

...Mayor

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trade deals like the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, which unions oppose. But you never know where someone who's asking for your vote today will end up tomorrow: Earl Blumenauer, who votes for such deals, was once a member of Portland City Council. Neither Bailey nor Wheeler had anything critical to say about the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Gas tax: Both candidates say they favor a local gas tax to pay for additional road maintenance — as long as voters approve. But Bailey says it should be temporary, while Wheeler says the City should first show the public that it's spending existing transportation dollars wisely.

Jobs: Mayors don't create or eliminate recessions, which are caused by national and global forces. But they *can* make a difference on construction jobs, which are related to land use decisions and public investments in infrastructure. I asked each candidate for their positions on several recent union-backed developments that foundered amid controversy.

Pembina propane terminal: Neither candidate was clear on what they'd have done, but Wheeler faulted Hales for changing his mind on the project.



"I'm hearing in the midst of plenty, I'm hearing more and more concern about the change of dynamics in our community," said Portland mayoral candidate Ted Wheeler, above, at a Jan. 7 conference for apartment investors.

West Hayden Island industrial land:

Wheeler says a compromise with the Port of Portland is still possible.

I-5 bridge over the Columbia River:

Bailey took flak from environmental allies when he voted in the Legislature to fund it. Wheeler, as treasurer, found problems with the project's financial assumptions. In the end, it was the Republican-led Washington state Senate that halted the project by failing to approve funds.

Union endorsements: Six labor organizations have endorsed Wheeler for mayor so far — the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, IBEW Local 48, Communications Workers of America Local 7901, Bricklayers Local 1, Cement Masons Local 555, and Carpenters Local 271. All those endorsements were made while Hales was still running, and be-

fore Bailey entered the race. Despite that, union leaders I spoke to said they're sticking with Wheeler — for his competence, greater experience, and for his record at the county putting together projects that put union members to work. Most of the same unions endorsed Bailey — for county commission — but the backing doesn't transfer to a bid for mayor. As yet, he has no union endorsements, but he only formally launched his campaign Jan. 9. AFSCME will interview candidates next week and make an endorsement decision Jan. 26.

ONLINE EXTRA

See how the candidates answered questions — in their own words — at nwlabourpress.org/2016/1/mayor/.

Iron Workers' Camarillo takes job with international

Robert Camarillo of Portland-based Iron Workers Local 29 has been hired as an organizer by the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers. His first day was Jan. 4.



Camarillo

In accepting the new job, Camarillo had to step down as president and business agent of Local 29, and as president of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council.

"I resigned from everything so that I could focus full time on

this job," said Camarillo, who will travel throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska to assist locals with organizing campaigns.

The Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council appointed Bob Carroll, a business rep for IBEW Local 48, as

president.

At Iron Workers Local 29, vice president Shane Nels was appointed president, and will succeed Camarillo as business agent.

...High Court could radically diminish public-sector unions

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the *Friedrichs* case, the Court is being asked to rule that public employees shouldn't be required to pay for collective bargaining either — even though they benefit from the contract and a majority of their co-workers have voted for union representation.

When the Court heard oral arguments in the case Jan. 11, the lawyer for the anti-union side argued that when you are talking about public employees, even something like collective bargaining is inherently political, because the salaries and benefits that the union is negotiating come out of the public budget.

In response, the Court's liberal justices mostly addressed the practical consequences of overturning 40 years of legal precedent.

"There are tens of thousands of contracts with these provisions," said Justice Elena Kagan. "Those contracts affect millions of employees, maybe as high as 10 million."

Central to the *Abood* decision was the Court's acknowledgement of the "free rider" problem: People may not want to pay for something if they think they can get it for free.

Chief Justice John Roberts seemed to dismiss that as a concern, telling California state attorney Edward Dumont: "If your employees have shown overwhelmingly that they want collective bargaining, then it seems to me the 'free rider' con-

cern ... is really insignificant."

"Many people can want something," Dumont replied, "but if they are given a choice, they would prefer to have it for free, rather than to pay for it."

The *Friedrichs* case follows closely a case from two years ago, *Harris v Quinn*, in which the court barred state-paid home care workers from any requirement to pay union dues. The court didn't rule on the First Amendment question then, concluding instead that the home health aides were not actually public employees. Justice Samuel Alito wrote the opinion for the majority in the 5-4 ruling, and spent most of the ruling calling *Abood* into question. That opinion is what prompted *Friedrichs* — a tailor-made case in which anti-union groups recruited California teachers as plaintiffs, and then rushed the case through the courts in hopes of challenging *Abood* at the Supreme Court.

The union position was supported by more than 24 briefs filed by hundreds of individuals and groups representing all levels of government, public officials, civil rights organizations, academic experts, and others.

Multnomah County Commissioners Jules Bailey and Judy Shiprack were among 28 public officials and 27 cities and counties that signed one such "friend of the court" brief urging the Court not to overturn *Abood*.

The Court will issue its decision by the end of June.



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