

The Skanner Endorses These Candidates and Measures

The Skanner Candidate Endorsements

October 17, 2008

Many of these races are obvious, especially on the national level. Local races, however, include many excellent candidates, including the Portland City Commissioner race between Amanda Fritz and Charles Lewis. While The Skanner endorses Fritz, we feel that both candidates would make excellent civic leaders, and we strongly encourage Lewis to continue his quest for public office. Similarly, in the Multnomah County Sheriff race, Sgt. Muhammad Ra'oof is professional, with a 29-year career in the Sheriff's Department and an impressive list of advanced educational business degrees - he would make a powerful elected official in local government or even in the state legislature. We endorse Bob Skipper for sheriff simply because he's done the job in the past and done it well.

Ballots are in the mail Saturday, Oct. 18 - don't forget to vote.

President
Barack Obama

U.S. Congress
District 1
David Wu

District 3
Earl Blumenauer

District 4
Peter DeFazio

District 5
Kurt Schrader

Secretary of State
Kate Brown

State Treasurer
Ben Westlund

Attorney General
John Kroger

U.S. Senator
Jeff Merkley



Jeff Merkley



Kurt Schrader



Kate Brown

State Ballot Measures

- Yes on Measure 54
- Yes on Measure 55
- Yes on Measure 56
- Yes on Measure 57 and
- No on Measure 61
- No on Measure 58
- No on Measure 59
- No on Measure 60
- No on Measure 62
- No on Measure 63
- No on Measure 64
- Yes on Measure 65

City of Portland
Commissioner, Position No. 1
Amanda Fritz

Multnomah County Commission, District 3
Judy Shiprack

Multnomah County Commission, District 4
4 Carla Piluso

Multnomah County Sheriff
4 Bob Skipper

The Skanner Supports These County Ballot Measures

Yes on 26-94: Renew Five-Year Levy for Children's Investment Fund. We're not big fans of property taxes, but this measure touches thousands upon thousands of youngster during their most critical early years, giving critical funds to some of the very best children's programs in the metro area – from Self Enhancement, Inc., to Boys & Girls Club. At about \$14 million per year for the next five years, it's the best possible investment in the long run.

No on 26-95: Portland Community College Expansion Bonds. This is one of many places where the statewide movements to strangle funding for public institutions comes home to roost. Portland Community College, the state's largest educational facility, which serves hundreds of thousands of adult students both young and old, deserves our ongoing financial support. But the \$374,000,000 bond measure is just too much for us to handle.

Yes on 26-96: The "Zoo Levy." The Oregon Zoo has become an institution of global importance – launching research into wildlife conservation around the world. This measure is costly -- \$125 million in general obligation bonds. But it also establishes long-term cost and resource-saving measures, better living conditions for and sets up a system of financial auditing.

Multnomah County Ballot Measures

Yes on 26-94

Yes on 26-95

Yes on 26-96

The Skanner Supports These State Measures

This election season voters will have the power to shape Oregon for years to come – and not always in a good way. While a few are simply “housekeeping” measures straightening out glitches in current law, most measures on the Oregon ballot deal with critical policies affecting our daily lives – and pocketbooks. Ballots will be mailed out Sat, Oct. 18, and must be returned by Tues, Nov. 4. The following are The Skanner's official state ballot measure endorsements.

State Ballot Measures

Yes on Measure 54: Allows youth aged 18-21 to vote in school board elections. This measure fixes an oversight in state law dating from when the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18.

Yes on Measure 55: Allows redistricted state legislators to finish their terms in their original district. Another “housekeeping” move, this measure provides a clear direction for a not-uncommon glitch in years when the state legislature re-draws its political boundaries.

Yes on Measure 56: Striking down the “supermajority” rule. The Skanner editorial staff argued somewhat over this endorsement. The “supermajority” rule voted into place 12 years ago requires more than half of voters to approve measures that require property tax increases – a simple majority of voters isn’t enough under current law. While no one wants to make it easy for political groups to raise taxes for pet projects, the truth is this current law has only been wielded as a weapon against social service and education funding.

Yes on Measure 57 – and No on Measure 61: Mandatory minimums for first-time drug offenders. These two measures are linked, because as the over-harsh and wasteful Measure 61 was approved for the ballot, state law enforcement and social service providers gathered together to craft a more responsible alternative, Measure 57, which at least requires drug treatment for some of those arrested. See article on page 1 for more on this pair of measures.

No on Measure 58: Cuts off ESL programs for kids after two years. For those who feel education money is wasted on the children of immigrants, this measure has become a rallying point. But not only are ideas like this destructive for the state, but efforts to punish non-English speakers such as this one usually turn out to be costly – and end up in the courts.

No on Measure 59: Unlimited deduction for federal income tax on state tax returns. This is the third try on this measure, placed on the ballot by career initiative-pusher Bill Sizemore – who, alongside conservative political figure Grover Norquist, was convicted of racketeering in 2000 and ultimately fined \$3.5 million. Measure 59 is penny-wise and pound-foolish, providing for lower state taxes but setting taxpayers up for skyrocketing fees and more taxes elsewhere to make up for the billions of dollars it would drain from the state general fund. Only the richest would really benefit; most taxpayers in Oregon would only save about \$1.

No on Measure 60: Pay teachers according to “classroom performance.” Here was another strongly debated issue in The Skanner office – why not reward the best teachers, rather than just the ones who’ve schlepped through the hallways the longest? But for merit champions, this measure would not accomplish that goal; it’s too vague, and would cost districts money to implement that is not provided for in the measure.

No on Measure 62: Constitutional amendment to take lottery money away from schools and give it to law enforcement. It's long been the sad choice in poor communities: either the kids end up in college, or they end up in prison. No debate or discussion is needed on this one – invest the money in schools, and the prisons won't flourish.

No on Measure 63: Eases building permit laws. Another case of penny-wise, pound-foolish. It might seem like a good idea to cut corners on home construction – until the next earthquake.

No on Measure 64: No more employee money for “political purposes.” This measure goes too far, and appears to be an attack on the political activity spearheaded by labor unions.

Yes on Measure 65: Open primaries. We think this would have an impact on the two party system, giving all voters in primary elections a chance to vote for an individual rather than being restricted to those candidates in their own party. Washington State just held their first-ever open primary and we think we should give it a chance.