

Janet McManus - Candidate for SE Quad Rep (incumbent)

I am a retired social worker. I have time and interest in contributing to making our neighbor more welcoming, more diverse, and more engaged in addressing issues of common concern to all Portlanders. I have more than 40 years of experience in the field of aging and disabilities. I work well with all kinds of people and have made a positive difference in many different settings over many years.

What I see as the most important LNA issues and goals over the next year is engaging more neighbors in ongoing LNA or neighborhood-based activities as well as in seeking to reach out to and engage residents--old and new--who may not feel heard or represented in LNA's work; forming alliances and partnerships with adjacent neighborhoods and business areas to identify shared interests and concerns and work together to develop strategies and solutions.

What I like most about living in Laurelhurst is our proximity to green space at our beautiful park; our pretty, shaded and curvy streets; our easy access to downtown as well as eastside business districts including Hollywood, Hawthorne, Belmont and Lloyd Center.

What I like least about living in Laurelhurst: the sense that, as a neighborhood, we are an enclave apart from the nitty-gritty concerns of our changing city; the conviction that many of our daughters and sons will never be able to afford to live here; the lack of income and ethnic diversity in our neighborhood; and the mixed feelings I experience when I see the run-down cars and vans lining the streets on either side of our park and the tent camps and garbage strewn in various sites adjacent to and in our neighborhood. These feelings run the gamut from sadness to anger to fear. I want someone else to solve the problem yet know our city needs us--that if we are not part of the solution then we are part of the problem.