooking section. Finally, I think there should be a place where local vendors and restaurants can set up their booths.

Thank you for reading through all of this. I know it's a lot to read. I hope you enjoyed it, I just have little bit more I want to say. Part of the reason I picked the Saint Helens LCFK is because I personally would love this if it was to happen. Another reason would be because it's something that kids can do and have fun, but still be very educational. I think this would also benefit the whole community. The last reason is because this would offer a chance for kids to try new things and hone their skills, and I think the Saint Helens LCFK is the perfect way to do all those things.

Thank you,

If I were mayor...

If I were mayor, my first decision would be to build sidewalks along all busy streets.

I have dedicated a lot of thought into this and considered the different opportunities for improvement. I think the potential benefits and safety outweigh the costs, and this would improve our city environment for years to come.

If I were mayor, I would notice the difficulty for pedestrians and bicyclists in some areas of Saint Helens, due to short (previously rural) areas with no sidewalk. The housing in the area has increased, so the infrastructure needs to do so, as well. I think that sidewalks are important to families who don't otherwise have a mode of transportation. Without sidewalks, children can't walk to school safely. Adults without vehicles can't get to a job without adding a lot of time to their trip on an alternate route, unless they wish to walk in busy streets, which sometimes have no shoulder, or only have a steep drop-off with a water-filled ditch.

Without sidewalks, there are increased pedestrian and bicycling accidents. Without sidewalks, a 2-lane road often increases maneuvering difficulty for drivers and pedestrians alike. Without sidewalks, there is not proper drainage for many roads. That means that ditches on the sides of the roads often flood in the rainy months.

In the years that I have lived in Saint Helens, the lack of sidewalks has prevented me from walking to school, parks, and stores that are less than a mile from my home. Our neighborhoods feel like they are not connected, when there isn't a safe way to move between them. This problem has personally impacted my independence because my parents only allow me to walk along roads where there are sidewalks, and my neighborhood has been relatively isolated for the needs of pedestrians.

The length of Columbia Boulevard between Sykes and Gable has not had a sidewalk, with poor road conditions, including flooding and steep drops on a narrow shoulder. This has made it so that my high school aged siblings either have to walk the long way around (which includes walking along the highway), or just not walk to the high school and home from their after-school clubs. My parents have spent lots of time and money on gas, for going back and forth picking my siblings and I up from various places in town. My siblings had offered to walk home, but their route would have taken them along the busy highway, or along a route with unsafe pedestrian conditions.

I believe that sidewalks encourage students to walk to school, which reduce gas cost for families and potentially reduce the need for busing. Having sidewalks increases the visibility to vehicles, with clear



designation of the driving boundary. Sidewalks also reduce the amount of pedestrian accidents, since they aren't sharing their space with motorized vehicles. Having sidewalks means that drainage problems are also fixed, with proper sewage tunnels underneath the sidewalks. This minimizes seasonal flooding due to blocked ditches. Having sidewalks encourages people to exercise more. It fosters a sense of community, when people have the opportunity to safely spend time outside, and interact with each other. It also helps neighborhood stores bring in customers, since they can walk to a small store, instead of driving to a larger store that may be further away. Having sidewalks draws house buyers to the area, because for many families with young children, it is necessary to have sidewalks. In turn, this also increases the property value and curb appeal of these properties.

This past winter, the city put sidewalks on North Vernonia Road, which meant that my parents were comfortable with letting me walk to my friends' homes, which were only a few blocks away, but not safely accessible to me as a pedestrian. Now, I feel it has encouraged not only my family, but our neighborhood to walk, run, or do any kind of exercise.

In conclusion, among the possible improvements to our city, this one could have a large impact on our community for years to come.



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IF I WERE MAYOR OF ST.  
HELENS



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# HOW WE CAN CHANGE THE CITY THROUGH OUR POWER

- ▶ Mayors can have different powers depending on what city, county, or state they are serving in. Some have vetoing powers. Others only allow city council members to have more power, while the mayor can still input.
- ▶ Many council members use politics to sway opinions over to their side.
- ▶ I would try to persuade the people to join in on council meetings and would take into account anything spoken, giving more power to the people.
- ▶ Fundraising is a great way to get more monetary support for these projects. Once enough funds have been gathered, some of these changes could become a reality.



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# CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- ▶ Underprivileged youth may not be able to afford their own food or school supplies, especially those in poverty.
- ▶ Parents have to buy supplies for their children and pay for school meals. Other counties in Oregon provide free school meals for their students.
- ▶ I think that the schools should supply their own students with supplies and school meals should be free for all students. This would relieve parents of the stresses of finding children more expensive and unusual supplies. This would help decrease bullying in schools over the quality of supplies.
- ▶ If I were elected mayor, I would fund the schools so that they could supply their students, in addition to making school meals free for all students.



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# CHANGES TO TAXES AND HOUSING

- ▶ The housing market skyrocketed in the last few years. Property taxes in Oregon are amongst the highest in the nation, making it hard to afford houses and local buildings.
- ▶ Because the housing market is booming, it is becoming more difficult to afford buying a house for many families across the state. Increasing rent prices has also displaced many families from their domiciles. Rent for business properties has also increased over time, causing several local businesses to close their doors or pass along increased costs to their customers.
- ▶ If property taxes were lowered and rental properties subsidized, housing could become more affordable to those who are impoverished, and more local businesses would have the ability to open to the public.
- ▶ If I were in the position as mayor, I would lower property taxes and find ways to incentivize the opening of new businesses that would bring needed services and local jobs.



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# CHANGES TO HOW WE SUPPORT AND PROVIDE FOR THE HOUSELESS

- ▶ As taxes rise and housing increases in marketing, more people cannot afford houses and go without proper sheltering.
- ▶ Houseless people have been in the county for many years, and the number has grown in more recent years in part due to inadequate resources to mental health and chemical dependency treatment, and in part due to the ever increasing cost of living in Oregon.
- ▶ Many houseless people are mentally ill, and unable to self rescue. Given access mental health treatment, as well as access to safe and adequate housing, they could begin to recover and hopefully move toward economic independence.
- ▶ If I had to make a decision as the mayor, I would have the city partner with mental health associations and clinics to help people in need. I would also attempt to find the houseless affordable housing, and with enough room to shelter families in need.



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# BRINGING BACK THE UNEMPLOYED POST-PANDEMIC

- ▶ The pandemic has forced many businesses to close down, leaving people without jobs. Surviving businesses have furloughed their workers and many have less money to pay for food, rent, electricity, and running water.
- ▶ It has become increasingly difficult for nonessential workers to get jobs, and local businesses need the help of the government.
- ▶ When the pandemic has run its course, businesses will be able to rehire many lost jobs and workers, as well as serving for our local community
- ▶ If I were mayor, I would try to find ways for more people to get back to work and help keep businesses running and families without financial crises. I would also incentivize closed businesses to reopen their doors.



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# CHANGES TO HOW WE HARVEST ENERGY

- ▶ Air pollution is a hazard that affects all Oregonians. Oregon is the fifth most polluted state in the nation.
- ▶ We currently use fossil fuels and other unclean, nonrenewable resources. There are several other methods of harvesting energy including hydroelectric power, solar panels, and windmills to supply our usage of electricity.
- ▶ Being one of the most unclean states, Oregon should begin using new methods of obtaining energy from more reasonable resources.
- ▶ If I were mayor, I would commission more windmills and solar panels to be placed in the city. I would offer tax credits to incentivize citizens to adopt power saving technology, such as smart thermostats, energy efficient appliances and home renovations. Once enough people begin to use different energy resources, our air will be cleaner and more pure.



**B**

**If I Were Mayor**



## **If I Were Mayor...**

**I would promote reading, especially in younger children. It would improve their reading skills, and grades, and help public libraries and bookstores. They would read based off of their interests, and it could improve their understanding of the world around them. It could help them with their communication skills, and increases their imagination. It gives them new ideas and sharing skills.**



# Reading and the affect it has on grades

In my school career, I have been a pretty good student, with A's and B's. but it isn't entirely because I pay attention in class and study. Reading helps improve your grades. I know people who study for months and get a D. it all depends on how you are raised, and the importance placed upon books. When I was young, My Grandmother always read me books before bedtime. My mother always made sure, when when we couldn't read, that there was no shortage of picture books and shorter chapter books to look at. I even wrote a book at 5 called "unicorn Frinds" even though I spelled friends wrong, I was able to write every other word correctly, even illustrated, which is quite the feat. But I believe that my 12 grade reading level helps my grades more than any amount of studying could.



# Sharing and imagination

Teaching sharing and imagination to young children is a huge part of parenting. Books can make that easier by having the impossible happen, like giants and fairies and princes and princesses. It encourages imagination that will later help them write stories of their own, or play with other kids. It also promotes sharing because, in my experience, it is exciting, sharing and swapping books, so that others can share the adventure. I myself still share books among friends, as our love of books brought us together. Sharing books also helps other kids learn to read, or learn to read bigger words.





# Public libraries and bookstores

**“Printed book sales amounted to 750.89 million units in 2020, marking growth of 8.2 percent, the highest year-on-year increase since 2010.”**

**This is what comes up to the google search of average bookstore sales in 2020. This is a result coronavirus, and social distancing. While stuck in their homes, people have begun reading more, which helps the bookstores and libraries. The reading communities have grown, because of idleness and boredom.**



# Ideas to save books

Online bookstores are a good resource for books. You can find the genre, author, and name of the book easily. Some things I have seen as well are little neighborhood sponsored libraries. Libraries can continually add books and people can add their own, and take a book or two. This method also promotes community building.





# Books that we should suggest to kids

Keeper of the the lost cities

Percy jackson

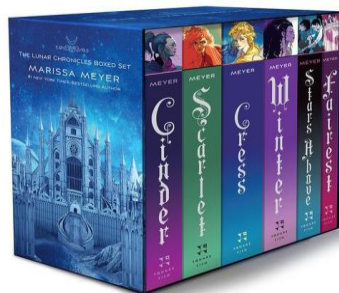
The one and only ivan

Wings of fire

The hunger games trilogy

The lunar chronicles

divergent



there are many other books that

I can suggest, But I encourage

kids to find these books on their

own.

