

GENERAL ELECTION

Endorsements of the NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

U.S. President/Vice President
BARACK OBAMA/JOE BIDEN

U.S. Senate: **JEFF MERKLEY**

U.S. House of Representatives

First District: **DAVID WU**

Third District: **EARL BLUMENAUER**

Fifth District: **KURT SCHRADER**

Oregon Secretary of State: **KATE BROWN**

Oregon Attorney General: **JOHN KROGER**

Oregon Treasurer: **BEN WESTLUND**

Oregon Labor Commissioner: **BRAD AVAKIAN**

Multnomah County

County Commissioner, Dist. 3: **JUDY SHIPRACK**

County Commissioner, Dist. 4: **CARLA PILUSO**

Columbia County

County Commissioner, Position 1: **EARL FISHER**

County Commissioner, Position 3: **TONY HYDE**

Circuit Judge: **JENEFER GRANT**

Clackamas County

County Commissioner, Position 4: **CHARLOTTE LEHAN**

Sheriff: **CRAIG ROBERTS**

City of Portland

Commissioner, Position 1: **CHARLES LEWIS**

Ballot Measure 26-94 (*Safe and Successful Children*) **Support**

City of Gresham

Commissioner, Position 3: **SHIRLEY CRADDICK**

Commissioner, Position 5: **PAUL WARR-KING**

Ballot Measure 26-98 (*Gresham Police Levy*) **Support**

Oregon State Senate

Dist. 14 - **MARK HASS** Dist. 17 - **SUZANNE BONAMICI** Dist. 21 - **DIANE ROSENBAUM**
District 23 - **JACKIE DINGFELDER** District 25 - **LURIE MONNES-ANDERSON**

OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dist. 26 - **JESSICA ADAMSON** Dist. 27 - **TOBIAS READ** Dist. 28 - **JEFF BARKER**
Dist. 29 - **CHUCK RILEY** Dist. 30 - **DAVID EDWARDS** Dist. 31 - **BRAD WITT**
Dist. 33 - **MITCH GREENLICK** Dist. 35 - **LARRY GALIZIO** Dist. 36 - **MARY NOLAN**
Dist. 38 - **CHRIS GARRETT** Dist. 39 - **TOBY FORSBERG** Dist. 40 - **DAVE HUNT**
Dist. 41 - **CAROLYN TOMEI** Dist. 42 - **JULES KOPEL-BAILEY** Dist. 43 - **CHIP SHIELDS**
Dist. 44 - **TINA KOTEK** Dist. 45 - **MICHAEL DEMBROW** 46 - **BEN CANNON**
Dist. 47 - **JEFFERSON SMITH** Dist. 48 - **MIKE SCHAUFLE** Dist. 49 - **NICK KAHL**
Dist. 50 - **GREG MATTHEWS** Dist. 51 - **BRENT BARTON** Dist. 52 - **SUZANNE VANORMAN**

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**NORTHWEST
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Portland

When Wall Street stumbles, others pick up the tab

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

For six weeks, working people have been looking from the sidelines at a financial system meltdown, while government has taken panicked, inconsistent, expensive and so far ineffective action to stop it. Ordinary citizens didn't engineer the collapse, but they may be footing the bill — through lost retirement savings, lowered wages, and the taxes they pay.

On Sept. 16, the Federal Reserve announced the biggest ever government bailout of a private corporation — the \$85 billion rescue of AIG, one of the world's largest insurance companies. That was the appetizer.

The meal, and what a big meal it will prove to be, is a fallback plan proposed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson — \$700 billion in taxpayer funds to buy up exotic Wall Street creations.

With outraged constituents calling in 10-1 against that idea, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected Paulson's proposal 228-205 on Sept. 29. But then the U.S. Senate took it up, passing the same basic plan but adding \$150 billion in unrelated tax breaks and other federal spending. The Senate bill passed 74-25 with support of Barack Obama (D-Ill.), Joe Biden (D-Del.), and John McCain (R-Ariz.). [Oregon Republican Gordon Smith

and Washington Democrat Patty Murray were for it, while Democrats Ron Wyden of Oregon and Maria Cantwell of Washington voted against it.]

The more expensive bill then passed the House Oct. 3 by 263-171, five days after it had rejected it. [Washington Democrat Brian Baird voted for the second bill, as did Oregon Democrats Darlene Hooley and David Wu, and Republican Greg Walden. Oregon Democrats Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio voted against it.]

The \$700 billion figure is by any reckoning a colossal amount of money. It's \$2,300 for every man,

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Carrying the vote *Union workers take pride in job to handle, deliver, count ballots*

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

Though nearly all of it is behind the scenes, union members are a big part of making Oregon's vote-by-mail system clean, fair, and efficient. That's because much of the handling, delivery and counting of the ballots is done by union workers.

The handling and delivery falls on the shoulders of the mail handlers, postal workers and letter carriers of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), for whom taking care of ballots is something like a sacred duty.

"It's a patriotic thing," said L.C. Hansen, president of Portland-headquartered Branch 82 of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC). Between one-third and two-fifths of postal employees are military veterans, Hansen points out, thanks to civil service preferences in hiring.

And Hansen said her members are extra vigilant to see that ballots are correctly delivered, a conclusion echoed by Brian Dunsmore, vice pres-



Rod Cardwell, a member of National Postal Mail Handlers Union Local 315, uses a hydraulic hand truck to lift a three-quarter-ton pallet of Voters' Pamphlets. Portland's central post office will process 120 pallets of Voters' Pamphlets this election season.

ident of American Postal Workers Union Local 128, and Gregory Stark, Executive Board member of National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) Local 315.

Recent postal union conventions have passed resolutions calling for other states to adopt vote-by-mail, and not just because it brings in additional Postal Service revenue. It also enhances the image of the public postal service to the citizenry. And vote-by-mail makes it possible for membership groups — like labor unions — to amplify their political strength: Between ballot mail out and Election Day, groups like unions can get daily updates on which of their members have voted. That allows them to focus political education and get-out-the-vote efforts on members who haven't voted yet, and thereby greatly increasing turnout.

Twenty-eight states allow voters to cast ballots by mail without the need

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