

## If I was The Mayor of Ashland

The world is great, but it can always be better. If I was the mayor of Ashland there would be a few key things I would focus on. First, I want to address the well-known homeless population. I'm sure all the citizens of Ashland are aware of the group of people who move around the town camping in parks and street sides. These people are struggling on the street and don't feel safe in shelters leading them to camp in our beloved public places. I believe the key to helping this group of people is to make sure they have stable jobs and incomes. Giving them free money won't push them to work hard and pursue their dreams, it only lowers their drive and motivation. They need to have access to important necessities and support. Having places where they can access free showers as well as laundry machines would boost their chances at well-paying jobs. Of course, only those with little to no income could access these facilities. There might also not be enough work for everyone in which case we should promote starting businesses lower the cost to maintain a business. This would keep many people in business and provide jobs for others. If this doesn't work, I think it is important to consider the possibility that they do not want to work. I also feel that our parks have been underused and should be more of a place for the community. Starting up clubs or events that reside inside the parks would help attract more people and attention to them while bringing our community together as one. Such as a volunteer group that could help pick up trash for volunteer hours. High schoolers need at least 100 hours (about 4 days) of volunteer work, and this could be the perfect chance to get them. Our parks, especially lithia park, are one of the key things that makes Ashland our signature little tourist town. People are attracted to Ashland mostly because of the Shakespear festival and the sweet aura of our town. More than 70% of the tax goes to pay the police. This means a lot of our income comes from this festival. As mayor I would advertise it more widely to increase the amount of people traveling to see it. We could also raise the hotel prices because these would not affect the citizens of Ashland and only travelers. Cutting down trees around power lines is also something I would do to prevent power outages. Eliminating the risk of trees falling on power lines would make power outages a lesser occurrence. A better long-term solution would be to convert to underground power lines to avoid things falling on the power lines altogether, because this is more expensive it would be something to think about in the future or raise money for. Having underground power lines would make Ashland look better as well as being more functional. As Mayor I would strive to make Ashland even better than it already is, working hand in hand with our community.