



# If I Were Mayor, I Would... Student Contest



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 an **iPad Air 2!**

**CONTEST DEADLINE:** Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 4:30 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 2017-18 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 2017-18 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 (video, PowerPoint, Prezi, 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 2017-18 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.

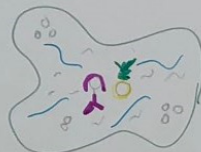
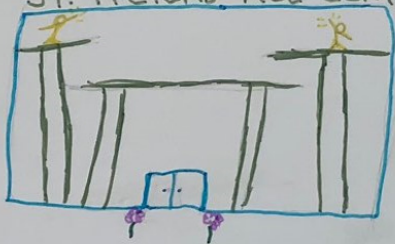
*First-place statewide winners will receive their prizes during the OMA Summer Conference, to be held July 26-28 in Florence.*

For more information about the local contest please contact:

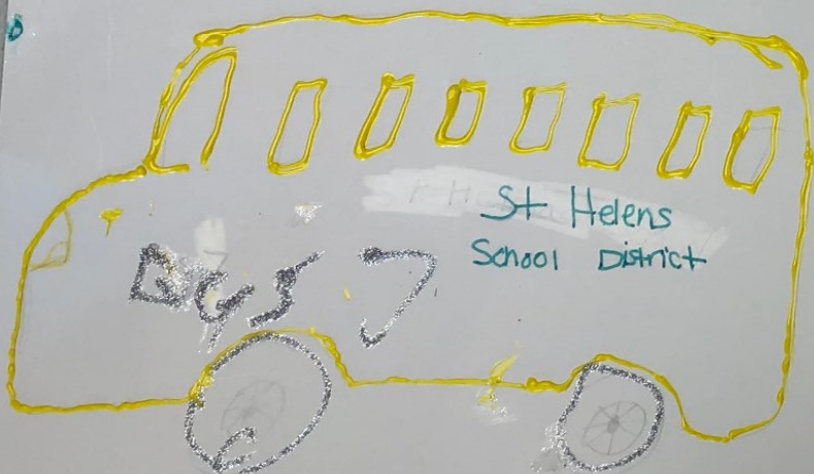
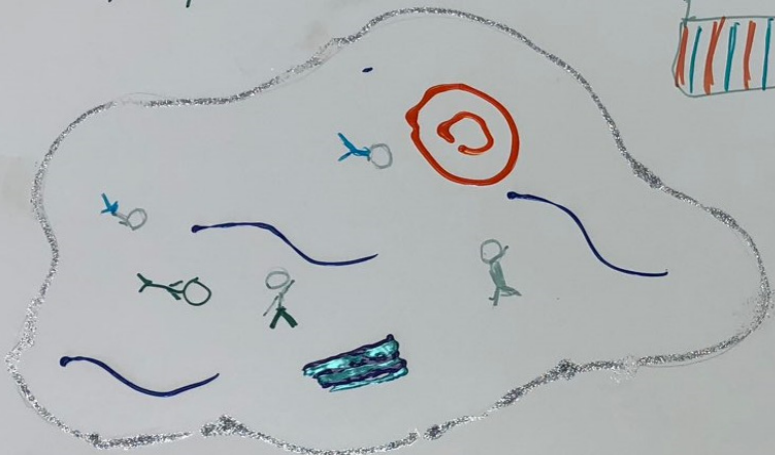
Deputy City Recorder Lisa Scholl at 503-366-8216 or [lisas@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:lisas@ci.st-helens.or.us)

# IF I WAS MAYOR ...

St. Helens Rec Center



Water Park!



I WOULD RAISE

MONEY FOR MORE

TRIPS  
FIELD



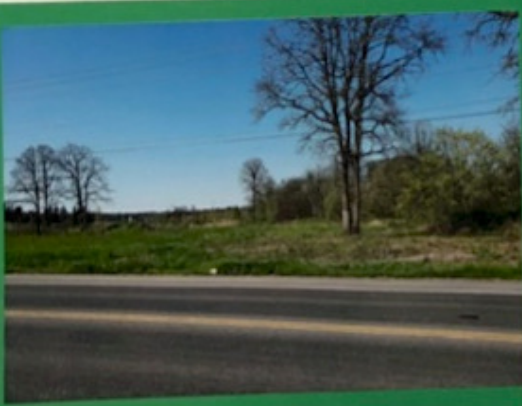
# IF I WERE MAYOR



**CITY HALL**

I would like to go to lots of meetings in the community to show my support. I would also like to help with keeping things equal in people's mind. If a group loses a vote on something, I would remember this for the future. When a new opportunity or idea comes, the group that did not win the vote before, I would like to reconsider their opinion or idea. As mayor, I would also like to support all the local businesses as much as possible.

I would like to bring back the Port O' Fun days. The Port O' Fun was a big carnival with amusement rides, along with the parade that we still do to celebrate St. Helens. My parents remember how fun that was and I would like to experience that.



**BICYCLE**

I would like to create more bike paths in the community. I would also like to improve the current bike paths to make them safer. Let's make St. Helens more bike friendly!

I would make a little village of small houses for the homeless in our town. There are big empty lots in our town that could be used to make a homeless village. People who live in the village would have to do eight hours a week of community service to stay in the little house. Examples of community service would be to pick up litter, clean + maintain the parks, or help serve the meals for the village.

I would like to create a task force to help clear out areas people do drugs.







St. Helens Activity Bus



Bus stop  
OMSI 9:00  
ZOO 10:00  
PUPPET 12:00





## If I Were Mayor, I Would...

If I were Mayor, I would start off the job by giving some love to our parks and the places our children and families play in and around. When you visit the parks of St Helens, it's not just swings and slides. You can find glass and other foreign objects that could potentially harm the people and the animals roaming there. People also tend to hang out along our running trails and some sleep in public restrooms. It's unsanitary and unsafe for our community. A way we can make our parks cleaner is to construct a volunteer group that checks up on our parks once every two weeks and walks trails and scans the parks to ensure that there is nothing hazardous that is accessible to the people or animals at the park. As for the people making sleeping quarters along trails and in restrooms, unfortunately, there is nothing I could do as mayor to address that problem other than to devise a community ran Facebook page that was solely based on updates on our parks and it's well being. I believe this would make mothers less anxious about taking their kids to the park and all around keep our city looking green and pleasant.

Secondly, if I were Mayor, I would like to install an annual Police & Fire verses Local Kids Softball game. What would be held is a few hours to play a fun-loving game of ball with Fire and Police



officers on one team and local kids on another, time to enjoy a greasy lunch from the concession stand, and a time to ask for volunteers and donations for the park plan. This would be a special opportunity for the children of St Helens to feel connected with their local safety departments. Businesses should sponsor our opposing teams. The people of St Helens could also contribute by sending donations to the City Hall. All profits made would be put towards our parks and the safety supplies needed for the people who volunteered to aid the cleansing of the trails and play areas. Concession stand money would also go towards the parks.

Lastly, if I were Mayor, I would design a holiday decorating committee that would cover the town with lights and other accessories that related to upcoming holidays and traditions in the US every year. Doing this would put more smiles on more peoples faces. Some people can't sometimes afford holiday memories like some others can so by coating the town in ornaments or string and bulbs, I can guarantee to see a lot more smiles on a lot more faces. When a family comes in on Christmas for example, they can come see a large beautifully lit up tree in the town square, eat a delicious dinner in one of our many restaurants down by the waterfront, and possibly see an exciting family movie together.

To conclude, I can imagine being the Mayor is not an easy job to take on, but if I were Mayor, I would make my parks cleaner and organize community events to bring people together and people more lively and happy.

4/23/18

### If I Was Mayor...

If I was mayor I would change some things. I would help people in poverty. I would try to help St. Helens for the better. I would also try to change St. Helens into a real Halloween Town. I would also try to make another Halloween Town movie. I would also try to make a way for people to get more jobs.

Some other things I would do are to strengthen school security by having people guarding schools that know how to defend themselves and the students. I would also put a metal detector on the doors to see if anyone is bringing something in that they shouldn't. I would also try to put in a Voodoo Doughnut shop or any donut shop besides Safe Way. I would also tell McDonald's to be more sanitary within the kid area.

We should also make drugs illegal or at least not have an alcohol factory.. Or at least have it where if you have a baby you can't do drugs or smoke near your kid or other kids in areas where kids play. I would also have a big sign when you enter St. Helens that says welcome to Halloweentown. Under the sign it would say St. Helens only a little smaller. I would also try to set up community couragment classes for people with depression.

I would also try to have more events at the town hall. I would do an annual costume contest where the winner gets his or her name in a plaque in front of the metal pumpkin in front of City Hall. Then there would always be something remembering them. I would also make sure we always have a pumpkin in front of City Hall. I would also turn one house from the movie into a kind of museum that would hold props from the movie.

I would try to help animals in the animal shelter. I would try to give them homes in good families. If I was mayor I would have a movie playing outside to raise money for charities. I would also have a big public picnic where you can come, but you have to bring your own food. I would also try to protect public places from people who want to give us a "bad" reputation.

If I was mayor I would try to stop discrimination of gender and skin color and of what people think of others. I would also try to raise pay checks for police officers, emergency response units, firefighters and doctors. I would also try to stop child abuse by having more fun raisers. I would also try to help Churches by visiting them every so often to show support. I would also have a big dog park that has room for a lot of people and dogs to meet each other. If I was mayor I would try to change St. Helens for the better in many ways.



## If I Were Mayor, I Would

If I were Mayor of St. Helens, I would like to make our city look better and make sure people have a place to stay and have food to eat. I would also make it easier to get around so more people will visit us. Some ideas I have to make that happen would be fixing potholes and sidewalks, planting trees and flowers, and opening a bookstore and homeless shelter.

By fixing potholes and sidewalks our city would be easier to get around and pass through. With more flowers and trees our town will look pretty and people will want to visit or live in St. Helens. I would do that by hiring people to plant trees and flowers and starting a program for kids to help plant the trees and flowers. Trees and flowers would make our town look prettier and make people feel happier. With more people living here, because our town looks better, business profits will go up and that is always good for everyone.

I would also start a community service project where people can volunteer to help pick up trash at parks, by roads, and other places in our town. This would also make our town look better along with planting flowers and trees. It also helps the environment by making it cleaner. A clean environment is a good environment for our town and our country.

If I could, I would open a bookstore downtown and encourage people to trade a book for a book and read more. At this book store I would make it so people who don't have that many books can trade their own books for different books in the store. Everyone could use this bookstore, even kids. This means even people who can't afford books can get new-to-them books to read and keep. Having more books, and people who read them, means more educated people which can lead to better jobs for the people in our community. More people with jobs also means more business for our town.

Helping people with struggles is really important too. I would help the the people who are struggling in life and have no home to live in or food to eat. I would make a small homeless shelter that will be open to anyone. The shelter will provide food and a small cot bed to sleep on and with this help from us to them they might turn their life around. The shelter could be run by volunteers from our community and also by the people who live there.



The reason why would I do these things if I were the mayor is because I care about this town and everyone in it. I believe that everyone should have a house to sleep in, food to eat and a good environment. Providing shelter, books, and making our town better would be good for everyone who lives here and everyone who visits. I know St. Helens is already good place and these are some things that can make it even better.

## If I Could Be Mayor Of St. Helens

██████████  
4/23/2018

If were mayor of St. Helens, Or., I would want there to be more activities happening in the townsquare in front of the courthouse that would bring more people from the community together. I love attending the Halloweentown events in October, and the Christmas Tree lighting in December. It's beautiful and exciting with all of the decorations and activities. It also brings people to come visit us and spend time in our town. We look forward to those times of year because they help us engage with other people from the community. When we aren't celebrating one of those two events and drive down to the water, the little townsquare just seems so empty. It would be nice to see other seasonal decorations up. Maybe some flowers installed in the spring, an egg hunt on the square or waterfront, a farmer's market, a pioneer celebration, or some food carts in the summer. I love the businesses in the downtown area and enjoy visiting the park near the water. I also love the little townsquare and the old courthouse. It has such a great small town feeling to it and I wish that it were more active and had more shops and restaurants that would bring more people to visit and want to hang out there.

One of the major things I'd like to see is a farmer's market in St. Helens. I think that having one would be a good thing, because people from out of town or who are passing by might stop to visit. Community members currently need to drive if they want to get local handcrafted products from a farmer's market. Having one here would allow us to meet other community members and support our local economy. During the warmer months, it would bring more money to the town and utilize empty space.



It would be great to see more art in the community. I'm thinking of other towns or communities that have statues, sculptures, and murals all around the town, or lining a main street. Some of them are also simply made more attractive by adding large hanging baskets of flowers from the lamp posts. It would also be nice to have more areas with benches, small gardens or flower beds, ponds or water fountains, and trails to create a more walkable town that would get people out of their cars and walking around to interact with other parts of the town. Those things will additionally be better for the environment. Having bike trails or paths to tour around the town and natural areas, and including art pieces to see along the way, would be a fun activity.

I'm sure that being Mayor is a hard job and has a lot of responsibilities to it and all the things you'd like to do for the community aren't possible, but you can try to do some of the things to improve the community and bring more people together. Some of my ideas would bring more money to help St. Helens be a more interesting place to live and visit. Those are some of the things I would want to do, if I were Mayor.



## If I Were Mayor Contest

April 23, 2018

### If I Were Mayor of St. Helens, Oregon

If I were mayor of St. Helens, Oregon the first thing I would direct my attention to is the growing homeless population. The United States Census Bureau reported in 2016 the population of St. Helens is 13,526 people. The local Community Action Team reported in 2016 the homeless population was around 317 people. Our local parks and vacant lands are being affected by this growing number. If I were mayor I would do my best to figure out how we can employ and house our homeless population.

Bringing more tourists to the small businesses of downtown St. Helens is another order of business I would put on my agenda as Mayor. I propose using the river as a more direct way of reaching travelers to and from Washington. The best way to make this



possible is to have a ferry that can haul both cars and people to and from Woodland, Washington. To fund the ferry I would suggest that passengers pay a fee or toll. With the opening of a new casino just over the river from Woodland, Washington and South 10 miles located in Ridgefield, Washington I guess that it would not take much time at all for the ferry to be funded. Not only would a ferry help the local businesses in St. Helens it would allow families that are divided by the river keep in touch without a commute into Longview or Portland to access Interstate 5. It will also help cut back on traffic on Highway 30.

Uniting our community at social events would highly benefit our town. Though we have many social events in the summer such as 13 Nights on the River, there are no social events in the winter months that bring our town together. I think we should change that. I think we should have events such as live caroling, a christmas tree lighting, or a New Years Celebration.

Being a student who has been brought up through the St. Helens School District, I take the education of the youth of St. Helens very seriously. As Mayor I would work closely with the

School Board and students to figure out how to improve test scores and attendance to increase the overall rating of the St. Helens School District. In 2017, the website SchoolDigger.com ranks the St. Helens School District 46th out of 147 School Districts in Oregon while our neighboring school district, Scappoose is ranked 17th out of all of Oregon. Improving the rating of our school district would keep kids in school, increase the graduation rate and would make parents want to keep their children within district and in our public schools instead of homeschooling, sending their children to Arthur Academy, Sauvie Island, Columbia Christian or even Scappoose schools.

In conclusion, there is always room for change in a growing city such as St. Helens Oregon. If I were mayor I would help our city adjust to these changes for the benefit of our local schools, law enforcement, fire and rescue and transportation department. I would make the citizens of this town proud to call St. Helens, Oregon home.





## If I Was Mayor



There are many things I would do if I could be the mayor of St. Helens. To keep this a relatively short essay, I'll just list what I think are the most important

One thing I would try do would be to somehow get the stray cat population reined in. Since the stray cat population has gone up in St. Helens, the songbird population has gone down. It has gotten better in recent times, but is still a huge problem. Stray cats use peoples' yards and gardens as their personal litter boxes, which I have experienced firsthand. It is very difficult to deal with, especially if you want the food you grow to be edible. Also, it is quite unpleasant to mow your lawn when there are cat droppings all over the place. One idea I have come up with to help the problem would be to require people to register their pet cats with a fee, just as they have to do with their dogs. This would discourage people from adopting cats, only to neglect them and leave them outside. It would also require people to have their cats have ID collars with their license. This would enable authorities to know who owns a cat. One way a mayor could achieve this would be to simply just present the idea to the city council and try to get it passed as a law.

Some other things I would try to change would involve the schools. For example, the high school's floors are still made of asbestos, which is a known cancerigen. Instead of spending time and money re-waxing the floors constantly, why not just systematically remove the tiles, and replace them with something that will not be at risk of giving people cancer? If this problem was left unchanged, the wax can be inadvertently removed or scraped off during day to day activities, releasing asbestos fibers into the air. If they use their time wisely, they could get the critical parts of the school done in the summer, and redo non-essential parts during the school year. Though some activities would have to be postponed, it would be overall better for the safety of the students. If I was mayor I would try to convince the school board to allow this to happen, and I would provide the funding for it to commence

Another concern that I have also involves the schools to some degree. Something that I have noticed is that schools, CPS, and DHS seem to take little to no action about children who have to deal with minor forms abuse. A dear friend of mine has to live in a home with a violent, abusive brother who has literally attacked her, and when the school was informed by someone, and DHS and CPS were contacted, they did nothing about it except calling her dad, who in response punished her for letting outsiders know about it. If I was mayor I would take action to make a law that if ANYONE is found to be in an abusive environment and/or in danger, they IMMEDIATELY get removed from the situation, at least until the problem is resolved, and action is taken against those at fault. In my opinion, it is is not acceptable for anyone to have to live in a home of fear, no matter how insignificant it may seem. And I know I do not fully understand

how those processes work, but have a passion for keeping kids safe, and a desire to help in any way I can.

Something else I would work to change is not as serious as the last one, but still matters. A common problem in our town is potholes. Nearly every road has at least one, and they can be a nuisance, but also be dangerous. I have firsthand experience what they can do to you. I was just riding my bike down a hill, when turning a corner there was a huge pothole in the middle of the road. I could not evade it, and ended up hitting it and crashing. They can also startle drivers when hit, because of the jarring jolt they cause, and could cause a wreck. If I was mayor, I would move to have all potholes within the city limits filled in.

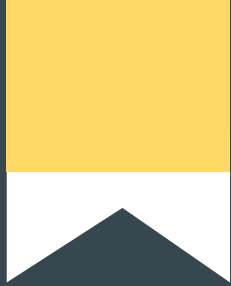
The subject of roads brings me to the final thing I would like to talk about. Something I know a lot of people would like to have in our neighborhoods would be sidewalks. And I do not mean just sidewalks in the downtown area, but also in the neighborhoods. Along with just being an overall pain having to walk along the shoulders of roads, there is an element of risk involved too. If you are walking along the shoulder of a road, and you just happen to be coming around the bend, imagine if there was an inattentive driver coming around that same bend at the same time as you, and the disaster that would follow. I wouldn't necessarily fund a big project to make big fancy sidewalks. A simple paved trail, even one made of gravel, could still make the neighborhoods of St. Helens a safer place for pedestrians.

To sum it all up, there are many things that I would do if I were mayor. True, they might be the most fun or exciting things on earth, but I felt as if they were some of the most important. If I was mayor, I would try to make St Helens a better place for all to live. I hope you enjoyed, or at least thought well of, my "If I was Mayor" essay. Thank you.

# If I Were Mayor



by Natalie Caton

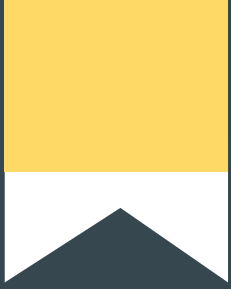


# Change starting times for schools

Having schools start at 8:30-9:00 AM would let students sleep in later, helping them be more rested and focused in school.

Most teens need 8-9 hours of sleep every day so making school start a bit later will encourage them to be healthy.

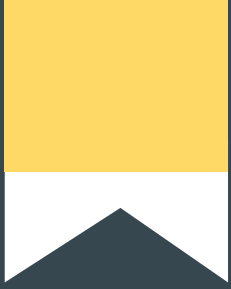




# Increase job options for teens

Having more businesses hire high school students would encourage students to be more responsible.

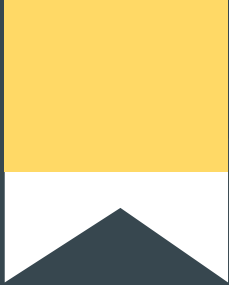
Additionally, they will have more spending money, which will go towards local businesses.



# Better bike lanes

More noticeable bike lanes could encourage more people to bike to work/school/etc., which would improve health.

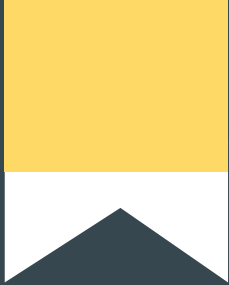
The bike lanes would be made more noticeable by being painted bright green.



# Stricter traffic laws

Currently, lots of people like to drive faster than the speed limit and run red lights, which is a safety issue.

Higher fees for violating these laws would hopefully convince people to stop violating them in the first place. Additionally, higher fees = more money for the city



## Even more trash cans

There's already a decent amount of trash cans but there is still a lot of litter.

Obviously the reason that people litter is a lack of trash cans, so putting one on every street corner would fix the problem (also trash companies could possibly hire teens which goes back to slide 3).



# In conclusion

Thanks for your consideration :)