

Pirtle-Guiney champions District 2 issues

I live in St. Johns. I am a former teacher and librarian now presenting civics workshops to adults, and I am actively involved in community issues. I have personally interviewed many candidates in Portland's new City Council District 2, and I have researched others. Two issues are at the forefront of my inquiry. One is the ongoing housing crisis we face; the other is the precarious situation for 30,000 individuals who live and/or work on the north peninsula — from University Park up to Rivergate Industrial area.

Due to our location, we will be completely cut off from the rest of Portland after the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake to come. Three sides of the peninsula will liquefy. Our official emergency routes on Lombard and Columbia cross railroad bridges and a tunnel, which are over 100 years old and will fail. Families will be separated, there is no medical facility to help us, and supplies will quickly run out. In the worst-case scenario, we will be trapped with toxic smoke from the CEI Hub across the river.

The only candidate who has clearly and routinely spoken up about the need to secure these vulnerable locations is Elana Pirtle-Guiney. In several forums, she has raised concern about this potential disaster when asked about issues particular to District 2.

If you live or work on the north peninsula, or if you have friends or family who live or work there, please vote to elect Elana Pirtle-Guiney. She will help us secure our emergency routes so no one is stranded after the earthquake.

Donna L. Cohen, Portland