



Leadership Column

by Kathie Best

SEIU Local 503, OPEU President

Speak with One Voice

Dear Fellow Members,

For those who are on the downside of advantage, the fight sometimes seems too large, the sacrifices too great and the victories just not

They have the ability to create, change and move legislation that can either enhance Oregon and the quality of life her residents

Oregon, is just one step toward turning our vision into action. Our Union has also recommended many candidates at the federal, state and local government levels. In addition to the statewide candidates, there are sure to be several in each of our communities needing our support. Protecting our right to be involved in politics and to influence the political process by using our collective voice, contributions and strength is imperative. But, at least one measure on the November ballot could affect even this basic right. Advocating on behalf of the services we provide and the clients we serve is not only important; it's good for Oregon.

Union members and union households have the numbers effectively to influence the outcome of our General Election in November. Don't be complacent.

measurable enough. It has been our experience at SEIU Local 503, OPEU that even with the knowledge that all these things can be true, it is ALWAYS worth the struggle, whether the victories are large or small.

Whether we're fighting to increase the minimum wage, to improve healthcare delivery and access in this state or to retain the services we provide, we're fighting to protect the interests of all Oregonians, many of whom cannot speak for themselves.

Our Union has many individual members who are good activists and leaders, as well as staff, dedicated to the advancement of working peoples' issues. But it's our collective strength, our collective voice and our collective VOTE that can make the difference we REALLY need in our lives.

The legislators and elected leaders at the local government level who are chosen by Oregon voters can have immeasurable influence on our lives. We cannot underestimate or take their power for granted because our future and that of our children's often depends on it.

enjoy, or they can pass legislation that undermines the values of Oregon residents, as well as the values of our members and working people throughout the state.

The difference we can make is to VOTE IN

There is so much we can do to promote and ensure our success in elections, in moving pro-worker legislation and in bargaining.

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NOVEMBER. Union members and union households have the numbers effectively to influence the outcome of our General Election in November. Don't be complacent. As we've seen in past elections, every vote DOES count and we need to vote collectively to secure our future.

Electing pro-worker, pro-healthcare candidates such as Ted Kulongoski, the SEIU-recommended candidate for Governor of

DON'T BE FOOLED into thinking that voting isn't necessary or important, that it doesn't make a difference or that someone else will do it.

Our success begins by speaking with ONE voice in November.

In Strength and Unity,

Kathie