

House District 11

PHIL BARNHART (D)

Education plays heavily as an issue in this year's local elections, and Phil Barnhart is running on a platform to decrease budget cuts to public schools as well as touting the need for lowering the cost of health care. His votes in the Legislature tend to be pro-environment, and he voted to protect Waldo Lake, limit suction dredge mining in Oregon's rivers and halt the growth of canola farming in the valley until a study on its effects can take place.

House District 12

JOHN LIVELY (D)

John Lively has proven to be an effective member of the Oregon House and a good fit in the Legislature representing the Springfield District. We like his good voting record on environmental issues and his support by unions. His opponent, Republican Christopher Gergen, is an LCC grad and Navy vet who appears to be moderate on the issues, but he's also a partisan Republican, blaming Democrats for just about every problem in Oregon.

House District 13

NANCY NATHANSON (D)

Nancy Nathanson boasts a long list of endorsers (including *EW*, which has given her the nod in the past, too). Her endorsements from pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-marriage equality groups and from workers' unions reflect her positive stances on those issues as well as health care and job creation.

House District 14

VAL HOYLE (D)

Val Hoyle's platform, like that of many other candidates this year, focuses on health care, public safety and education. We like those goals, though votes on the environment might reflect her more conservative, rural district (she overlaps with Commissioner Jay Bozievich in the area she represents).

She voted against letting local governments ban GMOs and she, like Barnhart, voted in favor of SB 246, which according to the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, allows for public dollars to pay for natural resource mitigation — removing the incentive for developers to avoid or minimize damage to habitat as they build. Green chiding aside, we like Hoyle and her willingness to fight for her constituents.



STATE ISSUES

Measure 86

FUND FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID — YES

To all the students who work through college, get help from family, earn scholarships and still have to take out massive loans to get that degree, the Oregon Student Opportunity fund sounds like a godsend. State money for education has declined for years, putting the financial burden on students and their parents to find the money. Problems like these have contributed to national student debt, ringing in at a whopping \$1 trillion. Is it ironic that the state wants to go \$100 million in debt to help students pay for college? Maybe, but the bottom line is that if more students feel they can afford to get a degree, Oregon

Measure 91

LEGALIZES POT FOR ADULTS — YES

It's time to legalize pot. If Rick Steves — the Mr. Rogers of the travel industry — is endorsing Oregon marijuana reform, *it's time*.

Also known as the "Control, Regulation, and Taxation of Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Act," Measure 91 would legalize the recreational use of marijuana for people ages 21 and up with an allowance to possess up to eight ounces of "dried" marijuana, purchase up to one ounce and grow as many as four plants per household. Four types of businesses will also be legalized under the act — marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers, which will be regulated by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. The measure would also legalize the industrial production of hemp — a cousin of pot with a THC content too low to get anyone high — a much more sustainable fiber source than, say, cotton.

New Approach Oregon has created a thorough measure that avoids the pitfalls of 2012's failed Measure 80 and, similar to the movement for marriage equality, Oregon does not want to be on the wrong side of history here. In addition to the ethical and moral ramifications, and easing prison bloat, the measure would be a great economic boon for the state: 40 percent of tax revenue would go to Oregon's Common School Fund, 20 percent to the Oregon Health Authority's mental health and drug services, 15 percent to the state police and 20 percent to local law enforcement.

Oregon has long been a leader in rational marijuana laws: It's been 31 years since Oregon became the first state to decriminalize marijuana and 16 since Oregon became the second state to legalize medicinal marijuana. Let's join Washington and Colorado and keep leading the charge.



will have a better-educated workforce than it has in the past, which is better overall for our economy. And money shouldn't be a barrier for those who want to further their education.

Measure 87

ALLOWS JUDGES TO TEACH OR JOIN NATIONAL GUARD — YES

Amends the Oregon Constitution's separation-of-powers provisions so state judges can be paid for teaching in state schools and serving in the Oregon National Guard. Currently they can be paid for teaching in private law schools, Lewis and Clark and Willamette, but not in the UO because of prohibitions against salaries from two state agencies, commonly called "double-dipping." We wish Oregon judges were paid more. We also wish that dockets were always current. But those are not issues in this measure, which we will support along with a hope for further examination of the basic structure.

Measure 88

DRIVER CARDS FOR UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS — YES

Regardless of your stance on immigration reform, chances are you support safer roads. Measure 88, the Oregon Alternative Driver Licenses Referendum, would allow four-year driver licenses to those who cannot prove legal residence in the U.S. How will this make for a safer driving environment? Undocumented immigrants will be required to take the same written and behind-the-wheel driver's tests that all citizens must take, and if other states are any indication, expect to see a significant bump in the rate of insured drivers. The "driver card" will not be

valid identification for air travel, registering to vote or obtaining government benefits. While the federal government hems and haws on immigration reform, let's make sure everyone in Oregon can share the joys of the DMV.

Measure 89

ERA FOR OREGON — YES

Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman first proposed a federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in 1923, which was meant to amend the U.S. Constitution and provide equal rights for women. Yet here we are, 85 years later, and we still don't have a federal ERA. Voting to amend the Oregon Constitution to guarantee equal rights for women in 2014 is a clear statement that all people deserve equal rights in Oregon. While some say it's a symbolic gesture, we say it's more than a gesture to address thousands of years of gender inequality. We don't think it's redundant, either, especially when Oregon women are currently protected by a Supreme Court case that ruled equality for genders, except for "biological differences." That's a little too vague for our taste.

Measure 90

TOP-TWO PRIMARY — NO

Measure 90 sounded good at first glance, but the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. Based on other states' experience so far, voter enthusiasm for primaries has not improved significantly even with everyone eligible to vote on partisan races. Surprise! Unaffiliated voters are not motivated to vote for Republicans or Democrats. More choices on the primary ballot are offset by fewer choices on the November ballot, where votes really count. And the measure does nothing to resolve the issue of money in