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## Big Day for Billionaires

Trump inauguration means a billionaire in the White House and cabinet spots for 5 more.

Just after the election, national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka pledged to work with Donald Trump to enact at least some of his agenda, like renegotiating NAFTA and reviving American manufacturing. Trump's campaign proposals had come with so few details that you could imagine that was possible. But the weeks since then have dampened those hopes, as Trump announced plans to nominate one ultra-wealthy individual after another to his cabinet and advisory councils. We take a look



at those nominees, and labor's reaction to them, on Page 2.

Now national and local labor and community groups are planning massive protests on inauguration weekend. The Oregon AFL-CIO is encouraging affiliates to join with other labor unions for protest actions, including the Portland event below.

### LABOR-LED INAUGURAL PROTEST IN PORTLAND

Saturday, Jan. 21, 10-11:30 a.m.  
Shemanski Park, 1010 SW Park Ave.  
Rally followed by a march to Salmon Street Springs at Tom McCall Waterfront Park; there marchers will join with a much larger women's march.

## WORKERS RIGHTS

### Long day *and* long week? Double the pay

Oregon factory workers may be owed time-and-a-half twice

Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) has changed how it interprets overtime laws — in a way that could fatten the paychecks of Oregon factory workers. The change follows a lawsuit filed by the non-profit Northwest Workers Justice Project (NWJP) on behalf of a group of workers at Portland Specialty Baking, which quashed a union campaign in early 2016. The suit says the bakery violated an Oregon law that requires overtime pay when workers “employed in a mill, factory or manufacturing establishment” work more than 10 hours in a day. BOLI enforces that law as well

as a separate law that requires overtime pay for *all* hourly workers if they work more than 40 hours a week. Before the lawsuit, BOLI's advice to employers was that they had to pay the *greater of the two* overtime pay amounts, but not *both*. But NWJP attorney Corinna Spencer-Scheurich says that advice was wrong.

Suppose an Oregon factory worker put in three 12-hour shifts and one six-hour shift in a week, totaling 42 hours. That's six hours of daily overtime and two hours of weekly overtime. Under BOLI's old interpretation, the worker would have been paid at the overtime rate for six hours — the greater of the two. Under the new interpretation, the laws operate inde-

pendently, so the worker must be paid eight hours at the time-and-a-half overtime rate.

BOLI spokesperson Charlie Burr said NWJP's lawsuit led BOLI to take another look at the way the laws operate, and the agency ended up agreeing with plaintiffs.

“The two statutes enact distinct overtime requirements and serve different purposes with respect to restrictions on hours worked by employees,” says an updated manual for BOLI compliance agents.

The change applies to an estimated 187,477 manufacturing workers in Oregon.

No trial date has been set yet in the bakery lawsuit. The two sides are still submitting preliminary legal arguments.

## Unions making spirits bright

Labor unions helped bring smiles to the faces of 300 children at the 21st annual Presents from Partners holiday party. The event for kids of union families in need, plus families from Snowcap charities, Bethel Lutheran Youth Drop In Center, Right 2 Dream Too, Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization, and Portland Tenants United, was held Dec. 17 at Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 in Northeast Portland. It is sponsored by Labor's Community Service Agency — with lots of help from the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and its affiliated unions, United Way of Columbia Willamette, and union allies who stepped up more than ever this year. At the party each child received a Christmas stocking hand-sewn by a group of union volunteers. Kids filled their stockings with items



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## PORTLAND

### To counter big money, City Council votes for public campaign finance

Starting in 2020, Portland's new system will match small donors so candidates can focus on regular voters, not big donors

Portlanders are about to find out what a City Council looks like when candidates don't need to rely on big campaign contributors. In a 3-2 vote Dec. 14, Portland City Council approved a public campaign finance program. Starting in 2020, the City will provide a six-to-one match for small contributions of up to \$50 — for candidates for mayor and City Council who agree to certain limits on campaign contributions. City Council candidates in the program could get up to \$144,000 in public funds for the primary and \$216,000 for the general election — if they agree to accept no more than \$250 from any individual, and to limit total contributions to \$250,000 in the primary and \$300,000 in the general election. The figures are about double that for mayoral candidates. The ordinance limits the pro-

gram to 0.2 percent of the City's General Fund — about \$1.2 million a year.

The program was modeled on similar programs in New York City and Los Angeles, and states such as Connecticut, Arizona, and Maine. Portland was the fourth jurisdiction to pass some kind of public campaign financing in 2016.

The ordinance was sponsored by Commissioner Amanda Fritz, but she said the proposal was driven by a coalition of unions and non-profit groups. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, Communications Workers of America Local 7901, Service Employees Oregon State Council, and Oregon Working Families Party were among the 31 groups in the coalition.

Fritz was joined by outgoing Mayor Charlie Hales and outgoing Commissioner Steve Novick in voting for the ordinance. Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Nick Fish voted against it, arguing that it should go before voters for approval.