

All labor-backed candidates for Vancouver City Council win

VANCOUVER — Labor-endorsed Tim Leavitt won re-election as Vancouver mayor. He defeated challenger Bill Turlay, a city commissioner, 52.44 percent to 47.56 percent.

Turnout for the general election was 36.82 percent of registered voters.

"I feel really good, and I hope each of you do, about where we're headed for the next four years," Leavitt said at his election night party.

The Columbia River Crossing was a big issue in this race, though the City Council has no official role in the project. Leavitt, a 42-year-old civil engineer, is a staunch advocate for the Interstate-5 Bridge replacement project between Portland and Vancouver. He used it as a pillar of his campaign. In the weeks prior to the election, Leavitt purchased a billboard ad near the bridge so Vancouver commuters were reminded of his position.

Turlay, 77, opposes the CRC and light rail to Vancouver. Throughout the campaign, Turlay criticized Leavitt for his support of the bridge.

Joining Leavitt on the City Council will be newcomers Alishia Topper and Anne McEnerny-Ogle. Both were endorsed by labor. Topper defeated three-term incumbent Jeanne Stewart, taking 52.16 percent of the vote. McEnerny-Ogle defeated Frank Decker, capturing 56.72 percent of the vote. McEnerny-

Ogle and Decker had advanced in the August primary after outpolling 17-year commissioner Jeanne Harris.

Incumbent City Councilor Jack Burkman — also endorsed by labor — defeated Micheline Doan, 52 percent to 48 percent.

Turlay will retain his seat on the City Council to finish out his term.

"This year, there were two very distinct sets of philosophies," Burkman told the Columbian newspaper. He described himself and the other winners as "looking to the future, progressive, and willing to take bold steps."

Each of the winners support the Columbia River Crossing. All of the losers campaigned against it.

"I'm extremely pleased with the results," Leavitt said. "Given all the rhetoric out there, this is a nice mandate for our community."

Five labor-backed candidates for freeholder were also victorious. Clark County is electing 15 nonpartisan freeholders to draft a new county charter. They will have 13 months to draft a proposal for voters. If the voters reject the proposal, or if the freeholders can't agree on a draft charter, Clark County will remain a statute code county. If a majority of voters agree with the charter proposal, it will be enacted.

The Southwest Washington Central Labor Council and Columbia Pacific

Building and Construction Trades Council took positions in all 15 races.

Among the endorsed winners were union members Temple Lentz in District 3, Position 1; and Jim Moeller in District 3, Position 3.

Lentz, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, captured 26.3 percent of the votes in a 13-person race.

Moeller, a member of the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals Local 5017, outpolling eight opponents with 35.5 percent of the vote.

Other labor-endorsed winners were Paul Dennis in District 2, Position 4; Pat Jollota in District 3, Position 1; and Val Ogden in District 3, Position 2.

Endorsed union members Bob Carroll, Jamie Hurly, Rob Lutz and Tom Lawrence all fell short in their respective races.

NW Oregon Labor Council 1-1 on Election Day

There wasn't much on the plate on Election Day for the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.

The council took action on only two issues — a five-year local option levy for schools in Lake Oswego, and a levy to fund jail operations in Columbia County.

The school levy — Measure 3-434 — won with a whopping 86 percent of the vote. Proponents attributed the large margin of victory to the fact that it was a renewal levy that didn't change tax rates.

The jail levy — Measure 5-234 — lost by a whopping 58 percent to 42 percent. If passed, the levy would have added 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property values. Voter turnout was nearly 43 percent.

In other Clark County election results, Dave Town, a retired union officer of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 5, was elected to the Clark County Fire and Rescue Commission.

Genetic food labeling initiative I-522 fails

Statewide ballot initiative I-522 was defeated by Washington voters, 52.42 percent to 47.58 percent. (It failed in Clark County, 56.84 percent to 43.16 percent.) The labor-backed initiative sought to require labeling of genetically engineered foods sold in the state.

Multinational corporations like biotechnology giant Monsanto, Dow Chemical, and Coca-Cola contributed millions to the No on I-522 campaign. Overall, nearly \$32 million was raised to defeat the measure, setting a state record for money spent against a ballot measure.

Polling in September showed 66 percent of voters supported I-522. By mid-October the percentage of supporters had shrunk to 46 percent, with 12 percent undecided. Most of those undecideds voted against the measure on Election Day.

Voter turnout statewide was 38.31 percent.

SeaTac measure to boost wages to \$15 an hour clings to lead

SEATAC — A ballot measure to raise the minimum wage for SeaTac hospitality and transportation workers to \$15 an hour and adjust it for inflation each year thereafter, was clinging to a 43-vote lead as this issue of the Labor Press went to press.

Election results won't be certified until Nov. 26.

Proposition 1 has been watched closely nationally. Organized labor supported the ballot measure, while national business groups contributed to the opposition campaign.

The measure lifts wages for an estimated 6,500 workers, including jet fuelers, baggage handlers, hotel housekeepers, and rental car employees. It applies to airlines, hotels with more than 100 guest rooms and 30 or more workers, shuttle services and car rental agencies with more than 25 workers, and institutional food service operations — such as conference centers and corporate cafeterias — which have 10 or more non-managerial employees.

It also:

- Requires employers to provide one hour of sick leave for every 40 hours worked, up to 6.5 days a year of paid sick leave for full-time airport employees;

- Prohibits managers or owners from taking workers' tips, including gratuities charged to banquets or catered meetings;

- Requires employers to offer additional hours to existing part-time employees before hiring from the outside; and

- Gives employees of contractors an opportunity to keep their jobs when the contract changes hands.

The City of SeaTac, with a population of 27,000, contains within it Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, along with airport hotels and conference centers, and shuttle and rental car companies. The city has 12,100 registered voters.

Washington currently has the nation's highest state minimum wage at \$9.19 an hour. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.



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