

Candidates with different backgrounds and ideas are running for the seat that will be vacated when **Longview City Council** member Angie Wean completes her four-year term.

Oliver Black, a teacher who currently chairs the **city's** Parks & Recreation Board, will face off in the Nov. 4 general election for the Position 6 **council** seat against Chris Bryant, the owner of a local financial planning firm.

Each of the candidates for the seat that earns \$1,010 a month said they intend to take a collaborative approach that looks beyond partisan lines for the nonpartisan seat.

Bryant had the most votes in the Aug. 5 primary. According to certified results from the Cowlitz County Elections Office, Bryant got 39.22% of the 6,831 votes cast in the **race**. Black got 32.24% and third-place challenger Josh Carter got 28.09%.

Black, in an interview with The Daily News earlier this summer, touched on his ability to think through issues carefully. Bryant submitted a written response focusing on the need for unbiased leadership.

Oliver Black

Black is currently the chair of **Longview's** parks board. He said he wants to help the **city** grow.

"I'm running for office because I want to make **Longview** a place that my kids can grow up and that they can thrive in, that their grandchildren can thrive in," Black said. "And I think we have a lot of the ingredients of a great **city**."

"I'm looking for ways to move our **city** forward in a way that we can sustain and that's not going to change the great character that we already have," Black added.

As a history and civics teacher, Black said he thinks "quite a bit" about "government and the nitty gritty details." He said he will strive to listen to all voices when making decisions.

"I know how to think through the issues carefully and thoughtfully, and to make (sure) and include a lot of people in having their voice heard, and working with the community to make the decisions that are going to be right for all of us," Black said.

Black's political experience includes a prior run for congress in 2022 under the American Solidarity Party, a third party with a platform that blurred traditional party lines. When asked about his experience in the congressional **race** in which he lost, Black said he is no longer associated with the party.

Priorities for Black if elected, he said, would include maintaining the **city's** parks and library, and working to "make downtown a great regional destination."

"We also need to be creating opportunities for local businesses and make sure we're supporting the local businesses that we already have and finding new ways to let new businesses open more easily," Black said.

He touched on the importance of expanding housing in the **city**. When asked about things he thinks are going well at the **city** and on the **council**, Black touched on the adoption of the municipal housing overlay zone in the Highlands.

"Middle-density housing is going to be important for **Longview's** growth," Black said. "Right now we have huge, huge, huge stretches of land that are only zoned for low-density housing ... if we can't allow any growth in middle-density housing that's going to eventually hurt us in the long run."

He also said he wants to "ensure our public safety and effectively steward our tax dollars."

Black was a critical voice when the **City Council** voted on Resolution 2561, which was originally presented by councilmembers Erik Halvorson and Mayor Spencer Boudreau as the RECLAIM Act. Black believes that addressing the different facets of homelessness will require a collaborative solution.

"One of the things that we're facing is an ongoing homelessness problem, and we need to be collaboratively working together with the different resources we have in the **city** to solve this," Black said. "And we just cannot rely on a one-size-fits-all approach."

"We need to really be approaching this in a variety of ways," Black said.

Chris Bryant

Bryant touched on similar beliefs that homelessness will require a multifaceted approach in a prepared document he provided to The Daily News.

"Homelessness is complex," Bryant writes. "Long-term solutions require accountability, compassion and partnerships with nonprofits — not government alone."

Bryant said he brings "a collaborative spirit, conservative values and a commitment to respectful, principle-based dialogue." He further stated that he has chosen not to seek endorsements or campaign contributions to offer an independent voice on the **council** focused on the **city** and its future rather than personal or partisan agendas.

"By suspending bias and hearing every voice, we can unify the **council**, strengthen relationships and restore trust in local government," Bryant said.

He touched on multiple ideas for expanding the **city's** business and industrial tax base such as a streamlined permitting process and public-private partnerships.

"Collaborating with the port, Cowlitz County and educational institutions will drive innovation," Bryant said. "Removing barriers and encouraging responsible, long-term investment will ease the tax burden on residents while preserving **Longview's** character and strengthening our economic future."

Bryant also brought up the looming budget shortfall. He said he believes the long-term solution will require "a conservative, responsible approach to forecasting, budgeting and prioritizing essential services."

"I don't support tax increases without clear voter consent," Bryant said. "Fiscal stewardship means transparency, accountability and living within our means to secure **Longview's** future."

Bryant expanded on long-term budget planning in a follow-up email Friday. Specifically, he praised the use of workshops to address complex issues, such as a workshop the **council** held in the summer about the need for a solid waste and recycling rate increase.

"With rising costs in 2025/2026, upcoming contract negotiations in 2027 and new state mandates by 2030, I believe this is an area where proactive planning will be essential," Bryant said.

He also said in the follow-up email that, if elected, he would like to improve the way the **council** "communicates and collaborates on long-term priorities."

"Building more trust through respectful dialogue and consistent engagement could strengthen both decision-making and community support," Bryant said.

Editor's note: This story includes republished information about primary election candidates, which printed earlier this year. The story includes updated information on primary election results.

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