

I have been working with the homeless in Eugene for the last 18 years, through Food for Lane County, Community Supported Shelters, Eugene Service Station, and Egan Warming Center.

If we want to help people out of homelessness, the first thing they need is stability. It is nearly impossible for someone to improve their situation if they are constantly focused on finding a place to sleep. I feel the most immediate need is to provide places to legally camp and park vehicles. These microsites should be equipped with trash service, porta potties, and handwashing stations.

Constantly evicting people is not a good solution for anyone. It creates enormous distress for the campers as well as cities. Criminalizing homelessness is inhumane and counterproductive. A police record creates obstacles for getting housing and jobs.

We need to decriminalize homelessness, provide legal places to camp, offer transition assistance, and have affordable housing. I support HB 2367.