

Bonamici Bulletin

By Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici



This spring, high school seniors across NW Oregon are making their final decisions about what to do after graduation. For too many students the decision is fraught with financial concerns. I worked my way through community college, and graduated from college and law school with a manageable amount of debt. Many students in Oregon and across the country don't have the same opportunities now. In Congress, I'm leading the effort to modernize and update the Federal Work Study program so students can earn money in school and gain valuable work experience that will help them secure good jobs after graduation. I'll continue to fight attempts in Congress to roll back higher education policies that support low-income students.

Here's what else I've been working on:

Overcoming the Opioid Crisis

I have met with people from all walks of life who have shared heart-wrenching stories about how the opioid crisis is taking lives and inflicting pain on Oregon families. Many people have leftover prescriptions at home that can be misused by children, family members, or friends. We must make it easier to dispose of unused medications. My Safe Disposal of Opioids Act creates a grant program to help pharmacies install and maintain drug disposal boxes - paid for by a fee on the pharmaceutical companies that make opioids. Unfortunately, the opioid crisis is too big and too complex to be solved by any single solution. In Congress, I'll keep working to hold opioid manufacturers accountable, increase drug disposal options, and secure more resources to help Oregonians cope with the deadly opioid epidemic.

Preserving our Planet, Holding Pruitt Accountable

Curbing the effects of climate change will protect public health and preserve our planet for future generations. I'm on the Science Committee, and as the top Democrat on the Environment Subcommittee, I'm concerned about Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's ac-

tions to roll back clean air and water protection, loosen vehicle emission standards, and repeal the Clean Power Plan. All of these steps are moving us in the wrong direction. Pruitt's lavish spending on travel and upgrades to his office is unethical and a waste of taxpayer dollars. For the sake of future generations and our planet, we need an EPA Administrator who is committed to the mission of the agency and who will make decisions using evidence-based science. For these reasons, I've called for Administrator Pruitt's resignation.

Economic Stability for Every Family

We need an economy that works for everyone. Too many working families in Oregon are struggling to get ahead with stagnant wages and increasing costs for housing, child care, and student loan payments. Yet most of the benefits of the partisan hastily-passed tax plan go to wealthy corporations and the top one percent of households. That's not the right way to do tax reform. Our country needs smart investments in good paying jobs that will rebuild our roads, bridges, schools, and communities, put people back to work, and help families achieve financial stability.

Keeping Students Safe

It has been three months since the tragic shooting at Parkland High School in Florida. Leaders in Washington, DC must listen to the millions of students, teachers, and parents who are demanding that Congress take action to strengthen gun laws and end gun violence's grip on our communities. The student leaders speaking up and giving voice to their generation have inspired me. I'm bringing their call to action back to Congress and demanding that we pass legislation - starting with universal background checks. We also need to get military-style weapons off our streets and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals and domestic abusers.

You can find more updates about my work around NW Oregon and in Washington, DC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. You can also contact my Oregon and Washington, DC offices with questions, comments, or for assistance with a federal agency.



reflecting the spirit of our community
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No Winner in County Commissioner Race

Columbia County will have a run-off election in November, as no candidate received 50% of the vote for Columbia County Commissioner Position 2 in the primary election on May 15, 2018.

Incumbent Henry Heimuller led the race and received just under 40% of the vote, garnering 4,351 votes. Current Port of St. Helens Commissioner Paulette Lichatowich will challenge Heimuller on November 6 in the run-off after receiving 3,065 votes, or almost 28% of the votes cast.

Newcomer Kimberly Johns finished a close third with 23% of the vote while Don Campbell received 9%.

Voter turnout in Columbia County was 33%, matching the overall participation across Oregonian.

County to Host Hearing and Open House in Vernonia

Commissioners to hear public comment on FY18-19 budget, meet informally with residents

Columbia County commissioners are giving residents the opportunity to comment about the County's newest budget. The proposed budget, which totals \$63,524,851, runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Residents are invited to participate in two public hearings regarding the proposed document. The first takes place Tuesday, June 12 at 5:30 pm at the Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge St. in Vernonia.

After the hearing, which is expected to last a half hour, the commissioners will host one of their popular "Chat with the Commis-

sioners" events at Blue House Café, 919 Bridge St. "Chat with the Commissioners" gives residents, business owners, and others interested in local government the opportunity to talk with County leaders about any subject that they feel is important. Appetizers will be served at the open house.

Commissioners scheduled the second hearing for Thursday, June 14 beginning at 5:30 at the County Courthouse annex meeting room, 230 Strand St. in St. Helens. Budgets for the County Extension Service/4H, the Meadowview Lighting District, and the Columbia County Development Agency will also be reviewed at this time.

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