

GABE SHEPHERD



FOR BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Voters to Add New Voice to Benton County Government ***City Councilor Gabe Shepherd Runs for County Commissioner to Address Urgent Issues in Housing, Climate and Public Engagement***

Corvallis, Ore. – August 28, 2023. The primary for an open seat on the Benton County Board of Commissioners is coming up next May, offering voters an important opportunity to add a new voice to their county government. Corvallis City Councilor Gabe Shepherd is running to fill the open seat in order to address urgent community needs at the county level, namely housing, climate, and public engagement.

Elections for county commissioners are held every two years; however, turnover is rare. With incumbent Xan Augerot choosing not to run for reelection, candidates including Gabe Shepherd will be competing in the primaries on May 21, 2024, for the open seat (position 2). Shepherd's priorities for public office include housing, climate, and public engagement. He aims to ease the housing crisis by partnering with cities on big-picture solutions and allocating state funding. He plans to make local government more accessible to all of the county's communities by setting meetings at times when those who work during the day can attend, and by holding annual town halls in every city in Benton County. He will also work to further the county's Climate Action Plan by improving community preparedness for fire, flooding, and heat waves.

"Gabe Shepherd is the obvious choice for Benton County," said Charles Maughan, Mayor of Corvallis. "I have seen Gabe's dedication over the years. His drive, knowledge, willingness to take on tasks and ability to research and suggest solutions for difficult issues will be a benefit to the county. While we served together on City Council and during my time as Mayor, Gabe has been a great ally. Gabe has advocated for affordable housing, community safety, and addressing climate change."

Gabe Shepherd has served as a Corvallis City Councilor since 2021. He is also currently Chair of the Benton County Democratic Party, Chair of the Corvallis City Legislative Committee, Council Liaison to the Corvallis Sister Cities Association, and Deputy City Clerk for the City of Albany. In the past, Shepherd has contracted with the cities of Corvallis, Albany, and Newport to record minutes and has done database work for a local manufacturer. Shepherd has worked on campaigns for measures and candidates across Benton County at nearly every election since 2020 and built productive relationships with public servants throughout the county, region, and state.

For further information, please contact Gabe Shepherd at gabe@gabeshepherd.com or visit gabeshepherd.com.

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