

# Trump: He has 40 percent approval rating

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Hillary Clinton as the candidate who would be sworn in Friday. While some local conservatives were confident in July that they would return to BJ's to celebrate a victory, others were not so optimistic.

## 'Snowball's chance in hell'

"I really underestimated his appeal," George Warren, a farmer, said. "I didn't think he had a snowball's chance in hell."

Ed McNulty, the vice president of Clatsop County Republicans, said he knew Trump had a solid chance after speaking with residents while campaigning door-to-door in Astoria.

"I know so many people, you talk to them one-on-one, and they said, 'I'm voting for Trump,'" McNulty said. "And they wouldn't be the people you would expect."

While approaching owners about placing signs in front of their businesses, Republicans received similar reactions in a county that typically favors Democrats.

"They said, 'Our heart is with you, but I'll just lose too much business in this county,'" retired real estate agent Stephanie Miller said.

Loyal Republican voters were hungry for Trump's message of lower taxes and fewer government regulations. "You look at logging and longshoremen, the jobs we had more than 30 years

ago are disappearing," said Jim Hoffman, the president of Clatsop County Republicans.

## 'Toxic political divisiveness'

Coral Rose Shipley started a Northwest Tea Party meeting Wednesday night with a prayer. She thanked God for Trump's inauguration and asked for a safe and festive celebration.

A red hat with Trump's famous "Make America Great Again" slogan was at the end of the table — just a few feet in front of a large American flag.

Trump will take the oath of office with a 40 percent favorable rating — according to Gallup, in polling the Republican dismissed as "rigged" — as well as the stubborn fact his Democratic rival won the popular vote nationally.

Don Haskell, a former Clatsop County commissioner and attorney, believes Trump's "no-nonsense approach and financial independence will make him a successful president." He predicted improvements in health care, the economy, immigration and national security under the new administration.

"Trump's hardest challenge will be to heal the country's wounds from toxic political divisiveness," Haskell said in an email. "But as the successes of his presidency become apparent, controversies swirling around his sometimes crass comments will fade away."

## INAUGURATION DAY

Donald Trump will take the oath of office as the 45th president of the United States at the U.S. Capitol in a ceremony that starts about 11:30 a.m. Friday — 8:30 a.m. Pacific time. The inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House starts about 3 p.m. — noon Pacific time.

Major news channels are expected to cover the events live from Washington, D.C.



Laurie Caplan, center, talks with a group of organizers in her living room about details for Saturday's Women's March.   
 Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

# March: Event is not a protest

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"I wasn't anywhere near as pissed about the election once I had a plan," Kit Ketcham said. So far, roughly 400 people indicated on the march's Facebook page they will participate Saturday. At least one Astoria business, the Blue Scorcher Bakery and Cafe, will close during the 11:30 a.m. event to allow employees to attend.

Demonstrations such as the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline in November and the Oregon LNG project over the past several years gave many in Clatsop County the confidence to organize and speak out. While many question the impact of protests, public opinion and spirited demonstrations had an influence on the Dakota Access Pipeline, which is facing further environmental review in North Dakota, and Oregon LNG, which was abandoned by investors last year.

"It gave people the idea that they have power, that their voices matter," Laurie Caplan, a leading voice in the campaign



Laurie Caplan shows some of the signs that she and other organizers have prepared for a Women's March taking place on Saturday in Astoria.   
 Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

against Oregon LNG, said. "I kind of think that gave people permission."

Organizers have made dozens of signs leading up to Saturday's march and encourage others to bring signs with a positive message about causes they would like to promote. Phrases like "Fascism is not an option," "It's about the people's planet" and "Support Nasty Women" adorn some of the signs.

One noticeably absent name on the signs: Trump. Organizers have emphasized that Saturday's event is not a protest.

"It makes it more political than we're trying to be," Caplan said. "I would love it if some Trump supporters came out."

Caplan said she is aware some who participate in the march may bring negative signs and that those who do

not support some of the causes addressed in the march may show up as well. Organizers said they encourage people not to engage with any hecklers.

Following opening remarks at Heritage Square beginning at 11:30 a.m., marchers will stroll along a half-mile route on sidewalks downtown. Just after 1 p.m., a few brief remarks will round out the day. Musicians likely will play instruments throughout the afternoon, and the march may include spontaneous chants, Caplan said.

Several organizers will utilize the march to kick-start a group called Indivisible North Coast Oregon. The group will meet regularly to discuss what societal issues they would like to address and how.

One theme organizers agree with about the march: this is just the beginning.

"The idea is to channel this energy into positive change and to counter efforts to underscore the values we hold as Americans," Deb Vanasse said. "Something good that might come out of people's anger is unity."

# Widow: 'We had a third interloper in the form of Steve Mnuchin'

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organizations — premiered Wednesday and targeted Republican senators in Arizona, Iowa and Nevada who may be persuaded not to support Mnuchin.

Mnuchin's confirmation hearing begins today before the Senate Finance Committee. U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said in a statement that "our staff is continuing to carefully and thoroughly vet Mr. Mnuchin to ensure that he will put the interests of working families before his own. I look forward to asking tough questions about his history of predatory lending and his plans to create prosperity for all Americans, not just the ones at the very top."

Democrats have branded

Mnuchin the "Foreclosure King" because, during his tenure at OneWest, the California bank forced thousands of people out of their homes. Prosecutors suspected the bank of ethically and legally dubious practices.

Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs executive, hedge-fund manager and movie financier, had sold OneWest to CIT Group by the time Fraser lost her home but served on the CIT Group board until stepping down after his nomination.

"Lisa Fraser's story is just one of 36,000 across the country," said Kaitlin Sweeney, press secretary at the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, one of the organizations behind the ad.

Calling Mnuchin "the poster child for how Trump is betraying America's work-

ing families, including his own voters," Sweeney said the nominee "made millions of dollars by foreclosing on people's homes."

## Unflattering depiction

Mnuchin has disputed this unflattering depiction, saying his business also modified loans and helped many people stay in their homes. "In the press it has been said that I ran a 'foreclosure machine,'" according to a Politico report on his prepared statement for the Senate Finance Committee. "This is not true. On the contrary, I was committed to loan modifications intended to stop foreclosures. I ran a 'Loan Modification Machine.'"

Unfortunately, Lisa Fraser was not one of these homeowners. The Daily Astorian was unable to independently ver-

ify the circumstances surrounding the foreclosure, but Fraser's friends did set up a GoFundMe account soon after John's death that described her financial struggle and her need to move.

"They tortured us with endless phone calls, endless requests for documents," she said in an interview.

As John's condition worsened, she said she tried to mislead her husband about the seriousness of their situation so he would not worry. It didn't work.

"He did know I was going to lose the house, and he was extremely upset about it," she said.

The final years of John's life, she said, should have been spent going on picnics and taking drives along the beach — activities he could still physically do.

"But I couldn't do that,

because I was so stressed out and trying to save the house, so I frequently would be short with him," she said. "And this is the part that kills me the most: Those last couple years, it should have been all about me and John and nothing else."

"And, as it turned out, we had a third interloper in the form of Steve Mnuchin."

## 'A very emotional story'

Fraser reached out to Senate Democrats who had solicited stories from homeowners who had dealt with OneWest. The move brought her and the Progressive Change Campaign Committee together.

"What really struck us the most about Lisa was just how much she spoke from the heart," Sweeney said. "I mean, what she went through, the fact that she had to fight to allow

her husband to die in his own home, the fact that they foreclosed on her very soon after the funeral — it's a very emotional story. It's a very powerful story, and we're really hoping lots of people see it."

"It's embarrassing to lose your frickin' house," Fraser said, "so I didn't talk about it at all until the very end, when it was imminent."

Nearly one year removed from her husband's death, Fraser, 61, now rents a cabin in midtown Cannon Beach. She said she will, in the end, be OK. She still has Once Upon a Breeze, the kite shop she and John co-owned.

"I just am clinging to the shop," she said. "I lost John — the biggest thing — and the house. I mean, it's really rather stunning when you think back on it."

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