



★★ JUST OUT'S ★★ TOP TO BOTTOM 2008 ELECTION GUIDE

ENDORSEMENT CHEAT SHEET ★★ ★

U.S. SENATOR	JEFF MERKLEY	Rural Oregon native with broad progressive agenda; unwavering on queer equality issues, same-sex marriage included. Critically important that he's elected to the U.S. Senate to replace flip-flopper Gordon Smith.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES		
DISTRICT 1	JOEL HAUGEN	Independent-minded candidate; registered "R" in support of same-sex marriage; concerned citizen looking to shake up Wu's sleepy work on the Hill. See Page 25.
DISTRICT 3	EARL BLUMENAUER	Earl Blumenauer: Bicycling, bow-tie-wearing, nose-to-the-grindstone D.C. worker bee. Vote him back again. See Page 25.
DISTRICT 5	KURT SCHRADER	Wonkish former state senator up against millionaire pro-lifer Mike Erickson. Schrader needs your vote. See Page 25.
SECRETARY OF STATE	KATE BROWN	Knows the value of each vote and keen to clean up the initiative/ballot measure process. If elected, would be one of the highest-ranking openly queer elected officials in the country.
ATTORNEY GENERAL	JOHN KROGER	Decorated federal prosecutor; wise on crime; on the right side of equality issues. Welcome to the family, John. See Page 25.
STATE TREASURER	BEN WESTLUND	Likable country boy with flair for crunching numbers.
LABOR COMMISSIONER	BRAD AVAKIAN	Recognized as an effective labor commish since stepping into the role last April; queer ally Avakian should be voted in. See Page 25.
PORTLAND CITY COMMISSIONER, SEAT 1	AMANDA FRITZ	Community activist, psychiatric nurse, city budget watchdog.
MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSIONER		
DISTRICT 3	JUDY SHIPRACK	Public health defender and seasoned legislator/attorney. We forgive her the Link Community Development project debacle.
DISTRICT 4		Unimpressed by either candidate, <i>Just Out</i> offers no endorsement.

See Page 25 for more information on Just Out's new endorsees. For additional Web-exclusive endorsements in state races, visit www.justout.com.

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JEFF MERKLEY

✓ **On workplace discrimination protections:** Merkley says he "would fight for the whole spectrum of protection" in the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, including transgender protections. "We didn't carve anybody out of the Oregon bill, and I'd be against carving anybody out of the national bill." Asked if he would support the current version of the legislation, which does not include transgender protections, Merkley said he would "be in close dialogue with my colleagues in the community about this. Quite frankly, most of the dialogue I've heard has been asking legislators to stand firm for the entire spectrum. That is the position I took here in Oregon, and that would be my assumption about the position I would take."

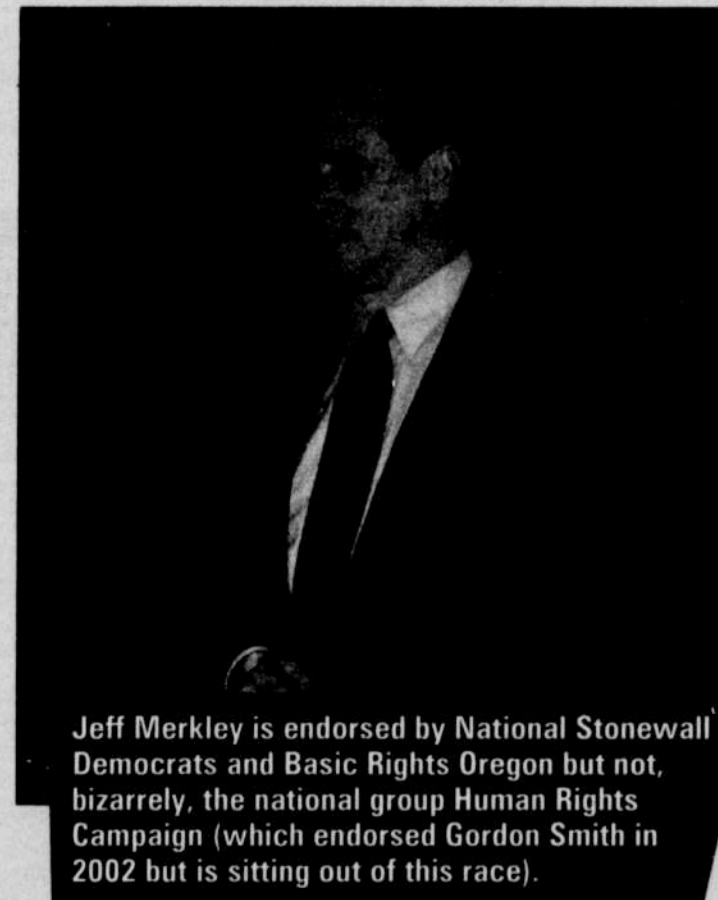
✓ **On same-sex marriage:** Merkley says

same-sex marriage equality is "an issue of equality under the Constitution: that the same options should exist to same-sex couples that exist to heterosexual couples. It's really that simple. I've fought this battle for many, many years."

✓ **On HIV/AIDS education and prevention:** Although he was a late-addition speaker at the Oct. 12 Portland AIDS Walk, Merkley has no specific legislative track record on HIV/AIDS education or prevention. He did offer this statement: "I believe that the United States should be a huge advocate for international education and AIDS prevention. I am very pleased to see the U.S. finally stepping forward in a way that they should have done far earlier for massive investment: There's really three global plagues of poor nations that are interrelated, and one is tuberculosis, and one is malaria, and one is AIDS. And the three complicate each other, and the U.S. should be on the forefront of this international battle."

✓ **Legislative high point:** Standing up to anti-gay state Rep. Karen Minnis, R-Wood Village, on the floor of the Oregon House in 2005 in the midst of heated arguments concerning that session's domestic partnership bill. Emotions boiled to the point that Minnis threatened Merkley would be dragged from the House chambers in handcuffs. That's passion. Two years later, with Minnis leering from the sidelines, Merkley led the House passage of both the Oregon Equality Act (which bans discrimination against sexual minorities) and Oregon Family Fairness Act (which provides domestic partnership rights and responsibilities to committed same-sex couples). That's commitment.

✓ **Legislative low point:** Though he stood up to Minnis in 2005, the bill failed. 10



Jeff Merkley is endorsed by National Stonewall Democrats and Basic Rights Oregon but not, bizarrely, the national group Human Rights Campaign (which endorsed Gordon Smith in 2002 but is sitting out of this race).

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