

Wes Williams:

First, I have a broad experience in practicing law. I practice both civil and criminal litigation. The civil side of my practice focuses on property law, contract law, employment litigation and insurance disputes. On the criminal side of my practice, I represent defendants charged with various crimes from misdemeanor assault to murder. I am licensed to practice in state and federal court. I have appeared in courts throughout Oregon. I have argued hundreds of contested hearings from protecting property rights of ranchers and farmers to the constitutional rights of the accused and the rights of victims. I have argued cases before the Oregon Court of Appeals in civil, criminal and juvenile law and before the Oregon Supreme Court. I have also served as an arbitrator on several cases wherein lawyers have selected me to judge civil lawsuits.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT?

Mona K. Williams:

The courtroom is a place where every litigant has a right to be heard, and it is the judge’s responsibility to make sure that happens by upholding the U.S. and Oregon constitutions, enforcing the statutes and following the rules of evidence and Uniform Trial Court Rules. My judicial temperament is one of fairness and patience up to the point of disrespect for the process, litigants, attorneys and/or judge. One of my mother’s favorite sayings was “One person’s rights only go as far as the next person’s nose.” As a judge, I remember my mother’s wise words.

Wes Williams:

I will create a courtroom atmosphere wherein all persons are treated with respect and dignity. Over the course of 22 years, I have appeared in court for contested hearings and trials on countless occasions. I have demonstrated the ability to communicate calmly and courteously with the court, the attorneys and the parties. I also listen and consider what is said on all sides of an issue. I have the ability to approach each case with an open mind, humility and patience.

WHAT EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD THAT WILL INFORM YOUR DECISIONS AS A JUDGE?

Mona K. Williams:

For 17 years I worked with clients, their spouses/partners and their children during some of the most emotional and frustrating experiences of their lives. I’ve seen how changes in family dynamics affect family members at the time of the change and for years beyond. This experience helps me make decisions in Family Law cases, especially regarding child custody and parenting time.

As the Willowa County District Attorney for 11-1/2 years, I was a member of the Treatment Court Team and am now a judge for the Treatment Courts in both counties. I understand addiction and its relation to criminal behavior and the importance of giving addicts an opportunity for treatment as opposed to jail. However, I also understand that treatment works only when the person is ready, and until then jail may be the appropriate option.

As a judge I am faced with a large number of defendants for whom mental health treatment is the real need, but because of a shortage of treatment programs, they find themselves in the criminal justice system. I recognize many veterans fall into this category and am able to take into account the mental health aspect of a case and seek the assistance of professionals when appropriate.

Wes Williams:

My upbringing taught me to work hard and be respectful to others. That is what I have always maintained as an attorney and would maintain if elected judge. By litigating complex and demanding cases, my work ethic has been tested in the quest for justice. For years I single-handedly defended a civil forfeiture case against the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and I prevailed. On another case I represented a woman too poor to afford an attorney for six years all the way to the Oregon Supreme Court, and I prevailed. In my 22 years of representing people from all walks of life in all sorts of legal problems, I have become more humble and respectful of others. Hard times can befall us all. A judge’s role is to serve the citizens as best he can through hard work and a calm and respectful judicial temperament.



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2 REPS

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES?

Greg Walden:

I care deeply about the people of this district and have a record of bringing people together and solving problems. I spent my early years in The Dalles on my parents’ cherry orchard and have always supported Oregon’s farmers and ranchers. My wife’s family worked in plywood mills in southern Oregon, and I’ve always supported those who work in the woods and in our mills. I’ve worked to improve forest management to reduce the intensity of wildfires, and stop ‘fire borrowing’, so we don’t rob forest management accounts to pay to fight fires. I’m helping lead the effort to remove burned dead trees (where appropriate) after fires and replant a new forest.

As small business owners in our hometown of Hood River, my wife and I know what it’s like to grow a business, add jobs and deal with over regulation. That’s why I work hard to help our job creators across rural Oregon grow their businesses. When it comes to Union County, I was blessed to have Ray Baum’s counsel for more than seven years in Washington, D.C. as we teamed up to improve rural telecommunications, support farmers and ranchers and improve health care.

I work in a bipartisan way to get results. As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, 92 percent of the 129 pieces of legislation we’ve passed in the House were bipartisan. I’ve passed more legislation than any other member of the Oregon congressional delegation.

I come home to Oregon nearly every week and hold meetings across the district. I’ve responded to more than 129,500 letters, phone calls and emails over the last year. I listen to what people are concerned about and I get results.



UNCONTESTED RACES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lana Michel Shira, Cove City Council Matt McCowan, Cove City Council Shawn Parker, Cove City Council Brock Eckstein, City Administrator, Elgin Rocky Burgess, Elgin City Council Risa Halgarth, Elgin City Council Ryan Martin, Elgin City Council Mike L. McLean, Imbler Mayor Jason M.L. Berglund, Imbler City Council, Position 1 Joan M. Harding, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imbler City Council, Position 2 Rick A. Vicek, Imbler City Council, Position 3 Bob Trotter, Imbler City Council, Position 6 Robb Rea, Island City Mayor Stan Terry, Island City City Council, Position 1 Donald Longacre, Island City City Council, Position 4 Don G. Starr, Island City City Council, Position 6 Steve Clements, La Grande Mayor Gary Lillard, La Grande City Council, Position 5 Jim Whitbeck, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Grande City Council, Position 6 Mike Wisdom, North Powder Mayor Joyce Lawyer, North Powder City Council, Position 2 Michael Morse, North Powder City Council, Position 4 Sheri Rogers, Summerville City Council, Position 1 Kenneth E. Smith, Summerville City Council, Position 3 Leonard L. Flint, Union Mayor Matthew Later, Union City Council, Position 4
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HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN BEST REPRESENT THE DISTRICT?

Greg Walden:

I’m working to fix the Affordable Care Act and drive down the cost of health care. Under my leadership, we banned “gag clauses” that prevent pharmacists from telling customers how to save money on their medicines. I led the effort to increase funding for community health centers, and fund — for a record 10 years — the Children Health Insurance Program. I helped pass “Right-to-Try” giving patients with incurable diseases access to promising medicines. And I continue to support boosting medical research for treatments to everything from childhood cancer, mental health, and diseases that impact our families. Oregon just received \$17 million for mental health and addiction treatment services because of our efforts to tackle both issues.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING THE DISTRICT?

Greg Walden:

I’m no stranger to this district. I’ve worked hard and gotten results for the people. Eastern Oregon runs deep in my veins. My mother grew up in La Grande during the Great Depression and met and married my father, who worked at KLBM radio, in 1940. Growing up, I attended church camp in Cove nearly every summer. The Grande Ronde Valley holds a special place for me.

Through 147 town halls, dozens of telephone town halls, and meetings in all 20 counties at least twice every year, I update my “to-do” list to take back to Congress to address the challenges facing our communities.

This work has produced real results for this district. Under my leadership, we’ve passed the most comprehensive legislation in history to combat the opioid crisis, the largest reforms to forest management in more than a decade and provided unprecedented funding for the VA to help Oregon veterans get the care and support they deserve.



OREGON REPS, DIST. 58

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES?

Greg Barreto:

Some of the strengths I have developed through the years that help me in my current role as state representative are the interpersonal skills I gained over 35 years in business. Working with customers, employees, vendors, sales reps and other business-related folks both here and internationally has given me an ability to work with — and through — challenging situations. These experiences have shown me how to work to pass bipartisan bills that have benefited House District 58. As I have gotten older and more educated on a lot of different issues in the social realm, I look more objectively than emotionally at issues. There is a strength that comes with time and experience developed by serving in the legislature. There is a lot to learn on the job and it all takes time.

Weaknesses would include the difficulty of regulating the amount of time spent on different aspects of this job, as well as other responsibilities with family, business and other activities. It is also difficult to stay optimistic in an environment that continues to produce some policies I see as detrimental to the future of Oregon, and especially rural Oregon. This is why elections are so important.

Skye Farnam:

My strength is my independence and love of my family, home and community. My weakness is the same as my neighbors — that I have allowed politicians and special interest groups to divide my nation, state and community. As Abraham Lincoln said, “America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN BEST REPRESENT THE DISTRICT?

Greg Barreto:

Representing the district includes staying in touch with local issues while dealing with state policy that affects us locally. I look beyond the next election cycle to determine how legislation passed now will affect us long term. PERS is a good example of short-sighted policies that have created long-lasting economic damage. Mandates on small business including ranching and farming affect our economy and those professions in the future. Another aspect, and a very important one, is getting people elected to the state legislature. In the House, this is on a two-year cycle. A part of the job many folks aren’t aware of is the amount of time involved in recruiting and helping campaigns for potential legislators that will determine the direction of the state for future generations.

Skye Farnam:

I can best represent House District 58 as a center-right political option. I understand firsthand the burdens blue-collar Oregonians face. I value my freedom and security as well as quality schools and health care for my family. We shouldn’t have to choose between those common values. We need better schools, more efficient health care and safe streets. Achieving these goals would be my primary focus as your representative.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING THE DISTRICT?

Greg Barreto:

The biggest long-term challenge facing the district is the direction the state is headed when it comes to business policy and how that will affect our rural economies when attracting or retaining small businesses and jobs. We are riding the coattails of a booming national economy and it is still very difficult to attract small business to rural Oregon. State policies continue to increase the cost of doing business. State budgets will be strained by our public retirement system, Medicaid costs and increased cost-of-living expenses. The answer is not trying to extract more dollars from Oregon’s citizens, but looking at the state’s expenses and seeing if we can’t run the state more efficiently. When Oregon has the sixth-highest government spending per capita, there is certainly room for better management of tax dollars.

Skye Farnam:

Lack of unifying leadership. We deserve leaders that acknowledge the validity of our differences and provide solutions and compromises. We need to move past differences and identify common interests. We can’t change the national political climate. What we can change is how we define ourselves and each other in Eastern Oregon. I believe it is not a matter of if, but when, we come together for a common good. I am a leader who can speak for common sense and unity. I provide an opportunity for Eastern Oregonians frustrated by dangerous political division the freedom to declare independence from the Culture War.

