

OREGON

Oregon right-to-work measure could get rewrite

A pair of anti-union ballot measures are expected to be withdrawn after the Oregon Supreme Court on Sept. 10 upheld the state's official summary: "Non-union public employees may benefit from union bargaining without sharing representation costs." That summary would poll poorly with voters, so the measure's chief petitioner says she'll draft a new version and try again to get a more advantageous ballot title.

\$15 minimum wage ballot measure hits the streets

On Sept. 26, volunteers in 20 Oregon cities began collecting signatures to qualify an Oregon ballot measure to increase the state minimum wage. The measure — which has been endorsed by dozens of unions — would raise the wage to \$11.50 in 2017, \$13.25 in 2018, and \$15 in 2019. To place the measure on the November 2016 ballot, supporters need to collect 88,184 valid signatures by July 1, 2016.

\$13.50 minimum wage ballot measure filed

The recently-formed Raise the Wage coalition announced Sept. 28 that it's filing a ballot measure to increase Oregon's minimum wage to \$13.50 over two years — and let cities go higher. The labor-community coalition, backed by some of the same unions behind the \$15 measure, wants Oregon lawmakers to pass its proposal in February 2016. If they fail to do so, Raise the Wage would try to get it on the November 2016 ballot.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Teamster Lehrbach and AFGE's Schroeder to vie for Multnomah County Board seat

Retired Teamsters leader Lynn Lehrbach says he plans to run for Multnomah County Board for the District 4 seat currently held by Diane McKeel. That would make him the second union leader to seek that seat: Amanda Schroeder — president of American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 2157 — announced her candidacy Aug. 29. McKeel is serving her second four-year term on the board, and is prevented from running again by term limits.



Lynn Lehrbach



Amanda Schroeder

Lehrbach said he will launch his campaign at an upcoming meeting of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, where he was formerly first vice president. Lehrbach — a former president of Teamsters Local 162 — was the long-time representative of Teamsters Joint Council 37, and worked as a construction representative for the Teamsters international union. He currently is president of the Teamsters Retirees Club. He served one four-year term on the TriMet board of directors.

Veterans Administration since 2005. She is a rating specialist, determining whether and how much benefits veterans are entitled to when they file claims. A third-generation union member, she's been president of Local 2157 since 2013. She sits on the human rights committee of her national union, and is national women's advisory coordinator for AFGE's eight-state District 11. Thus far, she's been endorsed by CWA Local 7901 and AFGE Local 3937.

Neither Lehrbach nor Schroeder have officially filed to run yet. The filing deadline is March 8, 2016.

The one candidate who has filed is insurance agent Lori Stegmann, a member of Gresham City Council. Stegmann made her campaign announcement at a meeting of the Gresham Chamber of Commerce, where she's a former board member. Stegmann is registered as a Republican; Lehrbach and Schroeder are Democrats. County Board seats are non-partisan.

Schroeder has worked at the

AFSCME's Botkin picked for MESD Board

Mary Botkin, a retired lobbyist for Oregon AFSCME Council 75, was appointed to fill a vacant Zone 2 seat on the Multnomah Education Service District's board of directors.



Mary Botkin

The MESD Board voted unanimously for Botkin, who won out over two other applicants. She

was sworn in Sept. 15. The appointment is for two years.

Workers at MESD are represented by AFSCME Local 1995 and the Oregon Education Association. MESD provides special education and other services to eight school districts, including Portland Public Schools.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Chris Hewitt, director of organizing at the Oregon AFL-CIO, left to work for Oregon Nurses Association in September. The Oregon AFL-CIO is looking for a replacement.

The Oregon AFL-CIO has hired a new staffperson for Central Oregon: **Darcy Bedortha** begins work Oct. 6 at the Bend office, replacing **Bruce Morris**.

At Oregon Nurses Association, labor relations director

Paul Goldberg has retired after 11 years in the job. His replacement is **Alan Yoder**, who served as ONA's in-house attorney from 2000 to 2015.

Elizabeth Swager, director since 2013 of the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, went to work Oct. 1 as national organizer for the Citizen Trade Campaign, OFTC's parent group. OFTC is looking for a replacement. Swager will remain in Portland in her new position.

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