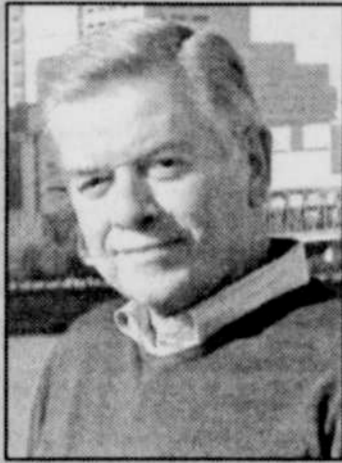


**MAYOR:
TOM POTTER**

"As mayor of Portland, I will do everything within my authority to foster equity and inclusion for sexual minorities.... I want city government to reflect our citizens, because it's the right thing to do and the only thing to do."



**CITY COUNCIL,
POSITION 1:
SAM ADAMS**

"I think we need to do more to make Portland an LGBTQ-friendly city.... As the first openly gay member of City Council, I plan on being a source of advocacy for the basic human rights of all Portlanders."

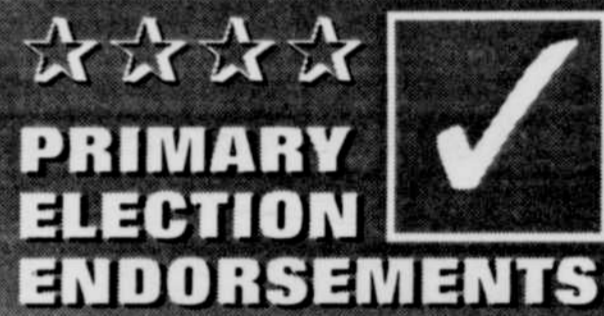


**CITY COUNCIL,
POSITION 4:
RANDY LEONARD**

"This is not a time for those of us who believe that it is about damn time that gay marriages be allowed to distance ourselves from those on the county commission who did the right thing.... I believe we have a responsibility to speak out and defend those who stood up and were counted at a crucial juncture in our state's history."



Vote Potter, Adams, Leonard



To prepare our primary election endorsements for the city of Portland, *Just Out* sent a questionnaire to each candidate. We asked:

1. What have you done to promote civil rights for the sexual minorities community?
2. What will you do as city commissioner to continue to foster equity and inclusion for sexual minorities?
3. Do you support marriage rights for same-sex couples?

We considered the responses to these questions along with the candidates' overall platforms and experience. We then chose candidates who we feel sure will do a great job for the sexual minorities community in Portland as well as the city at large.

In the mayor's race, our choice was clear. Tom Potter has an outstanding record in the sexual minorities community, and he has shown strong leadership, integrity and commitment to the city of Portland. His pioneering role in making the Portland Police Bureau a welcoming workplace for sexual minority officers gives him the edge over Phil Busse, who seems equally supportive of queer rights but lacks experience.

Busse gets our kudos for mobilizing young voters and for representing a refreshing, intelligent, younger perspective. Jim Francesconi is not queer-unfriendly, but he makes us nervous by qualifying his support of "civil" marriage for same-sex couples. Also, some of us remain disappointed that he scuttled a resolution that would have declared Portland's opposition to the war on Iraq.

The wackiest candidate, Scott Campbell (aka Extremo the Clown), scores points for shooting straight on marriage equality: "Drop it, you nutty Christians." Scott Ketchum gets demerits for calling homosexuality a "lifestyle," while Rosalinda Mitchell contradicts herself by calling for equality in employment but not in marriage. Notably, James Posey did not respond to our questionnaire.

Though many pundits have claimed the top two candidates for City Council Position 1 are nearly indistinguishable, we see clear differences.

Sam Adams has the insider edge with 10-plus years of extensive City Hall experience. He is solutions oriented, he knows how to bring diverse groups together, and he genuinely wants to improve the quality of life in Portland. We're not shy about saying that an out gay city commissioner will help represent the diversity of Portland in a more visible manner.

Nick Fish, while perhaps a little shorter on substance than Adams, would be a reasonable alternative. He worked on the 1980 campaign to elect U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and went on to help create affordable housing in New York City for people living with AIDS. Too bad Fish disagrees with the Multnomah County commissioners' process in opting for marriage equality. We vehemently oppose the recall effort against Commissioners Lisa Naito and Maria Rojo de Steffey, and we urge you to vote for them in May and in the future.

We were divided on the race for City Council Position 4. Ultimately we decided that Randy Leonard hasn't been given enough time to demonstrate his potential on the council. It's simply too soon to replace him. He also has more experience and makes a passionate case for equality. Leonard has a good track record on queer issues, supports same-sex marriage rights and has

endorsements from many labor unions—a combination of attributes we find impressive.

We might be inclined to consider openly gay candidates Frank Dixon or Aaron Hall if their campaigns didn't seem so rushed and disorganized. Beware of Mary Ann Schwab, who believes in the Webster dictionary definition of "marriage" and thinks it's OK to make same-sex couples endure a complex contractual process to receive the partnership protections that automatically come with traditional marriages.

In general, we found it heartening that a number of well-meaning, community-minded individuals have thrown their hats in the ring; however, some of us were troubled by how few women are running. Alicia Salaz is a bright spot with her advocacy for sexual minorities and domestic violence survivors. Unfortunately, her only listed qualification is being a student at Portland State University. **JM**

We...chose candidates who we feel sure will do a great job for the sexual minorities community in Portland as well as the city at large

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