

just out

since 1983

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steppin' out



About 20 people showed up at Pioneer Square on Coming Out Day, Oct. 11.

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editorial

Nov. 6th election endorsements

Sometimes it is difficult to sort through all the candidates and all the ballot measures. For those who haven't had the time or inclination to attempt the task, *Just Out* has compiled a list of endorsements.

The hotly contested race for the governorship of Oregon between Barbara Roberts and her Republican opponent, Dave Frohnmayer, could conceivably be decided by a single vote. Roberts has shown her willingness to stand by the gay and lesbian community; the editorial board at *Just Out* unanimously voted to stand behind her. Don't be deceived by the number of bumper stickers or lawn signs bearing her name. A lot of Frohnmayer's voters live in Oregon's rural areas. It will take everyone in our community going to the voting booth to ensure we have Roberts as our next governor.

Senate candidate Harry Lonsdale may not have a voting record to refer to, but he has shown that he views the support of the gay community not as a risk but as a benefit. He has also publicly stated that if elected he will work for an amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act that will prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Lonsdale's opponent, Sen. Mark Hatfield, has thumbed his nose at gay and lesbians for too long. It's not often that voters have the chance to choose between good and bad rather than the lesser of two evils. Lonsdale's bid to oust Hatfield is a refreshing chance to feel good about voting.

In the House of Representatives, we recommend votes for incumbent Democrats Les AuCoin in District 1, Ron Wyden in District 3 and Peter DeFazio in District 4. Democrats Jim Smiley, District 2, and Mike Kopetski, District 5, also have our endorsement.

In other state races, we endorse Mary Wendy Roberts in her bid to retain her position as labor commissioner and Norma Paulus to continue as Oregon's school superintendent.

The ballot measures offer a few easy choices and a few difficult choices. A no vote is obvious on measures 8 and 10, which threaten women's access to safe and legal abortion. People from throughout the United States will be watching to see the results of these ballot measures. Hopefully, we will show them Oregonians still stand for choice.

We support a yes vote on ballot measure 4, which will suspend operation of the Trojan Nuclear Plant until a permanent federal radioactive waste dump is operating and the plant is found to be cost-effective and able to withstand earthquakes.

It is important to note, however, that shutting down Trojan will cost taxpayers a lot of money.

We suggest a no vote on ballot measure 5 which will limit property taxes for local government services and phase down property tax support for schools. The financial effect of the bill will mean fewer homeowner and renter refunds and a cut in the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program. Some of the lost property tax revenues will be offset by higher income taxes. In all, this measure would mean more financial drain on the people who can afford it the least.

Although measure 6 opponents have enlisted the aid of Oregon's bottle bill author to help defeat the measure, it is an environmentally friendly measure. The measure's purpose is to decrease the amount of wasteful packaging that finds its way to the landfill. The measure allows time for compliance and will not require businesses to use unsafe packaging practices. Vote yes.

Measure 7 assumes that people getting government aid do not want to work, not that they can't. In the six counties it would effect, the job program would be mandatory. People would be required to work for sub-minimum wage without benefits, sick leave or assistance for child care and would lose food stamp assistance. Vote no.

Oregon is one of the few states left without a seat belt law for adults. A yes vote is a vote to require everyone in a vehicle to wear a seatbelt. Although any law that restricts freedom of choice is scary, numerous studies have shown that wearing seatbelts can save lives. It's too bad something that's good for us has to be legislated.

Measure 11 is a tough one. Some feel the time has come for parents, regardless of family income, to be able to select the school they want their children to attend as a way to provide better educational opportunities for their children. Although the idea sounds good on the surface, what good is a \$2,500 tax credit to a mother on welfare? This measure will in effect hand state-provided tuition money to religious schools. Since private schools can pick and choose entrants, public schools will soon become the bastion of the slower learner and the poor. The basic idea has merits, but there has got to be a more egalitarian method to implement it. Vote no.

Remember, if you don't use your privilege to vote, you lose your privilege to comment on the results.