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...Union members running for office

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In 2017, to maintain the Medicaid-funded Oregon Health Plan, lawmakers had to find a way to raise revenue, knowing that whatever money they raised would be matched 9-to-1 by the federal government. The plan majority Democrats came up with was to increase a tax on hospital revenue, and levy a 1.5 percent tax on health insurance premiums. Parrish, the Republican state rep for House District 37 (West Linn), didn't just vote against it. She led an initiative to refer it to voters in an effort to stop it. Voters rubber-stamped the Legislature's plan by a whopping 62 percent, but not until after Oregon unions spent hundreds of thousands of dollars defending health care for seniors and low-income Oregonians.

Parrish also voted against the minimum wage increase, and against the bill that guaranteed workers paid sick leave. That record bothered Prusak as a nurse and as a citizen so much that she sought out training from the union-affiliated Oregon Labor Candidates School, and threw her hat in the ring.



Photo by Christopher Hoy

St. Monica Apartments, a group foster home for pregnant young women in crisis, opened this May in Keizer. with Northside Electric's help, IBEW Local 280 member Mike Ellison got the electrical portion of the project donated.

Now, backed strongly by her own union, Oregon Nurses Association, and by the wider labor movement, Prusak is house-calling voters, not just patients. She estimates she's personally knocked on the doors of over 3,000 registered voters, and campaign volunteers have

knocked on another 22,000. If Prusak wins, she'll enter the Legislature as a staunch advocate of tax fairness, single payer healthcare, and smaller class sizes. And Oregonians will have a nurse in the room when laws about health care and health insurance are being crafted.

Want union power? Put an electrician in the House

In an era when working people are falling behind, in a state where labor and greens quarrel while forests burn, union electrician Mike Ellison is ready to be

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