

Your views

Wes Williams: Judicial race is non-partisan

To the Editor:
This is in response to a recent letter to the editor regarding the local judicial race. The race for circuit court judge is non-partisan. When I decided to run, I became a non-affiliated voter (not Independent).

If elected, I want people who come before me to trust I will be fair, listen carefully to and respect everyone, and decide each case on its facts and existing law. No one should ever have to worry that his or her case may be decided based on political beliefs.

I invite everyone to go to my website to look at the list of supporters from our community I am fortunate enough to have. They are Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and others. They trust, and I hope everyone will learn, I will work hard to be fair, respectful, and patient to all.

Wes Williams
Attorney at Law

Henry: Wes Williams' kindness and compassion shines through

To the Editor:
I am writing in support of Wes Williams for circuit court judge in Eastern Oregon.

I have known Wes for many years through our children, his lovely wife, Jen, through friends, and through business. My impression of Wes as a loving husband and father, a genuinely kind and considerate man, and a passionate lawyer has never wavered.

On a couple of occasions I have joined Wes and Jen for dinner when they enthusiastically talked about his law practice and described the work they have accomplished together over the years.

Throughout our conversations it is obvious Wes is very knowledgeable and cares deeply about his work in supporting the law.

When my husband's veterinary practice grew and we needed a business attorney for our developing corporation, Wes was our obvious choice, and he also came highly recommended. Wes' kindness and compassion shines through every time he goes out of his way to help us with questions and concerns. Wes consistently demonstrates a keen listening skills while gathering information.

He remains quiet and listens before asking any questions, and after asking a question remains quiet and listens more, which allows him to follow through with sound ethical and legal

advice.

Wes is an outstanding choice as judge. He has a steady and calm demeanor, demonstrates respect and courtesy as a good listener, and maintains characteristics of a man with integrity. It is a real honor to know Wes and his family and to support them on his way to circuit court judge.

Tina Aster Henry
La Grande

McCarthy: Wes Williams understands people in their suffering and prosperity

To the Editor:

We are fortunate to live in a community that has people like Wes Williams, whether we are talking about an election or not. He has the qualities in his nature to be the kind of person we admire for his integrity, values, compassion and fair-minded views in all situations.

His upbringing and diverse background has made him the man for all. He understands people in their suffering and prosperity. He will always treat everyone with the same respect and attention to detail in our legal system. This is the type of person I would want making decisions that affect people's lives. Every case will be important to him since he works for humanity and making our world a better place to live in. These qualities are the foundation of any great individual of our time or in history.

With his legal background, experience and work ethic, I am confident he will make the best decisions for our community and all who come before him in the position of circuit court judge.

Please join me in voting for Wes Williams.

Dorene McCarthy
La Grande

Evans: Wes Williams' sensible attitude is aimed at obtaining real justice

To the Editor:

Our upcoming election for circuit court judge is about what special qualities it takes to be a judge — a really good judge. That's why I want to share my experience with Wes Williams as my lawyer in a recent traffic violation case.

I was driving home on the freeway between Baker City and La Grande when I was pulled over for speeding. Long story short, the trooper was very patient with me and cited me with a traffic violation of which I definitely deserved. Wes



accompanied me to justice court as my counsel. While there, I was thoroughly impressed by Wes' friendly and courteous demeanor toward everyone: court employees, the judge, the clerks and, above all, to the trooper who had cited me. Wes asked the trooper and the court if we could all agree on an appropriate fine. Everyone agreed and the whole matter was settled on the spot.

As a former Marine, I appreciate efficiency and straightforwardness. I share this experience because I have seen firsthand that Wes possesses the essential qualities of a good judge: empathy, fairness, careful search for the facts, plus a sensible attitude aimed squarely at obtaining real justice for all.

I have voted for Wes with the hope that citizens in our county could be in a courtroom in which he is presiding because it will always be a place where everyone is treated fairly and with respect.

Brock Evans
La Grande

Barry: Don't neglect opportunity to shape our government

To the Editor:

Most of us didn't see it coming, but now that we've observed the chaos and disrespect, we've organized to protect each other and our families.

In this election, every woman has a chance to begin fixing the mess of the last two years. Not just by voting for women, but voting for excellent female and male candidates who will work to provide safe and affordable housing, universal health care, workplace equality, essential environ-

mental regulations and equal justice for all.

A hundred years ago, American women, many of them from the wealthiest families, left their elegant homes to demonstrate in the streets for the right to vote. They were jailed and force fed when they refused to eat; some were divorced and others institutionalized as insane because they insisted on returning to the fight, facing repeated jail terms and physical mistreatment year after year until the 19th Amendment was passed (by one vote) in 1920.

It's unbelievable to me that a single American woman, or any American man who cares about his mother, sisters, wife or children, could neglect this opportunity to shape our government.

The leaders we elect will make choices for us: community or corporations, health coverage or disaster, dignity or vulgarity, financial opportunity or the triumph of the 1 percent. This election is a vital step toward reclaiming American leadership we can be proud of. Mark your ballot, mail or deliver it. I will be voting for Jamie McLeod-Skinner and Wes Williams.

Lois Barry
La Grande

Karl: McLeod-Skinner's positive campaign is refreshing

To the Editor:

With all the negative campaigning at election time, the majority of candidates are telling you the downfalls of their opponent. Very few are telling you what they stand for. Jamie McLeod-Skinner's campaign is refreshing. It's about her values and vision for

Write to us

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must be signed and carry the author's address and phone number (for verification purposes only).

We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We will not publish poetry, consumer complaints against businesses or personal attacks against private individuals. Thank-you letters are discouraged.

Letter writers are limited to one letter every two weeks. Email your letters to news@lagrandeobserver.com or mail them to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850.

Letters deadline

The Observer does not run endorsements of more than 350 words.

The Observer will institute a deadline for letters to the editor, so we can be fair with all the letters we receive and allow for responses before Election Day if necessary.

We run the letters on a first come, first served basis. We will publish our last letters on Friday, Nov. 5. Election Day is Nov. 6.

Oregon and what she stands for. It feels good to be voting for something rather than against something.

One of our past presidents said, "You wouldn't let your grandparents pick out your playlist. Don't let them pick out your politicians." It's essential to be an informed voter. I'm voting for Jamie McLeod-Skinner because she tells me what she stands for: common sense government and communities, not corporations. I agree with her all the way.

Mary Karl
La Grande

Miller: Background is everything — vote Wes Williams for judge

To the Editor:

I believe that background is the most important factor in deciding who to vote for in this year's judicial race. I feel this to be true because a

judicial election is not bound to the usual ties of party lines like other political races.

My experience in the past working with Wes Williams and my firsthand knowledge of his background lead me to believe he is an outstanding candidate. From my 15-year career in juvenile justice, specifically when I worked as the Teen Court Coordinator at the Union County Juvenile Department, I can speak to the manner with which Wes conducts himself in the courtroom handling juvenile diversion cases.

Wes would generously volunteer his time to act as presiding judge in these hearings. His demeanor in the courtroom as he conducted the proceedings was one of respect, empathy, kindness and patience. These hearings were very important moments in the

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