

WILDE TRUTH

You know what sets Marty Wilde apart from the pack in the HD11 race? He has a unique capacity for seeing the big picture and acting accordingly.

In a world of binary choices, Wilde is always seeking the third option — the one that nobody else has thought of. And in a political scene dominated by black-or-white thinking, he sees the shades that are the hallmark of that rarest of political commodities: the truth.

Qualifications are nice, and a lot of us have them. But genuine wisdom is a rare gift, and Marty Wilde has got it.

Leonard Stoehr
Springfield

VOTE KOOPS

I see our suffering education system firsthand as a high school senior at a Eugene public school. Kimberly Koops is endorsed by the Eugene Education Association and has the sole endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers.

During health class, our school resource officer told women in the class not to wear “provocative clothing” because we would be “asking for it.” Koops knows that victim blaming like this has no place in our schools or society.

It is impossible for those who have never experienced sexual assault to represent survivors adequately. Koops is a survivor of sexual assault and has drafted legislation to support survivors. She also helped increase access to funding for curriculum

that teaches about healthy relationships and prevents sexual assault.

Koops has the strongest education endorsements of anyone in the race, and I know she understands the issues facing today’s students. She believes all students should be able to go to school without the fear of an active shooter on campus, and she is a Moms Demand Action “Gun Sense Distinguished Candidate.”

Koops stands for everything we need to be moving towards, so vote for Kimberly Koops by May 15.

Carmen Lessley
Eugene

DEAN FOR EUGENE

Vote for Christopher Dean, Eugene City Council Ward 5. As a residential Realtor, he has a keen sense of the community. He recognizes the need of affordable housing for the homeless, working poor and elderly.

Dean will work as a member of the City Council to address issues of public transportation, traffic safety and taking a community approach to resolving social concerns. With these and other issues he will bring unique talents and perspective.

Dean is running against an incumbent for this seat on the City Council. The incumbent is running for a fourth term. Twelve years is enough. We can do better.

The incumbent seems bent on representing business interests at the cost of the public interest. The incumbent made this

very apparent during the last City Council meeting wearing a T-shirt promoting his private business interest. We can do better.

The incumbent is also praised for being contrary. This is not a virtue. We can do better.

As a member of the Eugene City Council, Dean will work in a corroborative manner to maintain and improve the livability of Eugene for everyone.

Vote for Christopher Dean, Eugene City Council Ward 5.

John Janis
Eugene

GOOD WORKS

The Register-Guard has changed owners and lost its way. Many of us are looking for a new daily home for news and opinion, and wonder if the *Eugene Weekly* might be willing to change to a more daily paper, at least for an online version?

It could hire more writers if it had a small subscription fee for the online version. As it is, the *Weekly* is a great paper, but now there are many thousands in Eugene who need a home, preferably one that doesn’t serve up recommendations for Jim Torrey as mayor.

Maybe look at the early *Huffington Post*, who just copied and pasted from many different organizations ... though today that might not be legal.

Just wondering out loud here, but whatever you do, keep up the good work.

Hugh Massengill
Eugene

KEEP CITY ACCOUNTABLE

Some opponents of Measure 20-283 claim an elected auditor would insult the accountability of current city employees. Rank and file city employees see the problems with waste and mismanagement. They recognize them earliest, often the only witnesses.

Several years ago, four large city-owned trees were cut down near Morse Ranch. I saw no good reason why, so I contacted the Parks department. They were completely unaware of ordering it and promised to investigate.

Later, a Parks employee confided to me that a different city department had ordered it, one with money left in the budget they “needed to spend,” so they hired a private contractor to cut the trees. I was told it was a mistake.

City employees have been early and strong supporters of the elected auditor. They know it establishes a professionally certified, adequately funded watchdog that will benefit city employees as well as taxpayers.

In addition, eight retired city councilors are drafters and/or endorsers of 20-283. All have direct experience with city budget irregularities. They have nothing financial or political to gain from an elected auditor — just have a civic responsibility to see Eugene’s money spent wisely.

Vote “yes” on 20-283.

Ralph McDonald
Eugene

VIEWPOINT BY BONNY BETTMAN MCCORNACK

An Elected, Independent Auditor

YES ON 20-283

If you want to save money and have open and accountable government, do your pocketbook and our democracy a favor and vote “Yes” on Ballot Measure 20-283.

It will “establish an office of an elected city auditor to independently audit all city activities and expenditures.” The key is “independence.” Without independence it’s just bureaucrats auditing themselves.

Successful government auditors are truly independent from the agencies they audit. Measure 20-283 guarantees the independence of the elected auditor because s/he will be accountable to the voters, and all the authority necessary to function independently and effectively within the city’s hierarchy is clearly spelled out in the measure.

Providing a minimum budget that can’t be manipulated by city officials protects the auditor’s office from cuts designed to constrain the auditor’s investigations, or from being penalized for an audit casting the city in an unflattering light. It keeps the auditor free from political pressure and interference.

Don’t let opponents of 20-283 cynically scare you into voting against your own best interests — due to cost. In reality, the auditor’s office is appropriately scaled and funded to ensure there are adequate resources necessary to audit all city activities and expenditures (more than \$1 billion annually). Based on national benchmarks for a Eugene-sized city, the office budget provides all expenses including salary for the elected auditor and three deputy auditors.

Measure 20-283 will not raise taxes — and every dollar invested in the auditor’s office can save or recover \$4 to \$5. There is plenty of money to fund the auditor’s office for decades in the existing city budget using money the city spends,

without voter approval, on non-essential services every year.

Just consider these eye-popping numbers from the last few years: \$16.5 million (and another \$1 million annually) from Comcast that disappeared into reserves; \$7 million that magically materialized for train horn projects around ex-Mayor Brian Obie’s developments; \$5 million to extend fiber optics benefiting downtown landlords; and \$1.2 million per year to rent downtown city office space because they demolished City Hall.

Then there’s \$10 million for Capstone and \$7 million in City Hall cost overruns and overpriced consulting contracts (tip of the iceberg, folks). City officials always find the money to pay for their pet projects.

Elected auditors are career professionals — not career politicians. The elected auditor will have far more accountability than any other city official, elected or appointed. The auditor is a non-partisan, full-time position requiring rigorous professional qualifications and experience. She or he can be removed for cause.

Plus, 20-283 requires that all the auditor’s activities be regularly audited by accredited national auditing organizations. Those evaluations and all audit reports will be publicly available for you to see.

20-283’s independent elected auditor — free from political interference — will ensure that scarce resources are judiciously spent and require transparency and accountability from city government. Vote “Yes” on 20-283.

Vote “No” on the city’s spoiler measure 20-287. It protects the city, not the taxpayer.

Bonny Bettman McCornack is a retired registered nurse, a former city councilor and one of three chief petitioners for 20-283.