

AFSCME Local 88 endorses Shiprack

Multnomah County Employees Local 88 has endorsed Judy Shiprack for county commissioner in District 3. The district's boundaries are I-84 on the North and Clackamas County on the South. It extends as far west as NE 33rd Avenue, and east as far as 148th.

Local 88 is an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. It represents the largest bloc of union workers at the county, with about 2,700 members.

The union also reaffirmed its endorsement of Carla Piluso in District 4, which covers east Multnomah County, including Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village.

The union endorsed Piluso in the May primary, but not Shiprack. Instead, members opted for Rob Milesnick.

Shiprack and Piluso, who is Gresham's chief of police, were the top vote getters in the May primary, but neither was able to get the necessary 50 percent-plus-one to avoid a runoff.

Shiprack, a former state legislator (her maiden name was Judy Bauman), will face runner-up Mike Delman in District 3. Delman is public affairs director of Portland Habilitation Center, and a former chief of staff to ex-County Commissioner Gary Hansen. He received several labor endorsements in the primary, including one from United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555.

Shiprack, who is married to Bob Shiprack, executive director of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, had strong labor backing in the primary. She most recently worked as director of the Public Safety Coordinating Council of Multnomah County. She is a former Multnomah County deputy district attorney,

and she served for 10 years as director of the non-profit affordable housing group, LINK Community Development Corporation.

Piluso will face Diane McKeel, executive director of the West Columbia Chamber of Commerce, in November. Piluso is running with strong support from organized labor.

Portland area grocery pacts expire, UFCW braces for war

Grocery and meat contracts in the Portland metropolitan area expired July 26, but workers — members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 — are still on the job under contract extensions.

Local 555 represents about 6,000 workers at Kroger, Albertsons and Safeway stores in the Portland metropolitan area. Kroger is the parent company of Fred Meyer and QFC.

"We're expecting a war, and we will need your help," Jeff McDonald, secretary-treasurer of the union, told delegates at the monthly meeting of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

The first bargaining session was held July 16, at which Local 555 proposed full maintenance of benefits, an increase in pension contributions, a three-year contract with journeyper-

son wage increases of \$1 an hour for each year of the contract, card-check recognition, and more.

"They seemed shocked," McDonald told the NW Labor Press. "They somehow think that the Eugene settlement should be the pattern agreement for Portland. Well, a lot has changed since that settlement. Food is more expensive. Gas is more expensive. It costs a lot more just to get to work."

Since the Eugene area ratification in January, contracts have been ratified in Salem, Newport, Lincoln City, Astoria, Tillamook, Coos Bay, Florence, Vancouver, Medford, Roseburg, Brookings, McMinnville, Hood River, and Lakeview.

The next bargaining session for Portland is Aug. 28.



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