

ENDORSEMENT

Put Stein in the county chair

We have every confidence in Beverly Stein's abilities to lead Multnomah County into the next century

by Renée LaChance

The race is on to fill Gladys McCoy's position, but no one can ever fill her shoes.

With just nine weeks to run a campaign, each candidate for the Multnomah County Chair has an extremely tough race. *Just Out* focused its attention on the top progressive contenders: Beverly Stein, Hank Miggins and Paul McCoy.

Multnomah County is primarily in charge of governing public safety, human services, corrections and the libraries. The county plays a major role in facilitating the cities within its jurisdiction to work together to fully utilize available resources. The Multnomah County Chair needs to have excellent facilitation and organizational skills, an understanding of governmental process, a clear vision of ways to leverage city and county resources for the most efficient use of said resources, and the experience to implement that vision.



Beverly Stein

Miggins has been a county auditor for over 12 years. He worked as McCoy's county manager after her election as Multnomah County Chair. His strengths are in management and auditing. He knows county budgets inside and out. He has filled McCoy's seat admirably since her death. His goal in running for Multnomah County Chair at this time is to fulfill Gladys McCoy's vision for the county. He doesn't plan to run for the seat in 1994 but he also doesn't rule it out. As a numbers-cruncher, department auditor and dedicated public servant, Miggins is a great choice for an elected auditor's position. The Multnomah County Chair requires slightly more than Miggins' current skills can handle.

Paul McCoy is the son of Gladys McCoy and he is committed to fulfilling Gladys' term and finishing the programs she began. He says he has no plans to run for the seat in 1994 and he has no specific plans of his own that he wishes to implement. His government experience includes working as an aide to his father, Sen. Bill McCoy, and administratively with the Oregon House in various positions. He has served on boards, and was raised in a political household, but has few

discernable skills to prepare him for the job of Multnomah County Chair.

Beverly Stein has been the Oregon State Representative for District 14 in southeast Portland, since 1988. It has been her intention over the last year to run for Multnomah County Chair when Gladys McCoy's term was up. McCoy's death accelerated her plan. Stein has specific goals for the Multnomah County Chair. She is anxious to take some of the policy ideas she has been developing at the state level and implement them in the county. Stein feels that people are alienated from their government and that one of her biggest goals would be to help people regain confidence in government. Stein believes that engaging people at that level will serve as a catalyst to getting non-profits and corporations involved in resolving the challenges that face Multnomah County. The government can't do it alone.

Stein believes that one way to increase government productivity is to empower direct-service workers, and include them in decision-making and problem-solving.

Diversity issues have been the center of Stein's work throughout her career in politics. She was founding co-chair of the Rainbow Coalition with Ron Herndon. She spent more time campaigning against Ballot Measure 9 during the last election than she did running for her House seat. The county has a commitment to diversity, and Stein can play a role in getting the rural communities in the county on board with that same commitment. She would be extremely visible in those areas where the Oregon Citizens Alliance is trying to get a toehold with its "spawn of 9."

In the Legislature, Stein was a very vocal and strong advocate for people with HIV and AIDS. On the county level, she would make sure that HIV and AIDS programs were funded.

Stein sponsored legislation in 1989 which authorized the Oregon Housing Authority to establish a program to support the formation of new Community Development Corporations to renovate or build low- and moderate-income housing. Stein educated public officials on the value of CDCs and now Oregon is ranked high among states with viable CDC programs.

The Multnomah County Chair needs to work well with the mayors of the cities within the county. Stein has good working relationships with Gresham Mayor Gusti McRoberts, who is reportedly stumping for Stein in East County, and with Portland Mayor Vera Katz. In fact, Stein and Katz would be a formidable political power if they put their heads together.

Some would argue that Stein's plans for much-needed programs are unrealistic because Measure 5 is forcing regional governments to cut back, and there just isn't any money for the programs. Stein has the vision, imagination and resources to get the funding necessary for her programs. She knows the state government process, and she has national recognition and contacts to get things done.

We have every confidence in Stein's abilities to lead Multnomah County into the next century, and she is firmly dedicated to that goal.

Just Out endorses Beverly Stein for Multnomah County Chair.

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