

Voters: Trump earned 41 percent of county's votes

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"So I was hopeful for that," she said. "And I have not been disappointed."

Bridgens would like Trump to place more emphasis on education, particularly school vouchers. She sees a small victory in the appointment of Valerie Huber, an advocate for abstinence education, to a top post with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Like many Trump voters, she also wants the president to follow through with his campaign promise to build a wall on the border with Mexico.

"I'm still hopeful about the national security and building the wall to keep the drugs out and the illegals out of our country that do so much damage," she said.

Her advice to Trump's doubters?

"I believe they should take an honest look at the successes that he's had that help all of us, and put aside their ideology and just look at putting America first, as he puts it," she said.

Some Trump voters blame Republicans who control Congress for not acting fast enough on Trump's agenda, like repealing the federal Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, which could be politically costly if Republicans lose the Senate or House to Democrats in the midterm elections in November.

"It's been disappointing that we haven't been able to get Congress going on a lot of things that need to be done that are good for everybody. Good for America, I guess that's the main thing," Seppa said. "I'm disappointed in that."

Self-inflicted wounds

Many of Trump's troubles since his inauguration have been self-inflicted, from pick-

ing diplomatic fights with allies like Britain and Australia to reality show-style Twitter feuds to shockingly coarse descriptions of poverty in Haiti, El Salvador and Africa.

Kurt Donnaku, who lives in Brownsmead and serves as a Republican precinct committeeman for Knappa, was a reluctant Trump voter.

Donnaku likes Trump's

drive to reduce regulation and rescind some of President Barack Obama's executive orders, turning those issues back to Congress, where he believes they belong.

"Every time I start feeling good about Trump, then he shoots his mouth off and just says ridiculously stupid stuff," he said. "He tends to be a bully with the name-calling

and third-grade stuff. That's, I guess, what gets me."

Donnaku's advice for the president?

"Get rid of his Twitter account."

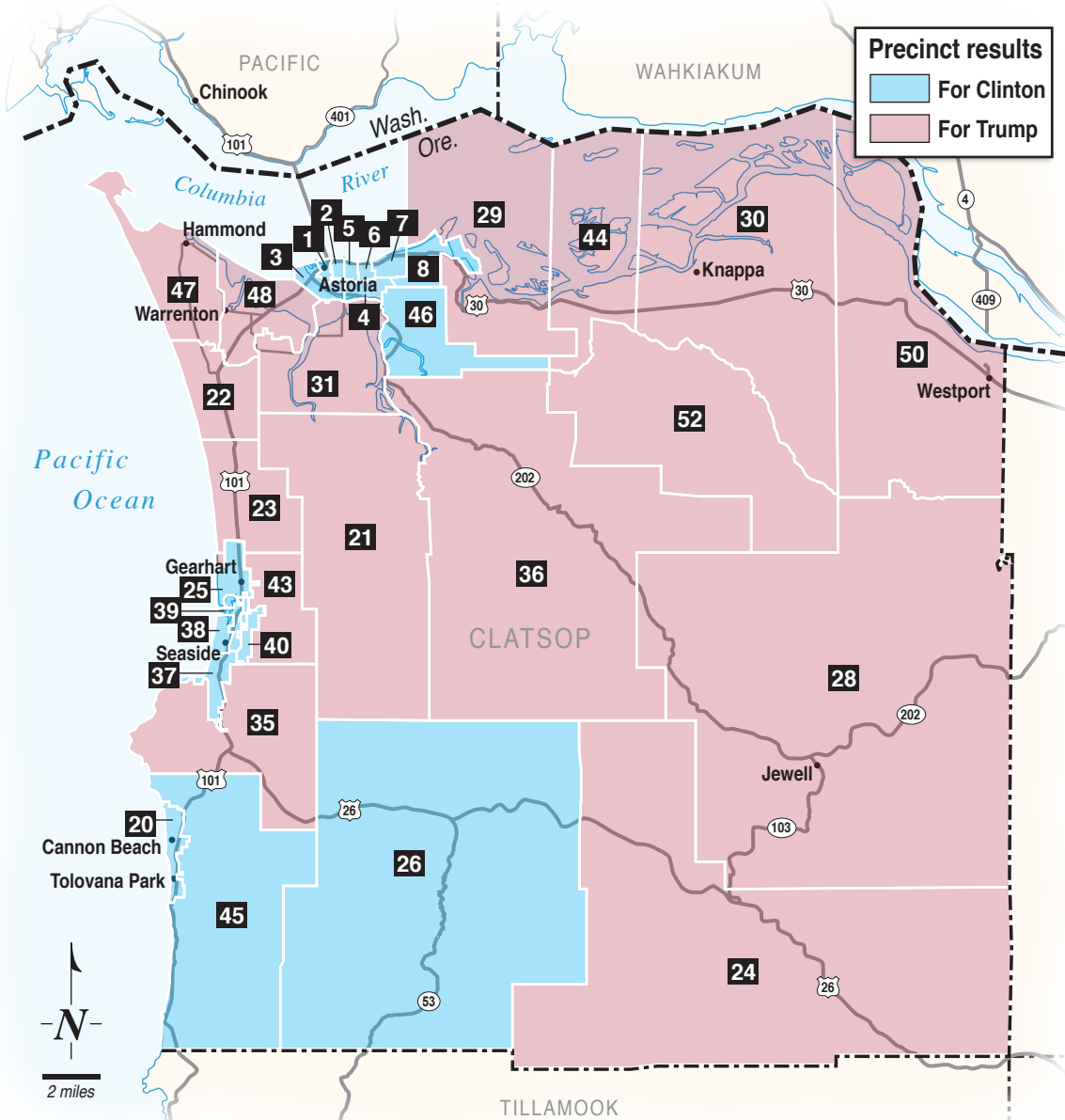
Trumpville

Clatsop County reliably votes for Democrats in presidential elections. Donald Trump was among the most polarizing Republican candidates ever to run for president, yet the billionaire businessman attracted 41 percent of the vote in 2016.

Vote tally by precinct

Precinct/location	Trump	Clinton
1 Astoria	146	299
2 Astoria	176	433
3 Astoria	282	471
4 Astoria	173	242
5 Astoria	225	489
6 Astoria	106	278
7 Astoria	203	464
8 Astoria	149	235
20 Cannon Beach	228	561
21 Chadwell	266	141
22 N. Clatsop	348	222
23 S. Clatsop	460	416
24 Elsie	78	66
25 Gearhart	337	492
26 Hamlet	97	102
28 Jewell	181	114
29 John Day	152	134
30 Knappa	457	356
31 Lewis & Clark	409	268
35 Necanicum	141	99
36 Olney	214	120
37 Seaside	271	371
38 Seaside	316	406
39 Seaside	250	368
40 Seaside	288	368
43 Stanley Acres	57	55
44 Svensen	270	203
45 Arch Cape	50	113
46 Walluski	151	155
47 Warrenton	1,025	713
48 Warrenton	308	236
50 Westport	156	108
52 Hillcrest	168	154
Total	8,138	9,252

Source: Clatsop County



Derrick DePledge and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

Activists: Event on Saturday

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values through rallies, meetings, canvassing and social media campaigns.

About 15 people lead the group, nearly 500 subscribe to its weekly email updates and nearly 900 follow it on Facebook. The group offers leadership training and has different teams such as Oppose Bigotry and Vote the Future. Nearly all of its funds come from member donations.

"Some of us are experienced activists. Some of us never considered being activists until the last presidential election," Vanasse said. "We've been building the boat while sailing. Everything has been a surprise because we're building things so rapidly."

A year into Trump's presidency, the activists offer little to no praise of his performance. They are particularly troubled by the threat to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, funding cuts to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, reductions to national parks and monuments and the attempted repeal of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare.

Vanasse described her political mood as a constant state of "low-level dread."

"The reason 2017 was, to me, even worse than I expected it to be is that the truth has been undermined more than I expected it to be. The self-serving interests have been blatant," she said. "There's so many of them that you forget about them, and you forget about some horrifying thing two weeks ago or two months ago."

Trump and his allies have taunted progressive activists as sore losers unable to accept the election results.

In turn, activists have conceded that their messages likely will never sway the president.

"I don't see that the president looks beyond his base, and we're not part of this base," Vanasse said.

They do, however, feel like they've made an impact on Congress. The most sig-



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A demonstrator dressed as the Statue of Liberty waves to passing vehicles at a September protest.

nificant victory might be the pushback against the Obamacare repeal. Congressional offices were flooded with calls about the topic, while town halls were more lively than they've been since conservatives in the Tea Party movement fought the health care law in 2010.

"I think Indivisible and groups like it send a very clear message to Oregon politicians on where we stand," said Lee, who has joined demonstrations in Portland in the past year.

Voter registration

A recent internal survey of more than 30 Indivisible followers produced a range of ideas and even some mixed reviews about the organization's effectiveness and openness. One thing the majority of respondents agreed on, though, was the need to focus on the midterm elections in November.

The group may have already made some strides on that front.

From November 2016 to November of last year, Clatsop County voter registration increased more than 7 percent, the fourth-largest spike in the state, according to statistics from the Oregon Secretary of State's Office. The county hadn't seen a positive change in voter registration in odd-numbered years since 2003.

Indivisible's views align more with the Democratic Party, and some of its members also are involved with

Clatsop County Democrats. But the organization does not view itself as a political operation as much as a political advocacy campaign. Flexibility is one of its greatest strengths, Vanasse said.

"We're sort of not entrenched in the meritocracy of a political party," she said. "I believe Indivisible is a force to be reckoned with for that reason."

The group expects to add to its political efforts this year. It will endorse candidates and ballot measures and push for election reforms such as county voter pamphlets in off-year elections.

Event on Saturday

This Saturday, Indivisible will host an event called Turn the Tide Regional Summit at Fort George Brewery's Lovell Showroom. It will feature nearly 14 hours of guest speakers, workshops, a question-and-answer session for prospective candidates and a community dance.

Vanasse believes civic engagement has risen on the North Coast in the past year. Since Trump won't face voters again until 2020, though, she is hoping that energy will be focused on more immediate goals.

"We're very focused on midterm elections, getting out votes and getting good candidates," she said. "There's a lot more to be done to get our democracy on track than changing the name in the White House."

House: No longer has 'good bones'

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he told commissioners. "It's a cadaver."

'Beyond repair'

The Alameda building is just over three stories tall, painted purple and backed up against a hill in the slide zone. In addition to being listed as historic, it is also located in the Uniontown-Alameda National Register Historic District — a "double whammy" when it comes to decisions about its future, City Planner Nancy Ferber said.

The Osborns described the property before they bought it in June as a "slum" operated by an absentee landlord where "drug use was commonplace." Over the decades, the house had turned into a warren of small, oddly-shaped apartments and fell into disrepair. In one picture, a raccoon pokes its head through a hole in the wall.

The Osborns, who live in a home they built next door, estimated it would cost just under \$700,000 to rehabilitate the building. They say it is unlikely they'd be able to make enough income back in rent to justify the expense or convince a bank to finance the restoration.

An engineer they hired to conduct a structural assessment concluded that the foundation was "beyond repair" and the building's framing had deteriorated. In October, the city deemed the site a safety hazard and dangerous to occupy. The building didn't pose an immediate threat to public health or safety, however, and a review was necessary if the Osborns wanted to demolish it.

The Osborns knew about some of the issues with the building before they bought it. They said they reported it as derelict several times to the city, but saw no changes occur. They decided to buy it anyway when it went up for sale. They didn't want to risk another negligent landlord taking it over.

If their appeal to the City Council is successful and they are allowed to demolish the structure, they have no immediate plans to build anything in its place.

What about the Merwyn?

LJ Gunderson, presi-

'The history of development of that neighborhood is very closely tied to working class housing and boarding houses that are really massive structures.'

Rachel Jensen

Lower Columbia Preservation Society's president

dent of the Historic Landmarks Commission, can think of other buildings that people have told her are dead. The Waldorf Hotel next to City Hall, also known as the Merwyn, for one. She recalled how several years ago many of the same people who came to support the Osborns' demolition request told her, "If you let them tear down the Merwyn, you're not doing your job."

At the time, reports and studies concluded that the Waldorf could not and should not be saved. Things are very different now. Earlier this month, the Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit submitted by a Portland-based nonprofit to turn the hotel into 40 workforce housing units.

"When I see what happened to the Merwyn, and it's going to have life and it's going to provide more affordable housing and stuff that we need, and it wasn't torn down, I think that's awesome," Gunderson said on Wednesday. "Although you may not like where I may vote on this," she added, "I'm doing what you echoed to me several years ago with the Merwyn."

But some of the commissioners asked: What are the odds that an angel — like the one that showed up to save the Waldorf — would sweep in to save the Alameda building? Later, Wendy Osborn said the hotel was not a fair comparison. Unlike the Alameda building, the hotel's foundation is solid, as is the foundation of the historic Francis Apartments on Franklin Avenue that are in the process of being restored.

"They have good bones," she said, "and this building no longer does."

Time to pull the plug?

The Osborns looked into getting access to a city right of way on one side of the property. Ted Osborn has mentioned an option where some of the building could be salvaged and moved into this right of way. The decision to vacate the right of way is a City Council call.

In her analysis of the Osborns' application, Ferber wrote that the couple should first exhaust all options to save the structure through relocation or sale of the building and that they should explore other creative ways to slash the cost of rehabilitation. It wasn't clear if the Osborns had looked at incentives like historic tax credits, she wrote.

Finding a way to turn the building back into usable apartments "in a high density residential area would add to the city's historical heritage of providing unique workforce housing options," Ferber wrote.

Board members of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society agreed and spoke against Ted Osborn's application.

"The history of development of that neighborhood is very closely tied to working class housing and boarding houses that are really massive structures," Rachel Jensen, the society's president, said Thursday. "As we lose those it really changes the character of the neighborhood and housing in that area. ... We're not denying that the structural integrity of the building has been undermined but we don't believe it's as far gone as he says it is."

In the end, the property might need to be demolished, she said. "No one's saying that it might not come to that, but is it time to pull the plug?"