

May 17, 2022 Primary Election Results

County Commissioner race will go to a November run-off

Kellie Jo Smith and Kelly Niles will face off in the November election, to decide who will join the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, after neither received over 50 percent of the vote in the May 17 election.

Smith led the primary election with 4,211 votes while Niles received 3,577 votes. Brian Brust received 2,901 votes, Jonathan Barkley received 1,122 votes and both were eliminated from the race.

Smith is the owner of Oregon Trail Lanes in St. Helens and is an elected member of the St. Helens School Board. She has also volunteered as a member of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy program.

Niles is a Wildland Fire Supervisor for the Oregon Department of Forestry and has held several volunteer positions on county committees that oversee planning, budgeting, policy, and personnel management.

In the November election Columbia County voters will make their choices for County Sheriff between incumbent Brian Pixley and challenger Terry Massey, a St. Helens police officer, and in the race for the County Clerk position between Kathy Cooper and Debbie Klug. According to County Elections Supervisor Don Clack, the Sheriff

and the Clerk are "constitutional offices", unlike the County Commissioner positions, and must be elected in the November General Election. If there are less than three candidates, then the two must go to the General Election. If there are three or more there is a run-off in the May Primary and the top two move on to the November election.

Brian Stout will be the Republican nominee in November to become the next State Representative for District 31, after winning his primary with 63.4 percent of the vote against Drew Layda who received 36.1 percent; Stout also won the vote in Columbia County with 3,101 votes to Layda's 1,722. Stout, who is running in his third election for the seat formerly held by Brad Witt, will face Democratic nominee Anthony Sorace, who ran unopposed.

In the race to fill the District 16 Senate seat Betsy Johnson resigned from when she announced she would run for Governor, Democrat Melissa Busch will face Republican Suzanne Weber in November; both ran unopposed in the primary.

In other state elections, State Representative Brad Witt, who currently represents District 31 but declined to run for election in his new District 32 after District boundaries were redrawn, failed in his bid to win the Democratic primary for District 19, finishing third with 30 percent of the vote in a close race.

In the races for U.S. House District

1, incumbent Suzanne Bonamici easily won her Democratic primary against two challengers with over 88 percent of the vote. She will face Republican challenger Christopher Mann who won his primary with just under 67 percent of the vote.

In the race for Oregon's newest congressional seat in the 6th District, Vernonia High School graduate Carrick Flynn lost in the Democratic primary after receiving 18.4 percent of the vote and was the runner up to winner Andrea Salinas who received 36.6 percent. The other big news in Oregon's congressional races was the defeat of Democratic incumbent Kurt Shrader, who lost his primary in the 5th District to Jamie McLeod-Skinner 43.8 percent to 55.5 percent.

For the U.S. Senate, Democrats again nominated Ron Wyden with almost 89 percent of the vote, while Republicans chose Jo Rae Perkins, who won her primary with 33 percent of the vote.

In the primaries for Oregon Governor Democrats nominated Tina Kotek with over 56 percent of the vote. Columbia County voters also were in favor of Kotek as their nominee, but by a much slimmer margin; Kotek received 1,975 votes in Columbia County, just 150 votes more than runner up Tobias Read. Kotek will face Republican nominee Christine Drazen who received 22.7 percent of the vote statewide; Drazen lost the vote in Columbia County

by 99 votes to Bob Tiernan who was the runner-up statewide with 17.5 percent of the vote and Drazen finished just 25 votes ahead of Stan Pulliam in Columbia County.

Statewide voter turnout was just over 37 percent. In Columbia County turnout was 33 percent with 48.9 percent of Republicans, 46.6 percent of Democrats, and 13.8 percent of NonPartisan voters participating. County-wide there were just 53 more votes cast by Democrats than Republicans. Of the 41,016 total voters registered in Columbia County, 11,942 are Democrats, 11,273 are Republican, and the majority, 17,801 are NonPartisan.

Vernonia Mayor and City Council Seats Up for Election in November

Two Vernonia City Council seats and the Mayor's position will be on the November 8, 2022 ballot this fall. The Mayor position, currently held by Rick Hobart, is a two-year term. Both City Council positions, currently held by Dale Webb and J.R. Allen, are four-year terms. Filing for candidates opened on June 1 and will close on August 23 at 4:00 pm. The two candidates receiving the most votes for the Council seats will be elected, along with whichever candidate receives the most votes for Mayor. For more information about these positions, contact City Recorder Stephanie Borst at 503-429-5291, ext 105.

Cedar Side Inn



Specialty Pizzas

Taco Tuesday

from opening until 9 pm
3 hardshell or 1 softshell \$4.25

11:00 am - 12:00 am Sun-Thr
11:00 am - 2:00 am Fri-Sat

Check our Facebook page for daily specials

756 Bridge Street, Vernonia 503-429-5841

VERNONIA'S voice

reflecting the spirit of our community

Publisher and Managing Editor
Scott Laird
503-367-0098
scott@vernoniasvoice.com

Contributors
Damien Cox
Shannon Romtvedt

Photography
EliteOregonGirls
Scott Laird

Want to advertise? Have an article?
Contact: scott@vernoniasvoice.com

One year subscription (24 issues) \$35

Vernonia's Voice is published
on the 1st and 3rd Thursday
of each month.

Vernonia's Voice, LLC
PO Box 55
Vernonia, OR 97064
503-367-0098

Support our Seniors SOS DONATION

Vernonia Senior Citizens • PO Box 93, Vernonia, OR 97064
Office Telephone 503-429-3327 • 501(c)(3) TID: #23-7422295

Donor's Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____

_____ Enclosed is my \$25 donation toward the Senior Meal Program (5 home-delivered or take-out meals for seniors)
_____ Enclosed is my \$50 donation toward two weeks of meals
_____ Here is my donation for another amount \$ _____
_____ \$20/year annual Senior Citizen membership - 60 years & over
_____ My check will serve as my receipt or
_____ I would like a tax deductible receipt mailed to me at the above address

THANK YOU FOR BECOMING AN SOS CHAMPION!

Yes, I support *Vernonia's Voice* with this one time donation.

☐ \$10	☐ \$75
☐ \$25	☐ \$100
☐ \$50	☐ Other \$ _____

Thank you for your support
Mail check or money order to:
Vernonia's Voice
PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____