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Portland Business Alliance releases 2012 election candidate questionnaires
*Chamber's questionnaires to mayoral and city council candidates reveals their positions on
Job creation, economic development issues*

Portland, Ore. – Today, the Portland Business Alliance released responses to its first round of candidate questionnaires, revealing how candidates for the mayor of Portland and Portland City Council approach issues important to job creation, business and the overall health of the city. The Alliance issued the questionnaire to better gauge candidates' positions, inform the Alliance's endorsement process and serve as a resource for voters.

"Our region's families are suffering from the negative impacts of our lagging economy," said Sandra McDonough, President and CEO of the Portland Business Alliance. "We hope our questionnaires will aid candidates in articulating their positions on issues that affect private-sector job creation and retention. We also hope to give voters new information that may help them in their Election Day decisions."

For the last 12 months, the Alliance has sharpened its focused on private-sector job creation and retention through its Value of Jobs campaign. These questionnaires are part of that effort to demonstrate the connection between private-sector jobs and a healthy region with quality public services. Last year, the Alliance launched its campaign, which includes a series of studies about how the region's economy is faring. Its initial study, done in partnership with other business groups, showed declining wages and per capita income in the Portland-metro area compared to the national average and other peer metro areas.

As a follow-up to the study, the Alliance hosted a summit with public and private-sector leaders and developed a plan to improve the region's economic performance. The issues included in the candidate questionnaires reflect the policy recommendations in the plan as well as other critical policies impacting small business, transportation, land use and the central city.

The first round of questionnaires includes responses from Portland City Council and Portland mayoral candidates. The second round of questionnaires, to be released in the coming weeks, will include responses from Metro Council, Multnomah County Commission and Multnomah County District Attorney candidates.

The candidate questionnaires can be found on the Alliance's Value of Jobs website:
http://valueofjobs.com/candidate_ques/index.html

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About the Alliance

The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce, with nearly 1,200 businesses in the region. The Portland Business Alliance's mission is to promote and foster an environment in the Portland region that attracts, supports and retains private sector jobs, spurs economic vitality and enables quality educational opportunities for the region's residents. Visit www.portlandalliance.com for more information.