



[Home](#) / [Council Clerk](#) / [Council Documents](#) / [Communication](#)

## 760-2024

Communication

### Request of Meaghan Wilkinson to address Council regarding Portland Gray Panthers

Placed on File

A brief description of Communication: Portland Gray Panthers

#### Document History

Item 760 Communications in [September 4-5, 2024 Council Agenda](#) (<https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda/2024/9/4>)

City Council

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#### Requested Agenda Type

Communications

#### Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date

September 4, 2024

757-761

FALL 2024 ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS  
PORTLAND GRAY PANTHERS PAC 22370

**President** -- **Kamala Harris**

**Portland Mayor** -- **Carmen Rubio**

**City Council District 4**

- **Lisa Freeman**
- **Sarah Silkie**
- **Mitch Green**

**City Council District 3**

- **Angelita Morillo**
- **Tiffany Lane**
- **Chris Flanary**

**City Council District 2**

- **Michelle DePass** -- **Marnie Glickman**
- **Elana Prittle-Guiney** -- **Debbie Kitchin**
- **Jennifer Park** -- **Nat West**

**City Council District 1**

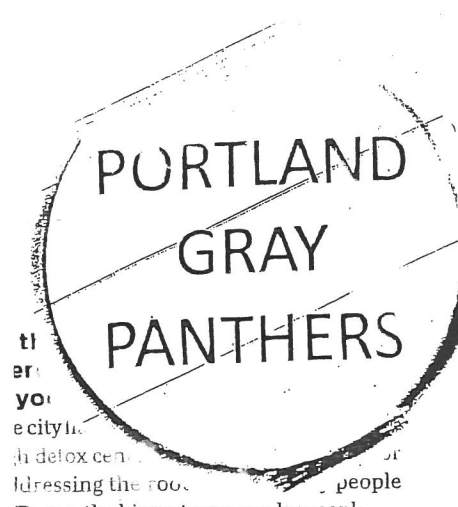
- **Cayle Tern**
- **Steph Routh**
- **Candace Avalos**

**Multnomah County Commissioners**

- **Meagan Moyer**
- **Shannon Singleton**

**Congress – Oregon**

- **Maxine Dexter** -- **Janelle Bynum**



# Angelita Morillo

Famous on TikTok, she'd rather create a sanitation bureau than go viral.

BY LILIN HUTCHINSON [linlin@week.com](mailto:linlin@week.com)

For a little less than a year while attending Portland State University, Angelita Morillo says she bounced between sleeping in a park and in stairwells and couchsurfing with friends. Now she's running for City Council in District 3 because she doesn't want anyone else to fall through the same cracks.

At just 27, Morillo is one of the youngest candidates running for City Council in the fall. It's her first bid for public office.

"I am running because I want to make City Hall a place where everyone is heard, regardless of who they are or where they come from," Morillo told *WW* in a phone interview.

After graduating college, Morillo spent three years in City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's office, fielding calls and emails from constituents. She now works as a policy advocate at Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, and serves on the Portland Rental Services Commission.

Morillo is perhaps best known for her presence on TikTok, where she has over 34,000 followers and critics elected officials. *WW* spoke to Morillo about her campaign. The interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.

**WW: What are your top three priorities if elected?**

**Angelita Morillo:** Sanitation, housing and homelessness, and transportation.

I'm really interested in creating a centralized sanitation bureau. Our garbage is managed by the city, county and Metro.

**Seeks to represent:** District 3 (Southeast Portland)

**Age:** 27

**Job:** Policy advocate and legislative strategist at Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

**Fun fact:** Won nationals with the Lincoln High School Constitution team in 2014

We have a pretty inefficient bureaucracy that is extremely hard to navigate. If we can clean up the city a little bit more, we'll reduce the animosity between housed and unhoused people.

For housing and homelessness, short term, we need to make sure that we have autonomous shelter, where you have houseless folks also involved in the decision-making process. I want to specifically make shelters that are for folks who are experiencing domestic violence issues, or LGBTQ youth. For long-term solutions, we need to focus on zoning changes.

In District 3, I would love to create a rapid transit bus line on Sandy Boulevard and a bike lane. I also want to find areas of the city where we have existing bike paths and actually add hardened barriers to protect people.

**What aspects of the city's current approach drug use and overdose deaths do you support... and what would you change?**

I don't really think the city has a very comprehensive approach. We don't have enough detox centers or treatment centers for people. We're not addressing the root causes of why people are turning to drugs. To me, the biggest reason why people are doing drugs is because of poverty. We do not have any affordable places to live in the city.

**Would you change the Portland Clean Energy Fund and, if so, how?**

I think the Portland Clean Energy Fund is one of the most wonderful programs the city has created thus far. I do not think it should be used as a slush fund for the rest of the city's bureaus because that's not what voters intended. So we need to make sure that all of that revenue is still being used toward clean energy projects.

**Which current City Council member do you and your policies most align with?**

Commissioner Carmen Rubio. I think her approach is very collaborative.

**Is the city doing enough to bring back downtown and economic development? If not, what should it be doing that it's not?**


We have a tendency to only focus on downtown as the economic strong point of our city. But I know that during the pandemic, a lot of the small businesses within these other districts and neighborhoods actually contributed a lot to our city. I would love to see a renewal of Fareless Square to get people to come downtown.

**You are endorsed by the Portland Association of Teachers. Do you agree with what the union has done in its advocacy for Palestine?**

I support all people's right to organize against the mass murder of civilians that's being funded by our tax dollars, and I am confident that PAT leadership, their members, and the community they serve will work together to address the issues that arise in a timely and respectful way.

# Elana Pirtle-Guiney

She wants to do more than just consult on the future of the city



ELANA FOR PORTLAND.COM

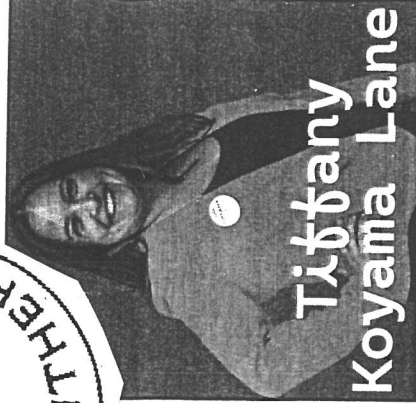
**Seeks to Represent:** District 2 (Northeast Portland)

**Age:** 39

**Job:** Policy consultant at Confluence Solutions

**Fun fact:** She recently won second place for brownies she entered in an Oregon State Fair baking contest.

Elana Pirtle-Guiney is making her first bid for public office, but she's no stranger to political work in Oregon. In 2022, she led Lift Every Voice Oregon, the advocacy coalition that successfully backed Measure 114, which expanded the permits and background checks required to buy a gun and limited the capacity of ammunition magazines. (It's still tied up in court challenges.) She was a policy adviser to the committee for the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry for little less than a year leading up to 2022. Before that, she was a policy adviser and then legislative director to Gov. Kate Brown for six years.

**Tiffany Koyama Lane**

**Photomini:** She/her

**Seeks to Represent:** District 3 (Southeast Portland)

**Job:** Third grade teacher

affordability and public safety concerns? How are we making every decision we make, we are paying attention to who benefits and who pays the cost for those decisions?

**What aspects of the city's current approach to homelessness and overdose deaths do you support and what would you like to see change?**

We have to make sure that we have treatment beds available and that somebody is looking for treatment. If somebody says they're ready to go into recovery, and we say, "Great, we will have a spot for you next week from now," that's not getting somebody into recovery. We need to boost our infrastructure to actually get folks into recovery and into treatment.

**Do you support the city staying in the Joint Office. As we've seen in the last couple of years, the city and the county being on different pages, good for folks who are homeless. The Joint Office is the place where we can work out those differences and make sure that we are together on a path moving forward.**

I do support the city staying in the Joint Office. As we've seen in the last couple of years, the city and the county being on different pages, good for folks who are homeless. The Joint Office is the place where we can work out those differences and make sure that we are together on a path moving forward.

**Would you change the Portland Clean Energy Fund if so, how?**

PCEF is the biggest strategic opportunity that Portland has right now. We have the ability to build ourselves up as a vibrant green city. We need good jobs while pursuing economic justice work because of PCEF. I would like to see us lean into big projects that can create long-term improvements in the lives of Portlanders through the operations that PCEF presents. I think there are a number of opportunities to increase funding energy efficiency in schools.

**Which current City Council member do you and your policies most align with? Please specify just one.**

When I look at who on the current council can help create a long-term vision for our city, who is passionate about working with an eye toward where we are trying to get 10 or 20 years from now, I think Carme Rubio is doing that more than anybody else on the council right now.

# Tiffany Koyama Lane

**Do you support the city staying in the Joint Office of Homeless Services? What's your plan to address homelessness?**

I do support the city staying in the Joint Office. When there are two separate governments dealing with the same problem, it doesn't make sense to move things farther apart.

We have to address the burnout of service providers, and we need more housing navigators. I'm interested in trying models of city-owned housing. I talked to city councilors in Denver and Seattle that are talking about social housing, where it's open to anyone at a percentage of income.

**Which current City Council members do you and your policies most align with?**

Carme Rubio. I got an early endorsement from her, and I would love to work with her.

# Portland Gray Panthers Oppose grocer mega-merger

MY VIEW:  
LEW CHURCH  
AND  
BROOKLYN  
SHERMAN

**K**urt Schrader's recent op-ed ("Merger of grocers would protect U.S. consumers," March 6, 2024, Portland Tribune) is, simply put, off the wall and off-kilter. Here's why:

Portland Gray Panthers is happy to support the efforts of Attorneys General in 10 states (including Oregon's Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum) in opposing the proposed merger of Fred Meyer-Kroger and Albertsons.

### Bigger is not better

One of Schrader's comments alleges that "the bigger" the mega-corporation, the lower the prices. Nonsense. Schrader omits that the current Fred Meyer CEO already makes \$20 million per year.

We guess that Kurt Schrader has not ventured recently to the downtown grocery store here in Portland

where—early on a weekday morning—there are no checkers, just so-called "self-service" checkout machines.

Machines-only stores don't benefit customers, workers or prices. The do, evidently, benefit CEOs. Moreover, sounding a bit too much akin to Donald Trump, Schrader, in his op-ed, attacks people (as well as businesses) in Germany and South Korea for attempting to "barge in" on "our" American economy.

Schrader uses the word "American" quite a bit in his op-ed to push the Kroger-Albertsons marriage.

This resembles the "America First" language of the former president. That, however, is an ideology that divides Estados Unidos from the world, and makes corporations less accountable to workers and consumers alike.

Schrader touts the charitable altruism of the Albertsons corporation for donations of "gift cards" to consumers. Unfortunately, it also sounds like Kurt Schrader has failed to recently visit the very long lines at local Northwest food pantries in neighborhood after neighborhood.

Such "gift cards" don't appear to be crossing or erasing the gap, or the

"swiss cheese" nature of the so-called safety net. But Wall Street profits in 2024 are at an all-time high.

Raising the minimum wage, capping drug prices, real rent control for tenants, and curtailing exorbitant CEO salaries all may be far better ways to fight poverty than the "gift card" gambit. Handouts by benevolent corporations fail the smell test.

Like Ralph Nader, a longtime consumer advocate, Portland Gray Panthers (and our affiliate Gray Panthers Global Union) absolutely believes that corporations in Estados Unidos have a corporate responsibility to workers and consumers alike.

For one thing, Portland Gray Panthers supports the Walmart Boycott to End Gun Violence, which has been endorsed by leaders in the Northwest including Oregon City Mayor Denyse McGriff,

Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran, state representatives and doctors Lisa Reynolds and Maxine Dexter, Metro reps Duncan Hwang and Ashton Simpson, and many others.

We invite Kurt Schrader to join the movement.

Halting gun, ammo and scope sales and setting up a reparations fund to gun violence victims and

families are vital steps to getting Congress to finally pass a ban on assault-style weapons and high capacity magazines.

Secondly, on Valentine's Day, Portland Gray Panthers held our "No Lunch Lunch" in the Portland Building with speakers Sharon Meieran, Simone Rede, Carmen Rubio, Keith Wilson, Mike Schmidt and several anti-gun violence and anti-poverty organizers. Attendees could donate the price of lunch (but with no food) to fight poverty and to fight against gun violence.

In a global context, Mahatma Gandhi once noted that "Poverty is the worst form of violence."

Gun retailer boycotts and anti-poverty organizing are ways to honor the traditions of social justice organizers from John Lewis to Dorothy Day to Gray Panthers founder Maggie Kuhn.

Just say no to food conglomerate mega-mergers. In a book written decades ago, writer E.F. Schumacher correctly asserted that "Small is beautiful."

*Lew Church is president and Brooklyn Sherman is secretary of Portland Gray Panthers.*

# Third party votes will gift wrap victory for Trump

A recent op-ed by Tom Busso (*"Third party votes not wasted,"* Tribune, June 26, 2024) is simply not true. Here's why:

In 2024, the presidential election presents a clear, binary choice between the Democratic nominee (likely Vice President Kamala Harris), and Donald Trump on the Republican side.

Any "third party" votes (including votes for vaccine denier RFK Jr.) are, de facto, votes for Trump and his ilk. The close margins in the six or seven swing states will determine the winner.

This is also true here in Portland, with our new Ranked Choice Voting system in place for both the mayor and city council elections.

Portland Gray Panthers holds twice-monthly candidate-community forums at Portland State University. Panthers recently added our all but feisty Political Committee.

Wednesday nights and early mornings, Panthers have heard from over 80 candidates for Congress, the state Legislature, county commission, for mayor and city council offices.

Unlike libertarians, Portland Gray Panthers does not believe in the so-called "invisible hand" of Adam Smith or free market economics championed by Milton Friedman. Adam Smith wrote *The Wealth of Nations* and famously said government regulation is a bad thing. Milton Friedman taught Econ-

omics at the University of Chicago and is a champion of markets correcting themselves, ipso facto.

Panthers have organized over time for both tenant rights and housing, and in support of the Walmart Boycott to End Gun Violence.



**Brooklyn Sherman**

**MY VIEW**



**Lew Church**

**MY VIEW**

Court to re-legalize bump stocks personifies this "free market" ideology. Putting gun retailer profits ahead of the lives of people is simply wrong. The biggest mass shooting in U.S. history used firearms fitted with bump stocks at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas, where 58 people were shot and killed, and as many as 500 people were wounded.

We need more regulations, not less, to focus on harm reduction. Panthers in Portland helped pass petitions in support of IP17 and IP18, and when Measure 114 was passed by voters in an election, organizers for reform have been dismayed to see that law frozen in limbo in Oregon courts.

Many local organizers, including Measure 114 chief petitioner Pastor Mark Knudsen, have endorsed the Walmart Boycott to End Gun Violence. Mark reports he has worked 30 years for gun reform, but free market acolytes are prevailing in today's political climate. Other endorsers for the Walmart Boycott include: Oregon City Mayor Denyse McGriff, CeaseFire Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Drs. Sharon Meieran and Lisa Reynolds, Congress

candidate Dr. Maxine Dexter, Metro reps Duncan Hwang and Ashton Simpson, city council candidates Angelita Morillo, Jennifer Park and Jeremy Smith, Portland mayor candidates Liv Othos and Keith Wilson, and many others.

The U.S. Surgeon General recently stated that gun violence is a public health epidemic in this country, a uniquely American problem. The leading cause of death among school children is gun violence. Over 50,000 people in the U.S. died of gun violence in the last year.

Demands of the Walmart Boycott include: stop selling guns, ammo and scopes by Walmart; setting up a reparations fund for victims and families of gun violence; and that Walmart use the corporate power it has to successfully lobby Congress to ban assault weapons and ban high capacity magazines.

**Solutions not drama**  
In the Northwest, housing and homelessness is likewise an emergency. In the Gray Panthers Election Forums, candidates meet with voters on housing, on harm reduction measures, and the future using

polite dialogue, civic responsibility, and with a focus on solutions not drama.

What are the names of some of these Election Forum speakers? Here is a partial list (and it is important to acknowledge people who think discussion and thoughtfulness have value):

■ Angelita Morillo, Steph Routh, Jennifer Park, Cayle Tern, Shannon Singleton, Meagan Morel, Carmen Rubio, Simone Rede, Ted Wheeler, Nick Kristof, Betsy Johnson, Rene Gonzalez, Mingus Mapps, JoAnn Hardesty, Vadim Mozysky, Sam Adams, Steve Novick, Eric Zimmerman, Marshall Runkel...

■ and, Mike Schmidt, Nathan Vasquez, Ellen Rosenblum, Tobias Read, Elizabeth Steiner, Kim Thatcher, Bud Pierce, Maxine Dexter, Susheela Jayapal, Loretta Smith, Lew Frederick, Nicole O'Donnell, Christina Stephenson, Jessica Vega Pederson, Lori Stegman, Lynn Pederson, Mary Nolan, Travis Nelson...

■ and, Dacia Grayber, Khanh Pham, Thuy Tran, Penny Okamoto, Sandy Chung, Susannah Morgan, Laura Lovato, Rob Nosse

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Mary Heinrich, Willy Chotzen, Mariah Hudson, Olivia Clark, Chad Lykins, Mitch Green, Tiffany Lane, Tiffany Penson, Lisa Freeman, Michelle DePass, Debbie Kitchin, Sarah Silkie, Chris Flanary, Eli Arnold, Jesse Cornett, among others.

Why do these folks matter? Portland Gray Panthers believes community and problem-solving are central to a functioning democracy. A place where regular folks can ask questions and discuss cross-talk of traditional 'politics' is vital. There have been no Jerry Springer chair-tossing events at our Community Forums.

Before his assassination by gunfire in June, 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy insisted the U.S. "is a good country, a great country." Portland Gray Panthers absolutely believes this has been true at times in the past and can be true again, locally and globally.

*Meaghan Wilkinson, Brooklyn Sherman and Lew Church are organizers for Portland Gray Panthers, which can be found on Facebook, TikTok, Instagram and YouTube.*

PORTLAND GRAY PANTHERS PAC

# VOTE KAMALA HARRIS !!!!

*First woman U.S. president in history  
(250 years)*



PORTLAND GRAY PANTHERS IS ON TIKTOK,  
INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE.

