

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

IN THIS ISSUE

NEW LEADERSHIP AT UA LOCAL 290 Lou Christian outpolls incumbent Al Shropshire. | Page 7

YEAR ONE OF THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY What are the impacts so far for working people? | Page 8

SAG-AFTRA awards nominees p. 2 **Meeting Notices** p. 4

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PORTLAND, OREGON

JANUARY 19, 2018



As part of a statewide effort to turn out union voters, volunteers helped out at the Southern Oregon offices of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

'YES' FOR HEALTHCARE

A message from the Oregon AFL-CIO:

"A YES vote on Measure 101 protects healthcare for vulnerable Oregonians, including seniors, people with disabilities, and 400,000 children. That's why Oregon's unions support voting YES in this important election. Everybody should be able to see a doctor or get medications when they're sick, without fearing bankruptcy. Measure 101 makes that possible by protecting Medicaid. Measure 101 asks hospitals, insurance companies and coordinated care organizations to pay a small assessment, which gets matched by the federal government, to fund healthcare for the 1 in 4 Oregonians who rely on the Oregon Health Plan for their basic care. The providers who pay the assessment all support Measure 101, along with 160+ other trusted organizations across the state, because they know that access to affordable healthcare is critical to the success of our communities."

BALLOTS ARE DUE THIS TUESDAY, JANUARY 23!

The following labor organizations have endorsed Measure 101:

AAUP Oregon
AFT-Oregon
Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation
IATSE Local 488
IBEW Local 48
National Assn. of Letter Carriers, Branch 82
NW Oregon Labor Council
Oregon AFL-CIO
Oregon AFSCME
Oregon Education Association
Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
Oregon Nurses Association
Oregon School Employees Association
Oregon State Firefighters Council
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Professional and Technical Employees Local 17
SEIU Local 49
SEIU Local 503
UFCW Local 555

LEGISLATIVE SEASON

OREGON

Audacious bills. Short timeline. And a big 'if'

When the Oregon Legislature begins its every-other-year "short" session Feb. 5, state lawmakers will have a chance to pass important pieces of legislation, including funding for affordable housing, setting up a system of paid family and medical leave, and establishing a "cap-and-invest" system to limit greenhouse gas emissions in a way that would generate hundreds of millions of dollars for renewable energy and transportation infrastructure.

But if Measure 101 fails, all bets are off. The referendum asks voters to ratify the law legislators passed last year that funds the state Med-



icaid program; if voters reject it, lawmakers would likely spend the six-week session grappling with how to come up with other revenues — or make painful cuts and take away federally-subsidized health insurance from tens of thousands of low-income Oregonians.

As ever, unions will be at the State Capitol as a voice for Oregon working people.

Turn to Page 6

WASHINGTON

With logjam gone, new life for labor bills that died last year

Elections have consequences. Last November, a hard-fought labor-backed campaign put Democrats back in charge of the Washington Senate. That one-vote majority — plus a narrow majority in the House and a Democratic governor — means an end to five years of legislative gridlock, and new life for bills that could help working people.

The Senate Labor and Commerce Committee — which last year took testimony on an anti-union "right-to-work" bill — is now chaired by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Kent), the former communications director of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. She's now queuing up legislation that last year passed the



House only to be killed by Senate Republicans.

Several pro-worker bills were already moving, with hearings held just days after the 2018 legislative session's Jan. 8 opening:

- **Equal pay** SB 5140, sponsored by State Senator Annette Cleveland (D-Vancouver), would address gender-based income disparities by prohibiting pay secrecy policies, allowing workers to discuss wages, and prohibit retaliation when workers ask for equal pay.

Turn to Page 5

GREEN JOBS

Oregon climate response: Cap and invest?



Big carbon emitters would get market incentives to convert

By Don McIntosh

Oregon legislators tend to shy away from significant legisla-

tion in the short session, but this February they'll consider a biggie. The "Clean Energy Jobs" bill is the culmination of over a year of legislative committee work, and comes

at a time when the federal government has abdicated any responsibility for slowing or mitigating climate change. With president Trump's an-

Turn to Page 6