



Xander Patterson offers the county an activist's background and business administrator's skills.

Cogen says he's not afraid to raise taxes to fund key programs the county supports, though efficiency is paramount to his leadership approach.

Frederick brings a rich fabric of experience to his candidacy. He is on a leave of absence from Portland Public Schools while completing course work for his Ph.D. at Portland State University in urban studies and communication. Frederick, a Portlander since 1974, has also taught at Metropolitan Learning Center and worked as a television and radio reporter.

Frederick sees health care, after school programs and emergency preparedness as key issues he will address, if elected. He has a personal passion for mental health and children's justice issues.

Frederick became active in Howard Dean's presidential campaign and was an Oregon delegate for the Democratic National Convention in 2004.

When Frederick joined Portland Public Schools in the late 1980s, he was troubled by teen suicides

that he said were related to the students' sexual orientation.

"They felt unsafe at school, devalued in the community, and these were young kids that should not have had to deal with that," said Frederick, 54.

He quickly joined a number of committees addressing issues facing sexual minority students in the district.

Frederick says he has been marching all his life and first smelled tear gas at age 10. As a

black child in Atlanta, he grew up playing and rallying with the children of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He draws parallels between the civil rights movements for African Americans and queers.

"When you've dealt with discrimination, you know what you won't accept," he said.

Frederick covered No on 9 as a reporter in 1992.

Patterson says he's defying conventional wisdom by running a campaign with a progressive tax increase at the forefront of his platform.

Taxes might be unpopular, but he believes the biggest county problems come down to funding. "If we restore fairness to our tax system, people will get better services for their money that will restore their faith in government as a tool to build the kind of community we want to live in," he said.

Patterson, who holds a master of business administration degree, owned a recycling company, was executive director of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility and is a re-elected director of the East

Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Patterson has been active in the Green Party and was a statewide coordinator for the Ralph Nader presidential campaign in 2000. He also organized some of the largest anti-war demonstrations Portland has ever seen, between October 2002 and February 2003. He serves on the county's Citizen Budget Advisory Committee.

Other issues Patterson will bring to the county are a restructuring in law enforcement, making the sheriff's department accountable to the commission. He also considers accessibility to affordable health care to be the county's biggest public policy problem and will work toward building a single-buyer pool system to drive down the cost of insurance.

Hansen says finances are more difficult today than they were during his two terms as county commissioner in the '90s. During his tenure, the commission became the first local government to approve domestic partnership benefits, authorized a needle exchange program and oversaw the rebuilding of Central Library and all library branches, on time and under budget.

Hansen, 62, aims to improve county credibility by insisting on open

communication among commissioners; maximize how the county spends funds and gain more state funding; and implement a drug treatment center at the Wapato jail.

Hansen has a 30-year record of supporting rights for the sexual minorities community. As a commissioner, he says he will work to make intermediary steps to pass civil unions in the county.

"My commitment is very personal and has never wavered," said Hansen, who has two immediate family members who are gay and lesbian.

Public safety and public health are also key issues in his platform. 10

For more information about the candidates, visit www.jeffcogen.org, www.vote4lew.com, www.votexander.org and www.hansen4county.com.



State Sen. Gary Hansen (right) landed an endorsement from openly gay Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams.



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