

mindful. Maybe that's because she speaks forcefully from the council chamber once she's ready to vote. But Taylor still hasn't decided how she'll vote on the West EmX extension, and she says she's met with both LTD officials and anti-EmXers to talk about the impact of the project.

Valle is an enthusiastic, engaged community member with a compelling life story. He came to Eugene homeless years ago, and he says he wants to give back to the community that's helped him along the way. We found him difficult to pin down on the issues, and he's prone to saying that he'd want to sit down with everyone before making a decision. It's a good way to operate, but we can't endorse cautious

indecision over positive, proven stands.

We'd love to see Valle running against a less reliably progressive candidate in the future.

EWEB Commission, Wards 1 & 8

Steve Mital

We like both these candidates, Steve Mital and Will Shaver, and we're happy to see a contested race since it offers an opportunity for the public to look at the big issues facing EWEB. Shaver's strength is his ability to analyze systems and come up with novel solutions — useful skills in our increasingly

complex energy system. Shaver is also heavily involved in the community. But we favor Mital in this race for his broader understanding of the issues facing EWEB and how EWEB decisions affect not only our community but also other communities, such as Veneta. He sees creative opportunities for collaboration with the Springfield Utility Board to provide water security for both communities. Mital has the support of Mayor Kitty Piercy and other endorsers we trust. We hope Shaver, if he does not win, comes back to try again later.

SPRINGFIELD WARD 4

Cj Mann

EW doesn't weigh in on Springfield politics as often as maybe we should, but


Cj Mann, a labor activist and Housing and Community Services of Lane County employee, is worth endorsing in her challenge to incumbent Dave Ralston. Ralston's nasty remarks about immigrants and Centro LatinoAmericano led to his removal from the Lane County Human Rights Commission by Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg, and that sort of close-minded thinking reverses any positive feelings we might have had about his years of experience on the Springfield City Council. Mann might seem new to the political arena but she's got union leadership experience and is looking to improve schools, roads, parks, jobs and transportation in Springfield. We are all for that.

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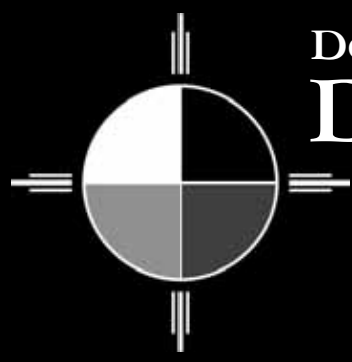


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