

# Election, Women's March prompt women of color to seek office

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS and DEEPTI HAJELA  
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — As Samia Assed watched election returns come in with her children and another Muslim family, she panicked when it became clear that Donald Trump would win the presidency. The Palestinian-American woman wondered if they would have to register as Muslims, as Trump said during his campaign. Would she be barred from wearing her hijab in public?

"Honestly, I was scared," the 51-year-old Albuquerque resident said. "I didn't even want to take my daughter to school the next day."

Assed has turned her fears into action, joining what advocacy groups say are hundreds, possibly thousands of women of color, who are exploring making a run for public office. Across the country, women are gathering signatures, attending workshops, and signing up for fundraising and public speaking classes as they set their eyes on school board seats, city councils, state offices, and even Congress.

Just how many women of color will actually seek office is anyone's guess. Advocacy groups say it's too early to determine how many women will formally file papers, but they believe the number could triple. Some are deciding on what position to seek, while others are waiting for 2018 or 2019, advocates said.

VoteRunLead director Erin Vilardi said the group has seen a jump in the number of women interested in politics. The Duluth, Minnesota-based group typically draws 50 to 100 participants for webinars like "From Protester to Politician." But since November, the webinars have attracted more than 1,000 participants each time, Vilardi said. And about half of those signing up are women of color.

"From our inboxes to our social media sites, we can't keep up with the fire hose," Vilardi said.

## Jump into politics

In interviews with The Associated Press, some say Trump's win and his past comments on minorities and women sparked them to jump into politics. Others, like Monic Behnken, 44, cite the divisiveness of the presidential campaign or Democrat Hillary Clinton's defeat among the motivating factors.

Behnken, a criminal justice professor at Iowa State University, is seeking a seat on the Ames School Board. "Seeing how this ugliness was filtering into my children's lives was probably the thing that motivated me the most," said Behnken, who is black. "I knew I had to do something to step up to make the world as safe for them as I could."

Kathleen Daniel, 46, said she decided to run for New York's City Council the day after Trump's election. Her 12-year-old son refused to wear his coat that day even though it was cold. He didn't want to be seen in a hoodie, believing Trump would bring back "stop and frisk," said Daniel, who is black.

"I couldn't face my kids," said Daniel, a mother of

two who lives in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. "So right then and there I decided to jump in."

Lourdes Cruz said she long thought about running for office but seeing the first steps taken by the Trump administration solidified her decision.

The 32-year-old social worker from Yorba Linda, California, has never held elected office and plans to run for city council or the state assembly in 2018.

"What the actions are now, it is very scary as a country to see that one person can have so much power," said Cruz, a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Mexico.

## Nonpartisan groups

Erin Loos-Cuttraro, co-founder of She Should Run, a nonpartisan group that encourages women to seek office, said the group's site usually gets about 100-200 women a month expressing interest in their programs. Since the election, it's been close to 6,000.

Karen Hinks, founder of WeLead OC, said she's seen at least 15 groups spring up in Orange County, California, since the women's march was put together.

"Every day there's another group that sprouts up, and it is all women that are doing this," said Hinks, whose organization trains Democratic women to run for office and work on political campaigns.

It's not just Democratic-leaning women seeking to expand the diversity of elected officeholders. The Republican State Leadership Committee's Future Majority Project, an

initiative that seeks diverse GOP candidates, is identifying and recruiting state-level candidates after a successful 2016.

Republican State Leadership Committee spokeswoman Ellie Hockenbury points to Patricia Rucker, a first-generation American from Venezuela who in November won a seat in the West Virginia Senate. And Republican Affie Ellis became the first Native American woman to win a seat in the Wyoming Legislature, Hockenbury said.

"The 2016 election cycle saw political engagement at every level of government in ways we have not seen in years," Hockenbury said.

In addition, some female political veterans also are taking a shot at history. For example, Debra Haaland, the outgoing chair of the New Mexico Democratic Party, is mulling a run for a congressional seat in 2018. If elected, the enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo would become the first Native American woman elected to Congress.

Assed said she hasn't decided when she'll run for city council, but in the meantime, she plans to learn all she can. As president of the advocacy group Albuquerque Center For Peace and Justice Coalition, Assed has sought to build alliances with Latino and Native Americans on a variety of different issues, she said.

Behnken said she is starting from scratch and will focus on meeting new people.

"I don't know if I'll win or not, but I know this," Behnken said. "This is what I'm supposed to be doing at this moment."



Activist Samia Assed stands in front of a mural at the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice coalition in Albuquerque, N.M., earlier this month. Assed, a Palestinian-American, has now turned her fears over Donald Trump's election into action, joining what advocacy groups said are hundreds, possibly thousands of women of color, who are exploring making a run for public office.

AP Photo  
Russell Contreras

## Consult a Professional



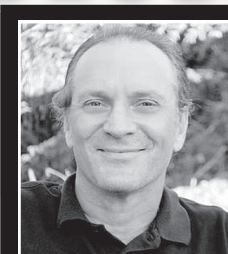
JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR  
DMD, FAGD



503/325-0310  
1414 MARINE DRIVE,  
ASTORIA  
www.smileastoria.com

### Q: Are silver amalgam fillings safe??

**A:** This is a question and topic that has been discussed, argued and debated for many many years. That being said my practice had virtually eliminated this material as a restorative option for the past 15+ years. Silver amalgam fillings have served dentistry very well for nearly 100 years. Extensive dental research continually is looking for the perfect dental restorative material with the objective of a tooth colored natural-appearing material. We have incredible and beautiful dental materials today that have physical and optical properties that mimic natural tooth structure. Will we have even better materials ten years from now? Probably yes!



**ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC**

Barry Sears, D.C.

503-325-3311

2935 Marine Drive,  
Astoria, Oregon

### Q: Chronic pain

**A:** Painkillers and anti-inflammatories can get us through a tough time with back, neck, head or leg pain, but they weren't designed for long-term use. Yearly deaths from pain medication are climbing. Other side effects can include constipation, liver and kidney damage; addiction from them is real and a growing problem. Pain is a signal that something is wrong. Pain medication does not fix the problem — it changes the brain. Reducing pain can be as simple as identifying its source and providing a different approach — chiropractic is an important part of that. "Maybe you don't have to live with it." Call 503-325-3311.

## 'The 2016 election cycle saw political engagement at every level of government in ways we have not seen in years.'

**Ellie Hockenbury**  
Republican state leadership committee spokeswoman in New Mexico



LEO FINZI

**Astorias Best.com**

Microsoft Registered Refurbisher Charter Spectrum

WE MATCH OR BEAT ALL BESTBUY ONLINE PRICES!

M-F 10-6 Sat & Sun 11-4  
77 11th Street, Suite H  
Astoria, OR  
503-325-2300

### Q: What is a free and easy way to keep programs on my computer up to date.

**A:** Install the free version of Glary Utilities, available at Glarysoft.com. Click on the Software Update icon, 4th from right in the bottom row, a blue square with an up-pointing arrow. Click on "read more" and you will be directed to links for updating your programs. We recommend checking for updates once a month. Keeping programs up to date, especially internet browsers, is important to thwarting virus attacks.

### Loop-Jacobsen Jewelers, Inc.



Frank & Judy VanWinkle

A family owned and operated jewelry store since 1919

(503) 325-6181  
1360 Commercial  
Astoria, Oregon

### Q: Do you do engraving?

**A:** Yes! We engrave baby cups to rifles or medical jewelry. We build trophies and plaques. There's no extra charge for engraving when you make a purchase.



Stefanie Cao  
Medicare Market Manager

CareOregon Advantage

careoregonadvantage.org

### Q: When should I apply for Medicare?

**A:** It's best to apply three months before you turn 65. Are you on Social Security? If you are, you'll automatically be enrolled in Medicare. Expect your red, white and blue card to arrive three months before you turn 65. If your card doesn't come then, or you're not yet on Social Security, you must contact Social Security yourself to enroll in Medicare. Do this during your initial enrollment period—a seven-month window that opens three months before you turn 65.



Lisa Cadonau  
Advertising Representative

**THE DAILY ASTORIAN**  
503-325-3211  
www.dailyastorian.com

971 Commercial Street  
Astoria  
503.325.3571  
bloomincrazyfloral.com

### Q: How can I extend the life of my cut flowers I received?

**A:** When you are given a beautiful bouquet of flowers there are several things you can do to extend their life. Check to see if the vase is full of water, if not add luke warm water. Place your arrangement out of the sun and away from heat sources. Recut the stems of both flowers and greens every 3 days and change out the water, refilling vase. Add floral food if possible. Keep away from fruit as this encourages wilting.



Furniture & Appliance

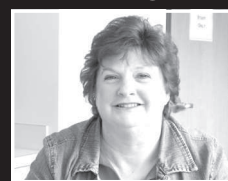
Astoria • (503)325-1535  
1535 Commercial Street

Store Hours  
Mon. - Fri. 9:30 to 5:30  
Saturday 10:00 to 5:00

More Locations:  
Tillamook • (503) 842-7111  
1126 Main Ave  
Lincoln City • (541) 996-2177  
6255 SW Hwy. 101  
Newport • (541) 265-9520  
5111 N. Coast Hwy.  
Florence • (541)997-8214  
18th & Hwy. 101

### Q: Do you offer gift certificates?

**A:** Yes! Roby's offers gift certificates available for purchase in our store. A Roby's gift certificate is a convenient way to buy a thoughtful gift for friend or family member while allowing them the freedom to pick out exactly what they want from Roby's for their home.



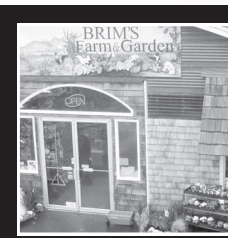
Robyn Marty  
Adult Outpatient Clinician

"Helping People Live Well"

65 N. Hwy. 101 Ste.204  
Warrenton  
503-325-5722  
No one in crisis will be turned away.

### Q: How much does it cost to receive help for a gambling problem?

**A:** All gambling treatment services provided by Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare are free for anyone that gambles in Oregon, this includes Washington residents. Family member's treatment services are also free of charge. We also have the ability to refer to residential gambling treatment when the need is indicated. Call 503.325.5722 M-F 8 am to 5 pm. Over One Million Americans Have a Problem With Gambling... You Are Not Alone!



**BRIM'S Farm & Garden**

34963 Hwy. 101 Business  
Astoria • 503-325-1562

For beautiful gardens & healthy animals

www.brimfarmngarden.com

### Q: How can I get better egg production from my chickens in the winter?

**A:** Winter brings on "molting" in chickens which also may trigger loss of plumage. Egg production slows naturally in the winter and can be improved with at least 12 hours of light and a formulated feed to keep your birds in top condition. Provide adequate shelter, dry bedding and clean nesting areas to keep your hens happy. Letting them "free range" when the sun is out will help their dispositions. If your chickens are older than 4 years, it may be time to replace them with younger birds. Select a breed that is known for high production such as Sex Link, Rhode Island, Buff Orpington or Plymouth Rock to name a few.



Lisa Cadonau  
Advertising Representative

**THE DAILY ASTORIAN**  
503-325-3211  
www.dailyastorian.com

949 Exchange St., Astoria, OR  
503-325-3211

### Q: What is the best way to get results from my limited advertising dollar?

**A:** The combination of a print and online audience is recession proof. We have an excellent print and online special for this time of year. Give your sales representative a call today to hear more about it!

**eOMEDIA group**  
The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.  
eomediagroup.com

**OREGON CAPITAL INSIDER**  
Get the inside scoop on state government and politics!  
We're investing in Salem coverage when other news organizations are cutting back.  
OregonCapitalInsider.com