

outstanding

Love for a Small Town

There is no doubt that Stu Rasmussen loves Silverton. He was born and raised in the small town and has been a pillar in the community for almost 30 years.

Rasmussen, who is transgender, has spent the past 20 years as an elected official in Silverton and is running for mayor in the November election. He was the town's mayor from 1988 to 1992 and has spent the past

35 years, Victoria Sage, has owned and operated Palace Theater since 1974. He is also a producer at Mount Angel Performing Arts Center.

As an elected official, Rasmussen hopes to keep the quaint feel of Silverton intact.

Rasmussen describes himself as a "known quantity" in Silverton. He has \$1,260 in campaign contributions to date, a measure of support from his small community.

"No one would be unhappy if I weren't a transgender person," he said, "but I don't know that it's that much of a handicap now."

For more information visit www.voteforstu.com.

My name is Stu Rasmussen.

I am known as a guy on City Council who owns the local theater.

My cause is to keep Silverton the best place to live in Oregon.

I am 60 years old. **I feel** 19 years old.

My childhood ambition was to be a telephone repairman.

My first crush was a cheerleader in my high school.

My proudest moment was receiving my first and only patent, which I received for a mechanical invention.

My biggest challenge is trying to maintain the old-time flair of the Silverton lifestyle.

A perfect day in Silverton would be spent sitting at the coffee shop downtown and watching the parade, then going to the Oregon Gardens.

My inspiration is Tom McCall. He was governor of Oregon in the late 1960s and was a huge influence on how Oregon is today.

The last philanthropic event I participated in was volunteering for the art fair and regularly participating in Silverton's local food bank.

My highest hope for the cause is that Silverton does not change and keeps the small-town lifestyle we cherish.

—James Maxwell 10



Stu Rasmussen has dedicated his career to the city he loves, Silverton.

four years on its City Council. He believes that in regard to the unique town, "Growth is not necessarily progress, and bigger is not always better."

Rasmussen identifies as a man and cross-dresses in his public life, including at work as an elected official.

"In anybody's life I think there's going to be some static from traditionalists, but mostly I've been very well-accepted," he said. "They look past the physical and are pleased with the mental, logical, thoughtful and smart person I am."

Aside from Rasmussen's political career, he has been a successful business owner. He, along with his partner of

just asking

Just Out asked Basic Rights Oregon's dinner patrons, "Aside from the presidential election, which race are you watching?"



Jeff Merkley. As far as the gay and lesbian community, he brought the bill forward for my civil rights. That's important for me and my family."

CHERYL MARTINI
Stepmom from Suburban Hell

Proposition 8 in California is closer to my radar. It'll determine where Oregon moves politically in terms of gay rights."

SIMONE REDE
Culinary Artist



Linda Flores and Brent Barton, a House race in Clackamas County, because I think she's Satan incarnate. He's sharp and sensitive to LGBT issues."

TREY MALICOAT
Principal, Trey Malicoat Consulting



Merkley/Smith is one of the most important elections ever. We have a chance to really take the Senate and put in a true progressive instead of a gay-for-pay candidate."

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