

DEMO-CRAZY

EW'S MAY 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS



PHOTO BY GAGE SKIDMORE / WIKICOMMONS

When we opened up our Voters Pamphlets and saw Donald Trump's mugshot, it felt a bit surreal. So this is what democracy looks like? The 2016 election from the local to the national is either amazing or crazy or both, depending on your perspective and political leanings.

Bernie Sanders fired people up on the Dem side. And Trump has started a less pleasant conflagration on the right. *EW's* endorsements in the May 2016 primary stick to the Democratic and nonpartisan races — it would be a bit hypocritical for this liberal-leaning paper to endorse in the Republican races.

The other races we are obviously not endorsing in are the uncontested races. It's a pity that there are so many candidates in races — on the local level in particular — that are unopposed. With issues such as homelessness, sprawl and development so hot right now in Eugene, we'd love to see more people get involved in public office.

On the other hand the mayor's race and Ward 1 (downtown) in particular have drawn enthusiastic slates of candidates and ensured that topics such as the South Willamette Special Area Zone and Kesey Square have gotten the attention they deserve. We hope some of these candidates continue to seek office and stay involved in local politics.

NATIONAL

President

BERNIE SANDERS vs. HILLARY CLINTON

Like our Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, we endorse Bernie Sanders for president. Sanders has changed the discourse in the Democratic primary. In his own fierce way, always saying "we" not "I," he has challenged campaign financing and demonstrated that it can be different, \$27 at a time. He has called for single-payer health care, public financing of some elements of public higher education, an end to trade deals that hurt American workers, major changes in taxation and regulation to start bringing back America's middle class as well as an even-handed approach to Israel. Those are gutsy positions. He will most likely lose the nomination to Hillary Clinton, whom we will then support, but Bernie Sanders has started a movement across this country and we are with him. Sanders should stay in all the way to the convention this summer in Philadelphia, no matter what the delegate gap.

U.S. Senator

RON WYDEN vs. Paul Weaver vs. Kevin Stine
Sen. Ron Wyden is sure to win the primary and go on to beat Faye Stewart in November.

U.S. Representative District 4

PETER DEFAZIO vs. Joseph McKinney
A little competition livens things up a bit, but Rep. Peter DeFazio keeps Congress pretty lively all on his own.

STATE

NOTE: Unopposed candidates move on to the November election

Governor

KATE BROWN vs. JULIAN BELL vs. CHET CHANCE vs. KEVIN FORSYTHE vs. DAVE STAUFFER vs. STEVE JOHNSON

We haven't quite forgiven Kate Brown for signing off on the legislative bill blocking the legal review of gray wolf protections, but Brown has had a good track record in the past on education and equity, and we'd like to keep her around.