

# Robert Liberty - Portland Oregon

Robert Liberty, a resident of the Richmond neighborhood in Portland, was elected to the Metro Council in November 2004 to represent District 6.

His interests as Metro Councillor include promoting redevelopment in town centers and along main streets, increasing transportation and housing choices, conserving natural areas inside and outside the urban growth boundary and giving citizens a stronger role in the regional planning decisions affecting our future.

Councillor Liberty's Metro assignments include serving as a liaison on the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, the Transit Oriented Development Steering Committee and the Oregon Zoo Foundation Board, as co-chair of a task force on housing choice, and as the lead councilor on the Investing in Our Communities project to find ways to accommodate expected growth and make our communities livable. He initiated and is the lead councilor for Metro's 2006 Economic Development Speaker Series launched in January 2006. The series is offered free to the public and presents some of the world's leading economic development thinkers.

Liberty is also investigating a proposal to use increases in value on lands added to the urban growth boundary in the future to generate funds to implement Metro's 2040 plan, protect farmland and carry out the wishes of the voters for more fairness to landowners, expressed by the passage of statewide Ballot Measure 37.

An attorney with 25 years experience in land use planning issues, Liberty served as a staff attorney and Executive Director for 1000 Friends of Oregon, the nation's oldest statewide Smart Growth advocacy organization. During that time, he also served as President and an officer for the Growth Management Leadership Alliance, an association of US and Canadian Smart Growth advocacy groups. He also has experience as a land use hearings officer for Multnomah County, as an attorney in private practice representing citizens and nonprofit groups in land use proceedings and as Senior Counsel for U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

Liberty has degrees from the University of Oregon, Oxford University and Harvard Law School and was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Design School during the 2002-03 year.

An avid backpacker and committed bicycle commuter, Liberty enjoys spending time outdoors.