

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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Swing state union voters back billionaire

Trump's win — supported by a third of union members, could lead to tax cuts for the rich and a national Right-to-Work law

"The AFL-CIO accepts the outcome of this election, and offers our congratulations to President-elect Trump." So wrote national AFL-CIO president Rich Trumka the morning after.

Many union members and members of union households voted for Trump — despite enormous effort by the labor movement to elect Hillary Clinton. CNN exit polls showed that 43 percent of voters in union households cast ballots for Trump, compared to 51 percent for Clinton. And



union household support for Trump was even higher in key battleground states: In Wisconsin and Michigan, union households split 50-50, CNN reported. And in Ohio, Trump won 52 percent of union house-

holds, says North America's Building Trades President Sean McGarvey.

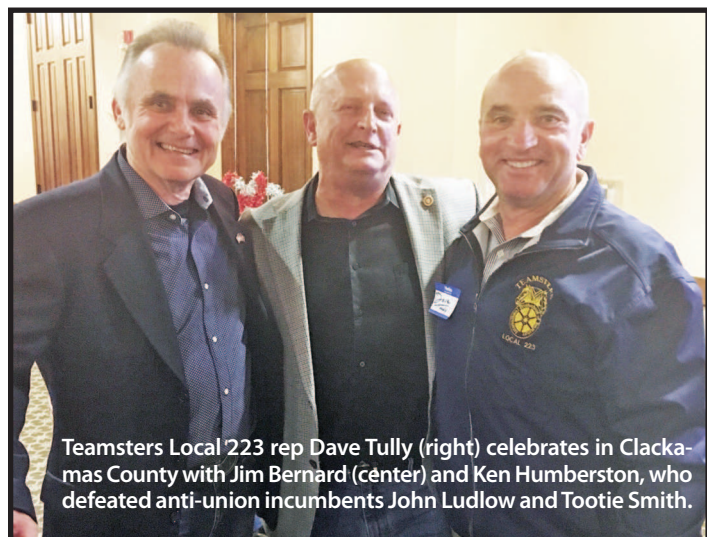
"It's 30 years of getting screwed by both parties, Democrats and Republicans," McGarvey said. "They were

SCOTT WALKER FOR LABOR SECRETARY? That would be labor's worst nightmare. Walker is the Wisconsin governor who stripped public sector workers of collective bargaining rights in 2010. During his short-lived run for president he even said that his taking on 100,000 union protesters demonstrated the kind of nerves he'd need to confront foreign terrorists. In the end, he endorsed Trump and helped him win Wisconsin. Is he in line for a cabinet position? On Nov. 9 he said he's not considering that. Let's hope he stays in Wisconsin.

willing to take a chance on anything."

In his morning-after statement, Trumka tried to put the best possible face on the results:

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Teamsters Local 223 rep Dave Tully (right) celebrates in Clackamas County with Jim Bernard (center) and Ken Humberston, who defeated anti-union incumbents John Ludlow and Tootie Smith.

Election night yields mixed scorecard for Oregon labor

Labor held the line in most races, but several losses stung.

By Don McIntosh

Oregon's labor movement is a potent political force, but Nov. 8, 2016, wasn't its best night: Despite mammoth efforts, labor suffered the defeat of Measure 97 and Brad Avakian, and the loss of a Democratic state Senate seat.

Still, there were some results to celebrate — the reelection of Gov. Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen

Rosenblum, the election of union-endorsed Tobias Reed to state treasurer, passage of Measure 98 to increase funding for career and technical education in high schools, and the ouster of a pair of anti-union conservatives in Clackamas County. County Chair John Ludlow lost to Jim Bernard, and Commissioner Tootie Smith lost to Ken Humberston; both challengers had strong union backing.

Measure 97's loss means

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NATIONAL

Ballot Measure Breakthroughs

Voters passed sick leave, raised minimum wage, taxed the rich, and said no to right-to-work

When it came to up-or-down votes on the issues, voters mostly agreed with labor's message this year.

Minimum wage and sick pay

Voters approved minimum wage increases in four states — and two of the measures also mandated paid sick leave. The measures in Colorado, Maine, and Arizona raise it to \$12 by 2020, and annually for inflation after that. The Maine measure also phases out the subminimum for tipped workers by 2024. And the Arizona measure also requires 40 hours a year of paid sick time (24 for small businesses). Washington's measure requires 40 hours a year of paid sick time, and raises the minimum to \$13.50 by 2020. Voters

in Flagstaff, Arizona went even further than the state as a whole, passing a local measure to raise the minimum to \$15 an hour for non-tipped workers by 2021, and tipped workers by 2026. And in South Dakota, voters overturned a sub-minimum wage that the Legislature established for underage workers.

Right to Work

Today in 26 states, laws known as "right-to-work" ban any contract requiring union-represented workers pay dues to the union. It's a way to make sure unions are weak and poorly funded. But voters rejected a ballot measure to make Virginia a right-to-work state by a 54-46 margin. Meanwhile, in Alabama, already a "right-to-work" state, voters by more than 2-1 added right-to-work to the state constitution. And in

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WASHINGTON ELECTION RESULTS

For the Washington state labor movement's election night scorecard, see Page 7.

Portland City Council looks at public campaign finance

It's backed by union and civic groups, and Commissioner Fritz hopes to pass it by year's end.

By Don McIntosh

Portland City Council is considering an ordinance that could significantly erode the power of monied interests in city politics. Known as the Open and Fair Elections ordinance, it got its first public hearing Nov. 3.

The ordinance would set up a public campaign finance system that matches small donations. It's modeled on programs already in place in New York City and several other locales. Candidates for mayor, City Council, and city auditor who want to participate in the program would agree to accept no more than \$250 from any individual, and to limit the total contributions they'd accept to \$250,000 in the primary and \$300,000 in the general election (more for mayoral candidates). In return the City would provide a six-to-one match for contributions of up to \$50 from Portland residents — giving a candidate access to up to \$144,000 in public funds for the primary and \$216,000 for the general election (and about double that for a mayoral candidate). The ordinance limits the program to 0.2 percent of the City's General Fund — about \$1.2 million a year.

The ordinance comes at a time when political campaign contributions from corporations and wealthy individuals are reaching unprecedented levels. Portland's 2012 city candidate races were dominated by 600 big donors who wrote checks of \$1,000 or more, contributing a total of \$1.7 million in the mayor's race and two city council races. Oregon is one of only six states that have no limit on

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