

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Here's handy list of endorsements

The Sandy Post has made a number of endorsements on local issues. In political races, we interviewed all candidates running for a position in which an endorsement was made.

We feel Clackamas County Clerk Juanita Orr gave good advice recently when she said voters should decide how they will vote before entering the voting booth. With a long ballot, going into the voting booth well informed might help keep the lines moving.

Our recommendations include:

"No" on the county gas tax

Sandy residents may remember when the Sandy City Council considered a 1 cent per gallon gasoline tax in October 1983. That proposal assumed 5 million gallons of gasoline were sold in Sandy in a year's time, and estimated revenues would be about \$50,000. Using those figures, which service station owners at the time said were probably accurate, Clackamas County would collect \$150,000 a year in Sandy. With Measure 3-1, the city of Sandy would receive about \$42,000 a year to maintain local roadways.

While the distribution of the county gasoline tax is probably fair — it is based on a formula considering population and miles of roadway — the potential benefits do not outweigh the possible losses in Sandy. We think it is conceivable that the tax would hurt local service stations.

Re-elect Steve Starkovich

Steve Starkovich, D-Canby, is only the second freshman legislator to be elected senate majority leader, the second highest Democratic post in the senate. He deserves a second, four-year term.

He can rightfully claim credit for some of the efficiency of the 1985 Oregon Legislature.

He is informed on a wide range of issues, and locally may be able to save business people money by getting Sandy and other towns on the outskirts of Tri-Met's boundary out of the district. His recent comparison of Tri-Met's taxing authority with the service it provides was revealing.

On a statewide level, his work as co-chairman of the joint committee on water policy could be far-ranging, affecting farmers, foresters and the tourism industry. His balanced approach is needed.

Starkovich is more informed than his opponent in the District 14 race, Bob Kintigh, R-Springfield.

Re-elect Bob Shiprack

Bob Shiprack, D-Beavercreek, is clearly more qualified than his opponent in the House District 23 race.

It is interesting to note that three of the bills Shiprack worked on in 1985 were based on ideas he received from constituents. One dealt with honesty in the posting of the price of gasoline.

We predict Shiprack will be a key player in liability insurance reform.

Yes on Sandy High School's levy

Voters should approve Sandy High School's two-year, \$2.9 million per year serial levy request. Despite regular criticism, the board of directors is running a program that compares favorably with other union high school districts.

In addition, we recommend that people refuse to sign recall petitions against three Sandy High School board members. The board has had an extremely difficult job, but is committed to an open debate of educational issues.

A no vote on the levy would close the school. Such a move would be extremely detrimental to the community.

No on unification

If the Sandy Elementary and Sandy Union High School districts had stable funding, we would recommend a consolidation of Sandy Union High School with Sandy Elementary, Bull Run, Cottrell, Boring and Welches.

However, to put the four stable districts in with Sandy High and Sandy Elementary would be unfair.

For this reason, we urge a no vote.

Mike Murray for City Council

There are three good candidates running for Sandy City Council. One of them, Morton Spence, has been involved in community activities and would be a good city councilor.

We endorsed Murray for his tight-fisted work on the budget committee. The city of Sandy's budget committee did not levy its allowable 6 percent of the tax base this year, and Murray was a key player in that decision.

We support, at present, no-growth budgets by governmental agencies. Murray's philosophy meshes perfectly with that ideal.



Letters to the editor

Candidate has proven worth

Steve Starkovich has done a fine job as state senator for District 14. He has demonstrated his leadership ability as Senate Majority Leader.

Steve understands the importance of economic development in one of the growth areas of the metropolitan area, Clackamas County. He recognizes that the future of the area will rest, in large part, with tourism and small businesses. With his experience and ability, Steve can help make things happen in our county.

Steve has been a bright and diligent worker in Salem and a good listener in our community. He deserves our support on Nov. 4.

Janice Craig
Sandy

Tax bills call for 'yes' on 9

The Sandy area — in my estimation — reflects a microcosm of general statewide property tax voter sentiment. It is obvious — as exhibited by past local school and statewide elections — that the majority of retired, working homeowners and all classes of property holders within Oregon are tired of being unfairly burdened with runaway, uncontrolled increases in property taxes that primarily support our state's educational system.

Over a period of several years our state legislature has failed to creatively present an acceptable/workable property-tax relief measure proposal with positive voter appeal. Invariably, past state and local school district tax base levy proposals have been semantically tricky as well as deliberately confusing — usually containing no lid, 6 percent annual tax increasing provisions without voter approval.

My recommendation to all classes of eligible local and statewide property owners are:

1. Vote yes for passage of property tax limitation Measure 9, which is the most viable property-tax relief measure currently presented for voter approval.

2. Vote yes on Sandy Union High Schools' annual budget as presented to prevent school closure when tax measure 9 passes. Personally, I don't feel responsible, local tax paying residents want to deliberately deny interested students their educational pursuits.

3. Vote es for Neil Goldschmidt; my personal endorsement for governor because of past exhibited leadership capabilities coupled with "key" national and international political/business contacts.

Duane K. Bridge
Member
Affordable Education Association
Sandy

Association gets few answers

I would like to respond to the letter "School budget critics are wrong" appearing in the Sandy Post Oct. 23. The writer claims she never heard any concrete proposals as to how the budget could be cut.

At the Sandy Union High School budget meeting last year, interested

taxpayers gave concrete proposals where cuts could be made without affecting the quality of education. For example:

1. We suggested the institution of a \$250 to \$300 deductible clause in all health and dental policies currently held by employees. This would have saved many dollars of taxpayers money. The budget committee and school board members did nothing about this suggestion.

2. It has been noted and brought to the board's attention that 1985-86 fuel expenses increased \$15,000 while the cost of fuel has fallen almost 50 percent. Response from our budget committee and school board? None.

3. We pointed out to the board that our science department was conducting classes with only 12 students enrolled, whereas a class should be 28 to 30 students. Action taken by officials? None.

4. School board and budget committee were made aware of a performing arts class with only six students. Action taken by officials? None.

5. We have had much discussion over the co-curricular programs that include 50 part-time coaches and 39 advisors. Action taken by school officials? None.

I sympathize with our critic who feels there are no concrete proposals and/or no response. On the other hand, we make proposals and receive no response. Do we have a communication problem?

John King
Member
Affordable Education Association
Sandy

Writer supports Senate incumbent

Steve Starkovich of Canby is my choice as our senator. He deserves a second term in Salem. Starkovich has held community meetings in Sandy and Hoodland. I have attended these and found Steve to be approachable and well informed.

Starkovich has also been a leader in the battle to reorganize the funding and service levels of Tri-Met. He is on record as opposing the current method of assessing only local businesses for the operation of Tri-Met.

He has a wide background of knowledge, which is needed in a highly diversified district such as ours. Bob Kintigh, his opponent, is running on one issue. I would like to know his stand on school funding, Tri-Met, insurance reform, health care for the poor, senior citizen housing, etc.

Starkovich has a proven record of supporting those issues important to the future of District 14. We need Senator Steve Starkovich in the legislature.

Jobeth Anderson
Sandy

Bank directors back school levy

The board of directors of Clackamas County Bank believes that "shutting down" Sandy High School is not the answer to correcting the problem of school finance in Sandy or the state of Oregon.

If our high school closes, whether for 30 days (shortest period) or six months (if Measure 9 passes), the immediate result would be a disruption of our students' education and a longer-term, detrimental effect to

the economic well being of the entire community.

We agree that changes should be made in school financing, but those changes should be made by working within the system by getting involved in a constructive, not disruptive, manner.

We believe it is in the best interest of the entire community to keep our children in school and keep our community together and growing.

Fred L. Proctor Jr.
President and chairman of the board
Clackamas County Bank

Citizens group endorses Harlan

Members of the Oak Lodge Community Council heartily endorse Dale Harlan in his re-election bid for Clackamas County Commissioner. Although Mr. Harlan has been in office for only one term, he has proven to be a most capable, innovative, steadfast and accomplished commissioner.

An excellent example of his abilities is found in his capable handling of the county budget. He was a very important factor in turning around a budget that had been mired in the red for years. Voters can thank Mr. Harlan for fiscal responsibility to the county.

Mr. Harlan has also shown a strong interest and expertise in working with local groups and community planning organizations. Our group has been pleased to work with him over the years, and we look forward to continuing this relationship in the future.

We urge your continued support of Mr. Harlan — he has been great for the county!

Jessica S. Williamson
Chairwoman
Oak Lodge Community Council
and members of the board

School uses good budget practices

Having served on the Sandy Union High School budget committee for the past 15 years, and having spent the past 19 years managing a local fire district that is supported by local property taxes and follows the same budgeting process as school districts, and, once again, seeing the possibility of our high school closing for lack of funding, I feel obligated to speak out in support of our school, its leadership, and most importantly, in support of the students.

All phases of the budget process are open to the public. Unfortunately, it has been my experience in observing those in attendance at budget committee meetings that the majority fall into the following categories:

1. School staff, who attend to make presentations; 2. Residents who have their minds made up beforehand one

way or the other; 3. The minority groups who want to find out how the system works and if they can support it.

It is my opinion that the following facts must be considered before casting your vote on the high school levy:

1. The current budget is an accurate and realistic accounting of the funding levels necessary to maintain the current programs.

2. If the levy request fails on Nov. 4, the school will close and the students will have their educational opportunities and corresponding character-building activities traumatically interrupted.

3. This levy request, and corresponding tax rate, is lower than that of the past two years.

4. A new superintendent is on board who is committed to addressing all areas of public concern within the school system.

If you are currently considering voting no on the levy request, please consider the impact closing the school will have on students. Rather than shut the doors of our school, consider approving the reduced operating levy on Nov. 4, and then make a personal commitment to become active in your school system.

Matt Shields
Boring

Measure 9 is meat-ax method

Nov. 4 requires us to make choices. I plan to vote 'no' on Measure 9 and hope all of Sandy will do the same. It is a meat-ax attack upon education and other public support systems which provide our safety and welfare.

I recommend a 'yes' vote on Measure 14. Trojan is a hazard to our lives. The recent (and previous) fine levied against the operators of Trojan by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission showed that Trojan operators, like those at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island are subject to error. Nuclear reactors require that there is no error. Prevailing winds are from Trojan toward Sandy.

Measure 7 is a bummer. A sales tax once applied will only increase. In addition sales taxes take a higher percent of low incomes than from those higher. They are regressive.

I recommend votes for Rick Bauman and Barbara Ross. Both are determined to help our nation move away from military solutions and from mega-death machinery and the horrible debt we are building for our kids and their kids to pay off for years into the future. Rep. Denny Smith and Sen. Robert Packwood have failed to protest the enormous debt being built by military expenditure. They have also failed the morals test of protesting the killing and refugee-making we finance, supply and direct to our dishonor in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

All of us can take note of Abe Lincoln's words, "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men."

Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

Sandy Post letter policy

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided, although only the name of the letter writer and the city or area he is from will be

published. Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if appropriate.

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