

David Martinez has returned to Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey's staff.

treat their employees with spouses and their employees with domestic partners equally by providing the same level of benefits. The ordinance is slated to take effect Jan. 1, 2007.

"Portland values fairness and equality for all families. The Equal Benefits Ordinance puts these public values in line with public dollars," said City Commissioner Sam Adams, who introduced the ordinance.

According to Adams, eight Oregon insurers, which represent more than 90 percent of the state regulated health insurance market, offer or plan to offer domestic partner insurance for small businesses. They are Health Net, Kaiser, LifeWise, Oregon Dental Service, PacificCare, PacificSource, Providence and Regence BlueCross BlueShield. An overwhelming majority of insurers do not or will not charge extra for the added coverage.

### Martinez Welcomed Back to Rojo's Staff

David Martinez has rejoined Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey's staff as her policy and constituent relations manager. Martinez, who previously worked as Rojo's community relations liaison, left to serve as multicultural program director at Linfield College's Portland campus.

The son of migrant farmworkers, Martinez identified with Rojo's humble beginnings. "I never thought I would work for an elected official," said Martinez, whose professional background had been in higher education. "She worked very hard for everything she achieved. It showed me that you can be successful and stay-true to yourself."

As community relations liaison, Martinez kept Rojo informed on priority areas such as seniors, sexual minority youth and social services. He was also lead staff during the historic period when Multnomah County issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples. His last major project was coordinating Rojo's successful re-election campaign in 2004.

Back on Rojo's staff, Martinez is busy with several important projects, including the Sellwood and Sauvie Island bridge replacement projects. "The last time a bridge was built in Multnomah County was in the 1950s. It's great to see Commissioner Rojo's hard work to secure funding for this project yield results," says Martinez. He is also the congressional and legislative strategies adviser, liaison to the sheriff's office and lead staff for the downtown courthouse and East County justice facility as well as contact person for

District I constituent concerns.

Martinez says his community service is a major reason Rojo sought to bring him back on board. "Being Latino and gay gives me such a rich history and a sense of pride. When I served on the boards of the Cascade AIDS Project and Portland/Guadalajara Sister City Association, I did my best to ensure that when we talked about community we did not leave anyone out."

He is serving on Q Center's board and Mayor Tom Potter's charter review commission, where he continues to come up with ways to better reach underrepresented communities.

### Linn Garner's Key Endorsements


Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn's re-election campaign gained another endorsement April 17, as the nation's largest grassroots political network, Emily's List, announced its support.

Emily's List regional director Cristina Uribe said: "Emily's List proudly supports Diane, a lifelong progressive Democrat, for Multnomah County chair. We are dedicated to taking back our country from the radical right wing by electing pro-choice Democratic women to federal, state and local office."

Linn attributed this endorsement to a long record for fighting for women's rights. "At Multnomah County, I co-authored the Oregon Women's Health Act and made sure we provided reproductive health services to teen-agers and women, especially those most vulnerable."

Linn has earned endorsements from many progressive organizations, including the Multnomah County Democratic Party, Oregon's National Abortion Rights Action League and Basic Rights Oregon.

Linn also racked up an eighth endorsement April 19 from the labor community with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Last month, the Oregon Nurses Association pledged its official support for Linn's re-election. Member Judy Schaffer said: "Diane has led this county through tough fiscal times and budget constraints. Diane has a strong record of supporting issues important to nurses."

Other labor endorsements include the Portland Association of Teachers, Service Employees International Union Local 49, Portland Firefighters Association Local 43, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 and Multnomah County Deputy Sheriffs Association. 

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTL, MALKA GEFFEN and CHEA-YINN LEE.



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