

Speak out: primary edition

Livability and civil rights for all

TO THE EDITOR:

As a community, we are used to fighting direct attacks on our civil rights by single-issue, extremist groups. However, this election cycle, a new threat is posed by the extreme right wing.

They have put up a slate of candidates and ballot measures designed to give them more control over public policy in our region and our state. If they win this election, it means they will get more funding from special interests who are opposed to civil rights and livability.

You might have never have heard of Oregonians in Action—and after this month, you'll wish you never had. OIA is an extremist right-wing land speculator advocacy group; one of its candidates is challenging Oregon Court of Appeals Judge David Schuman.

Schuman helped guarantee that the landmark Tanner decision acknowledged historic discrimination against gay men and lesbians and ensured equal benefits for sexual minority domestic partners. You can be sure OIA, which is affiliated with Bill Sizemore and other extreme right-wingers, opposes civil rights and livability.

But attacks on our quality of life don't stop there. The attacks on our state's world-famous land-use planning program once came from the Oregon Citizens Alliance. Now they're coming

from OIA—aka the Neighborhood Preservation Committee.

OIA is sponsoring Measure 26-11, an attempt to force sprawl onto some of the state's best farmland and to create massive sprawl throughout the Portland region. OIA also is running a candidate in the race for Metro Council president, and all indications are that she is as extremist and anti-livability as the rest of its slate.

Do not be fooled—Measure 26-11 and the OIA candidates for Oregon Court of Appeals judge and Metro Council president are part of a larger right-wing agenda to gain a foothold in our judicial and regional politics. These folks have one goal:

attracting more money to overturn our civil rights and destroy our quality of life.

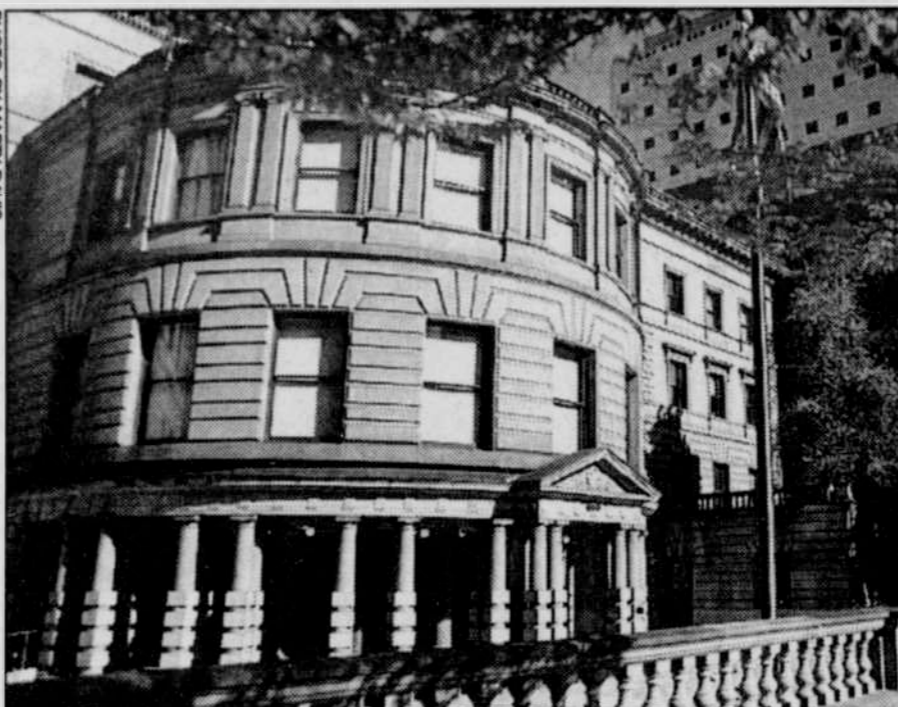
The best way to beat the extreme right wing is to vote them down. We urge you to vote no on Measure 26-11. There are better alternatives.

Vote yes on Measure 26-29, vote for David Schuman as Oregon Court of Appeals judge, and vote for David Bragdon as Metro Council president. Vote yes on livability and civil rights for all members of

our community.

JACOB BROSTOFF AND FRANK DIXON
Portland

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS



You can fight City Hall

TO THE EDITOR:

Measure 26-30 is important to the sexual minorities community because it will mean more diversity.

No openly gay man or lesbian ever has been elected to our City Council. That can change after Measure 26-30 passes.

Now, all of our commissioners are elected citywide. This makes the costs of elections extremely high.

It also means that unless you are supported by a few "special interests" it is very difficult to raise the necessary money to win. Cities with district elections more frequently see members of the sexual minorities community on the council.

Measure 26-30 will require councilors to live in—and be elected from—a specific district com-

posed of a few city neighborhoods. This means the costs of elections will be dramatically less.

Being in touch will matter more than money. Candidates can walk the district to get elected, and councilors will know more about us—and be more accountable.

This means our council will better reflect our entire city. Whether you're a sexual minority, a progressive, a senior citizen feeling forgotten in East Portland, a small-business person with no voice or a single mother being pushed out of your neighborhood because of gentrification, your ability to connect to City Hall will improve.

As every community fights for equality and representation, there is no better way to cause change than by having a seat at the table. Measure 26-30 will ensure our entire city is represented.

JAY HARTER AND KEN SALAMAN
Portland

Take the offensive

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to thank you for your continued coverage of the Good Government Initiative, which will be on this month's primary ballot as Measure 26-30 ["Union Endorses Good Government Initiative," April 5].

Time and time again, we members of the sexual minorities community have had to be on the defensive, voting no for measures that only would harm us. How great it is finally to be able to vote yes on a measure that will help us!

I urge everybody to vote yes on Measure 26-30 for fair neighborhood representation and a more diverse City Council. And by diversity, I speak not



David Schuman

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AS individual AS YOU ARE.

TWIST. THIRTY NORTHWEST 23RD PLACE, PORTLAND, 503-224-0334. RING DESIGN BY JOHN RINK.

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