

# Opinion

## We recommend Smith

The *Keizertimes* recommends Elizabeth Smith for position #5 on the Keizer City Council.

A longtime resident of Keizer, Smith, the mother of two grown daughters, has been involved with her community for years. She played a role in the opening of Weddle Elementary School, was a PTA president and has been a member of both the Rotary Club of Keizer and the Keizer Chamber of Commerce.

It is her work as a mortgage broker and knowledge of the housing and commercial markets that give her a leg up over her opponent Shawn Lapof. Smith says she is passionate about her hometown and is excited at the prospect of being involved with the future of Keizer's growth.

Though Smith has no prior government experience (most first time council candidates don't) we feel it is her background and personal experience that will make her a hard-working city councilor.

Elizabeth Smith has never been shy about stating her views. It is that kind of thinking that will be a shot in the arm for the Keizer City Council. She will vote her conscience; if elected to the council, we hope she will always stay true to her vision and vote accordingly. We think she will.

A candidate who is a mother, is involved with the community and has a strong background in business is a bonus for Keizer. Vote for Elizabeth Smith for Keizer City Council position #5.

—LAZ

our  
opinion

## Take a moment and vote

Voting turnout is generally much lower during midterm elections than during years with a presidential election. It is not a cliché that every vote counts. There have been very close elections at every level of government.

Members of the public who claim that it doesn't make a difference who wins, so there is no need to vote, are not paying attention. Elections do have consequences—Gov. Kate Brown operates with a Democratic state legislature, President Trump rules with a like-minded Republican majority in both houses of Congress. We have seen what one-party rule is like locally and nationally.

It is understandable why many people decry politics and choose to tune out and sit out the election rather than be a member of our democracy and exercise their right to vote. It is understandable but it is not accepted.

In Oregon, our vote-by-mail

system makes it easy to vote, a vote-by-internet system would not necessarily increase participation. In this year's general election, registered voters will receive their ballots this week, there are important races at every level. Keizerites will vote on two contested city council races and a state House and a state Senate race.

They will elect their Congressman for District 5 and decided between Kate Brown and Knute Buehler for governor. There are state-wide measures on the ballot, all of which affect Keizer. The two hottest measures are 103 which would prohibit taxes on groceries and 105 which some call the sanctuary measure.

We want every voter to take the time to go over their ballot, make their choice and return the ballot. Every vote counts and all elections have consequences.

—LAZ

## Will money win?

In the grip of another campaign season means that if the average Oregon voter's favorite spectator sport is staring at a television screen, then he will most likely see another advertisement for someone who wants to represent them. Those who analyze these things will tell anyone who's interested that a huge number among us rely on looks' impressions for our voting decisions.

So what enters the picture poignantly is not necessarily the voter's pamphlet, radio announcements, newspaper articles or mailers, but what became from its earliest days—and known as the blue flickering tube—has one of strongest influence on decisions before ballots are filled out. This fact argues that the be-deviled TV beast through repetition after repetition of message, using emotion rather than reason, elects our leaders.

If there's anything wrong with this way of steering people to one politician or another it is that TV commercials are very expensive. Hence, they are almost always beyond the pocketbook limits of working men and women and, unless these folks gather together, totally unaffordable. In Oregon, for example, people united by common causes gather to contribute relatively small amounts that add up, should the donors be large in number, to a fund sufficient to have an ad made and shown times the limits of their war chest. Examples of them for Gov. Kate Brown are the Oregon Education Association, United Food & Commercial Workers, and AFL-CIO. Recently reported, that treasury stands at \$11 million.

Her opponent, Republican state Rep. Knute Buehler, has gathered 1 percenters in support of him. Big name, monied examples are Phil Knight of Nike, Henry Swigert of ESCO, and George Austin Jr., a dental equipment manufacturer. Their

contributions and others in their class recently added up to \$10.3 million.

Looking at motives in 2018, one can conclude that the groups of shared interests who donate into a lump sum are typically current and retired working men and women. They seek safe and healthy working conditions, living wages, overtime pay for work exceeding 40 hours, sick and maternity leave, health insurance and secure retirement benefits. Those of the wealthy set are manufacturers, industrialists and professional service providers who want their taxes low to none, unlimited write-off, regulations non-invasive, and charitable acts guaranteeing tax benefits.

Phil Knight and his wife, Penny, have been generous at giving in a multitude of ways. However, the Knights usually require their family names on buildings they have financially helped to build while his power presence in decision-making at the University of Oregon for one, means that while taxpayers are forced to support the UO without influence whatsoever, Knight is known to make a phone call to the president's or athletic director's offices to have his way. There's no balderdash in believing his \$1.5 million to Buehler will be richly rewarded in Salem.

The bottom line is that money—and great gobs of it—donated by those who've acquired their wealth through business freedoms compliments of the U.S.A., corrupt and upend what was intended to be democratic republic securities. The power behind big money results in a kind of dictatorship by the haves over the have nots. Voters who seek justice and opportunity for all citizens should keep this matter in mind when they prepare to cast their votes. When we ignore serious societal inequities, we do so at the peril of our rights and freedoms.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion frequently in the *Keizertimes*.)

gene  
h.  
mcintyre



## Pandora's Box

To the Editor:

I am disappointed that the Keizer City Council chose to endorse a no vote on a state issue (Measure 105) on the November ballot. To my knowledge this has not occurred in Keizer until now and I believe for a good reason.

This action is an invitation to open Pandora's Box as to include anything on the ballot. The rationalization that this action was necessary because it pertained to all of Keizer is disingenuous in that all things on the ballot impact all Keizer citizens.

I worry about what is next, now that the box is open. This slippery slope could sluice down to endorsing a vote on a school or fire levy, a state representative or senate race, or endorsing someone for city council or mayor—all impacting every Keizerite.

As a former city councilor, having had the privilege of serving Keizer for 12 years, I know the passion and time given by these seven volunteers and respect and appreciate their work. This time I believe they overstepped their scope. Council is tasked to set city policy, not endorse measures or individuals on the ballot. If a councilor, independent from the council as whole, wishes to endorse something on the ballot that is their purview. The council as a body, on the other hand, should stick to city policy matters.

Let's put this action back in the box with the presentiment it won't get out again.

Jim Taylor  
Keizer

## Support KFD levy

To the Editor:

The Keizer Fire District Board of Directors are asking the citizens of Keizer to vote in favor of continuing the current level of taxes (.59¢ per \$1,000 valuation) for five years.

To my mind, this is a reasonable request and should be supported. The question comes down to whether we want an ambulance service or not.

I hope this levy not only passes but passes by a huge majority to give this organization the vote of confidence they have earned.

Jerry McGee  
Keizer

## Smith for council

To the Editor:

Elizabeth Smith has raised her family in Keizer. She has been in the lending industry for 20 years and is very familiar with Keizer's crisis with affordable housing. She has the knowledge to work with the city council on the current issues of transportation and public safety that affects the city. She believes in responsible and efficient land use planning; utilizing our resources for smart and effective growth.

She believes in safe neighborhoods and good quality parks.

Elizabeth is the right choice for Keizer City Council position #5. She will be fair and transparent and will bring new ideas to the city council.

Vote with me in electing Elizabeth Smith to the Keizer City Council position #5, she will serve our city well.

Marlene Parsons  
Keizer

## Smith is best choice

To the Editor:

I served as a member of the Keizer City Council for over seven years. I know the qualities of a great

letters

public servant: among them, a curious and analytical mind, a calm temperament, the ability to work with a diverse group of people, and above all, the strong desire to make the world a

better place, which starts with their hometown. I saw these qualities in Elizabeth Smith, and I'm pleased she has decided to serve her community in this capacity.

Elizabeth has raised her family in Keizer, and is well-established in the business community. She has a thorough understanding of the issues, and has a strong backing from local citizens, who know she will always do what is right for Keizer.

Elizabeth Smith is the best candidate for position #5 on the Keizer City Council.

Brandon Smith  
Salem

(The writer is no relation to the candidate.)

## Elections can change things

To the Editor:

Elections are a time for change, corrections or confirmation of status quo.

If you believe the city, state, county and federal governments are getting the results you want, be sure to vote for the same people and parties back in. On the other hand, if you're not pleased with the results of decades leadership by them, clear your head and replace them.

Kent McCurdy  
Keizer

## Yes on 24-432

To the Editor:

Has everyone noticed Keizer Fire District vehicles on the move? You cannot go down River Road without seeing an ambulance or a fire engine. The equipment is either coming or going from a medical emergency in Keizer.

The five year levy on the November ballot will be the same as

the past five years. This is very good news; we have a chance to continue emergency services by voting yes on Measure 24-432.

Your vote is very important.

Bill Quinn  
Keizer

## KFD deserves support

To The Editor:

When I joined the Keizer Fire Department in 1979, we averaged about 400 calls a year. In 2009 when I retired there were 3,868 calls for service. Last year there were almost 5,500 calls from the citizens of Keizer. As our community grows so does the need for our fire and emergency medical service.

Voting yes keeps the current cost for service—no increase, just a renewal of our five year levy.

Much has changed in the fire service over the 61 years KFD has been serving the Keizer community. One thing that has not, is the commitment to take care of the people of Keizer.

I urge you to vote yes on the upcoming levy renewal to continue the great service we receive from the Keizer Fire District.

Dave Bauer  
Keizer

## Young people: go vote

To the Editor:

This is the time for young people to remember their passions of this past year and their goals of bringing real change to our society. Let's hope that they vote and get out there and support the candidates who share their dreams and ideals for the future (Re: *Go kids, go*, Letter to Editor, *Keizertimes*, March 30, 2018.)

Kids, we are counting on you to help bring about change that our current leaders and adults either can't or won't enact. You have our support. The future is yours to make. Now go and make it happen!

Jim Parr  
Keizer

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## Web Poll Results

Do you make personal efforts to protect the environment or conserve resources?

Yes - 72%  
No - 28%

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!  
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