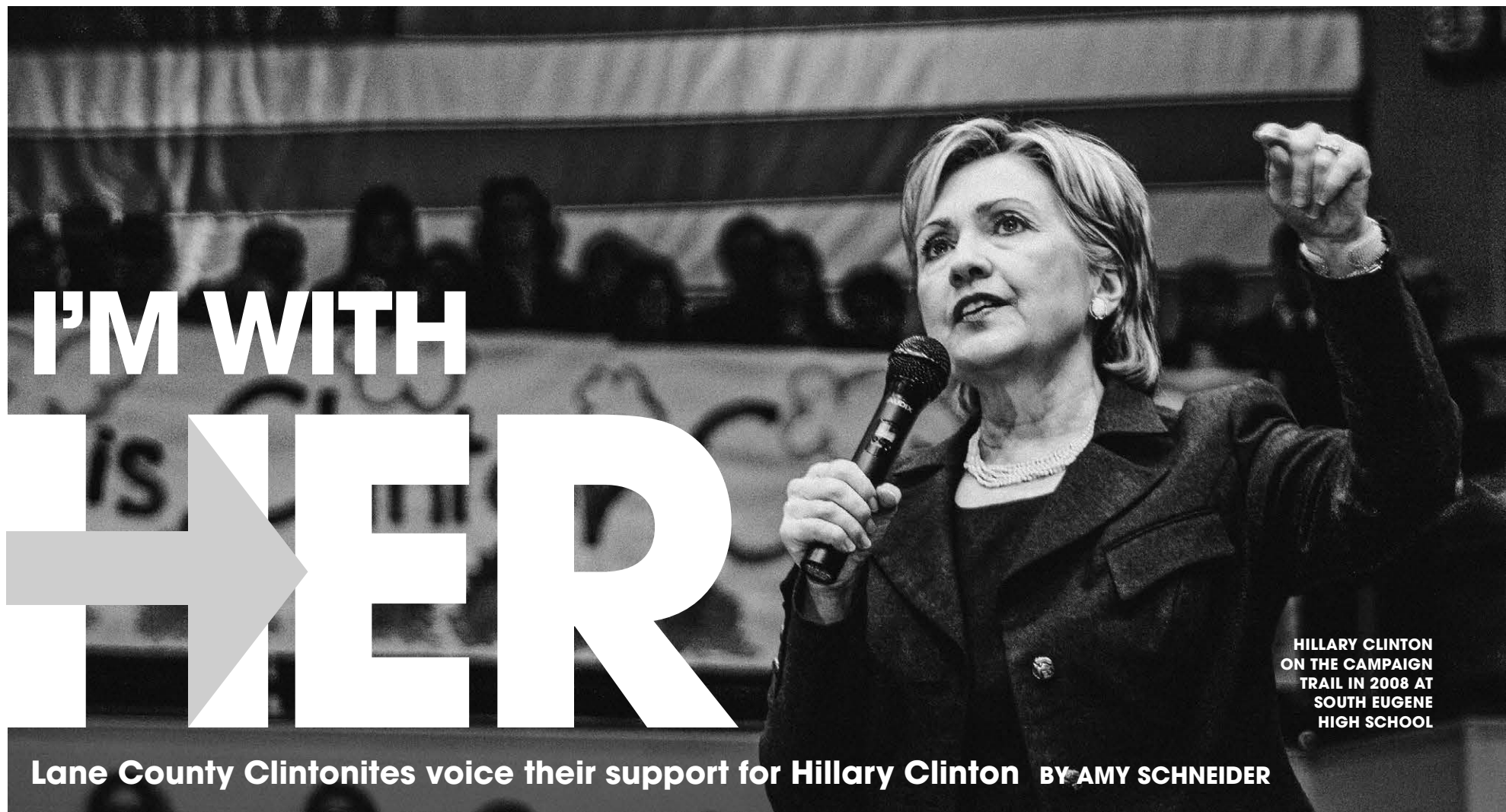




# I'M WITH HER

HILLARY CLINTON  
ON THE CAMPAIGN  
TRAIL IN 2008 AT  
SOUTH EUGENE  
HIGH SCHOOL

Lane County Clintonites voice their support for Hillary Clinton **BY AMY SCHNEIDER**

PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

**S**usan Cox was born in South Korea and grew up in Brownsville, Oregon with her adoptive parents. She was one of the first to serve on the Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Washington, D.C., during the first term of the Clinton administration. That's when she met Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"The idea that Mrs. Clinton is not inspiring — I just find that astonishing," Cox says. "When I watch her victory speeches, and she talks about what she would do, I find it very inspiring."

Cox works for humanitarian organization Holt International in Eugene, but outside of her job, she's on the national leadership team for Korean Americans for Hillary.

"Mrs. Clinton has always been very interested in minority populations, and in regards to the Asian-American and Pacific Islanders community, it was President [Bill] Clinton that established the first White House commission, and Mrs. Clinton was quite engaged with it," Cox says.

This personal engagement has given Cox a lasting commitment to Hillary Clinton, one that started in the 1990s.

Cox is not alone in her support of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Democrats throughout Lane County are emerging to voice enthusiasm for Clinton, and while not as conspicuous as "Berners," aka supporters of democratic socialist candidate Bernie Sanders, Clintonites can speak fervently about her winning attributes, as they often do on the "Lane County Democrats for Hillary" Facebook page, which has 147 members.

Clinton has experience, her supporters say, and she excels in foreign policy and global affairs. She's willing to take risks as a politician, a quality that Clinton constituents say demonstrates her drive to accomplish her goals. They say that she doesn't have a perfect track record, but when she makes mistakes, she owns up to them and moves forward better prepared.

Oregon's primary isn't until May 17, but nationally, Clinton has 1,214 pledged delegates to Sanders' 911, and during the March 15 primaries, Clinton took Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio. A Democratic candidate needs 2,383 delegates to win the nomination.

Currently, local Clintonites are phone banking and scheduling meetings to support their candidate. They say the Clinton fervor in Lane County has only just begun.

## POLITICAL KNOW-HOW

Lane County Hillary Clinton supporters cite her experience in politics as key to her candidacy.

As a result of her time in office, Clinton has faced a barrage of nationwide criticism from Berners and Republicans alike. Critics say she shouldn't have voted to go to war in Iraq, her use of a private email account lacks transparency, she's received too many donations from corporations and Wall Street, and her husband's extramarital activity (and her response to it) shows a lack of respect for women.

These complaints, Clintonites say, are off-base.

As far as getting cozy with Wall Street goes, "you do have to know something about these folks," says Marty Wilde, a local Clinton supporter and member of the Democratic Party of Lane County. "She represented New York state, so she can't be a total outsider to Wall Street. I think it helps to

know those folks and know where you can get things done, and I think Wall Street knows that there are reforms that are going to happen if a Democrat goes into office."

Wilde says Clinton's time as first lady, as a senator and as secretary of state makes her a highly qualified presidential candidate, especially in terms of her knowledge in foreign policy, and he believes that her experience gives her a balanced approach in using the military. Other candidates, he says, fall on extreme sides of the spectrum, either wanting to use the military at full force or not use it at all.

"As president, she wouldn't have an interventionist or activist foreign policy, but I think she would use the military appropriately," he says.

As secretary of state, Clinton led the U.S. response to the Arab Spring, she argued in favor of the raid in Pakistan that eventually led to the killing of Osama bin Laden and she advocated for a "smart power" approach, one that supports strong military while depending on diplomacy and alliances in international relations.

Jarrod Mowatt, a Clintonite who works at Symantec, says he has appreciated the progress made during the Obama administration, and he wants to see that progress continue. Clinton is the best candidate to carry on that work, Mowatt says.

"Gay rights is something that I've been very concerned about, and we've made a lot of progress over the last several years, but I can see where we might go back if we elect the wrong person," he says. "Hillary gave a speech in Geneva a few years ago where she said that human rights are gay rights, and that really stuck with me. These are things that I'm concerned about and I know that she is also concerned about."

Mowatt says he also appreciates Clinton's effort to raise funds for down-ticket Democratic candidates — Clinton has raised \$18 million for the Democratic National Committee to help out other Democrats running for office, according to *Politico*.

"The biggest difference I see with her is the efforts she's put in to get like-minded people put into office as well," Mowatt says. "What I see from the other candidates is that this election is about them, but with Hillary, it's not just about her."

## MRS. PRESIDENT

Hillary Rodham Clinton's political career comprises a striking list of historic firsts. She is the "first" first lady of the U.S. to have a postgraduate degree and to have a

PHOEBE BELLISARIO,  
A MEMBER OF UO  
FOR HILLARY

