

SW Washington election guide

VANCOUVER — Some union members in Southwest Washington are getting active as political season heats up, and are helping to elect union-endorsed candidates for local, state and federal offices.

Top priorities are re-electing Maria Cantwell to the U.S. Senate and Deb Wallace to State House Position 2 in Legislative District 17, said firefighter Mike Phillips, secretary-treasurer of the Clark, Skamania and West Klickitat Counties Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Both candidates are Democrats and face well-funded Republican challengers. Wallace is a former member of United Food and Commercial Workers and has a good voting record as tallied by the Washington State Labor Council. Cantwell has disagreed with labor on trade policy and other issues, but her Republican challenger Mike McGavick would likely be an active opponent of unions on most issues, if elected.

One Southwest Washington Republican candidate also had the AFL-CIO endorsement: State House incumbent Richard Curtis (District 18, Position 1), a former firefighter, didn't often vote in accord with the union recommendation. But local union leaders felt they could work with him and issued a "limited" endorsement, meaning he can list them as an endorser, but won't get union financial or volunteer support.

The Washington State Labor Council (WSLC), the state-level AFL-CIO body, also weighed in on three statewide ballot measures.

Initiative 937, in line with what the labor-backed Apollo Alliance has been proposing, would put Washington in the forefront of renewable energy by requiring that 15 percent of the state's electricity come from renewable sources like wind and solar by 2020. WSLC urges a "yes" vote.

WSLC recommends union members vote "no" on Initiatives 920 and 933. Initiative 920 would repeal the state estate tax. Initiative 933 would require local governments to pay

landowners for complying with land use regulations — or else waive the regulations.

The following are the state and local AFL-CIO recommendations for candidates on the ballot in Southwest Washington:

U.S. Senate — *Maria Cantwell (D)*

U.S. House — *Brian Baird (D)*, Third Congressional District

Washington Supreme Court — *Susan Owens*, Position 2

Washington Court of Appeals
Div. 1, Dist. 3, Pos. 1 — *Mary Kay Becker*
Div. 2, Dist. 3, Pos. 1 — *Joel Penoyer* (unopposed)

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

15th District Senate — *Tomás Villanueva (D)*

17th District House 2 — *Deb Wallace (D)*

18th District House Position 1 — *Richard Curtis (R)* limited
House Position 2 — *Julie McCord (D)*

49th District House 1 — *Bill Fromhold (D)*
House 2 — *Jim Moeller (D)*

Clark County Clerk — *Sherry Parker (D)*

Clark County Commissioner — *Steve Stuart*

Clark PUD Commissioner — *Jim Malinowski*

Ballots are expected in the mail by Oct. 27 and must be postmarked no later than Nov. 7 to be counted.

Southwest Washington union members interested in joining labor's electoral efforts can contact Mike Teefy at 360-624-8427.

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