

# OPINION

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# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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## OUR VIEW

# Orr for state representative

What strikes us most about the race to replace retiring state Rep. Deborah Boone, D-Cannon Beach, is the money.

Special interests in Salem and Portland have been pouring cash into the coffers of two Democrats — Tim Josi of Bay City (\$100,000) and Tiffany Mitchell of Astoria (\$57,000).

Josi is backed by most major industries in the region, along with many incumbents in the state Legislature, including Boone and state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose. His largest individual contributions include \$5,000 each from the Orloggers political action committee and Tillamook County Creamery Association.

Mitchell, a member of the Service Employees International Union, is backed largely by public employee unions, including nearly \$25,000 from the Citizen Action for Political Education political action committee, whose first objective in their bylaws is to “promote the welfare of the members of The Union.”

The other Democrat in the race, John Orr of Astoria, has raised only \$16,000. He has the fewest big-ticket contributions, albeit the most from locals, including \$1,000 each from Astoria company Oceanic Logistics LLC, local activist Kathleen Zunkel and Anne Carpenter, wife of Astoria Planning Commissioner Sean Fitzpatrick.

Vineeta Lower of Seaside, a Republican, has raised only \$8,000. She is backed by state Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, and the Promote Oregon Leadership political action committee supporting House Republican candidates.

Brian Halvorsen, an Independent, reported no contributions.

We’ll focus on the Democrats today.

Lower and Halvorsen are running unopposed in their respective primaries, and we’ll talk about them in the fall before the general election.

The eventual winner will nominally represent state House District 32, including all of Clatsop County, most of Tillamook County and a western portion of Washington County. But the amount of special interest money in play begs the obvious question — who, exactly, will he or she represent?

### Tim Josi

Josi served in the state House from 1991 to 1998 and has been a Tillamook County commissioner for the past two decades.

He left the Legislature due to term limits, which have since been repealed by the state Supreme Court. He’s a career politician in his 36th year of elective office. He’s not ready to retire yet and wants to return to a job that he



John Orr speaks at an April 3 candidate forum in Astoria. Tim Josi is to his right. Republican congressional candidate John Verbeek is in the background.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

loved, he said.

He is the presumed front-runner, and is running with the smugness of an incumbent.

“The lobbyists that knew me then, they’re just thrilled that I’ve thrown my hat back in the ring,” Josi told The Daily Astorian’s editorial board. “They say, ‘Josi, we need more people like you here.’”

Really? Does he think that’s a ringing endorsement to the people of Clatsop County? How tone deaf can he be?

Josi also must fight the perception that he’s in bed with the timber industry and wants to clear-cut our forests. Some people in the county have told him to his face they won’t vote for him because of that, he said.

He is an unapologetic supporter of the timber industry and the family-wage jobs it represents. He believes modern forestry practices can minimize damage to the environment, he said. Many counties in Oregon are close to insolvency due to the loss of timber money.

We don’t think he needs to be apologetic, because timber revenues drive much of our county’s economy. The minimum-wage jobs the tourism industry brings in are a poor substitute.

We do question how well legislative experience from the 1990s translates to today. Salem is a far different place, far more

politically polarized. Then again, the lobbyists haven’t left.

### Tiffany Mitchell

Mitchell moved to the county from Utah in 2015, and jumped into the race when Melissa Ousley of Warrenton dropped out.

One of Ousley’s concerns was splitting the Democratic vote in Clatsop County. Mitchell’s entry at virtually the last second of the filing day deadline seems to create the same problem — she and Orr are both progressives, with similar views on many issues.

Mitchell is intelligent, articulate and well-meaning. She is active in Indivisible North Coast Oregon and wants to fight for issues important to workers, such as affordable housing, Medicare for all, corporate tax reform and fully funding education, she said.

“My promise is always to vote on the side of working people,” she said.

We are very concerned about the level to which her campaign is stage-managed and underwritten by union interests. Calls or emails to her are generally answered and screened by an SEIU operative in Salem. As an employee of the state Department of Human Services, she isn’t allowed to campaign on work time, but the arrangement still raises eyebrows.



Tiffany Mitchell addresses the audience at the forum.

Pension reform is the single biggest issue facing the Legislature, and public sector employee unions run the place. We don’t think anyone elected by those unions is likely to vote for meaningful change.

### John Orr

Orr is a lawyer, a longtime municipal judge in Gearhart, and project development manager for Trails End Recovery in Warrenton.

He is a strong proponent of campaign finance reform and feels that elected officials don’t represent their constituents’ interests due to the influence of money, he said.

His top priority would be to raise taxes on the wealthy, rather than the middle class, to stabilize funding for essential government programs, he said. He is concerned about the state’s lack of investment in education and health care, as well as the North Coast’s low priority for budget money compared to the Portland area.

“I know if I am elected, it will be addressed,” Orr said. “I will be heard.”

We believe that Orr is the least beholden of the three Democratic candidates to special interests, and he has our endorsement.

We are careful about what we wish for — he can be scratchy and brusque at times, likely because of his background as a judge and lawyer. Properly channeled, we think he will be a fierce advocate for Clatsop County’s interests.

He deserves your vote on May 15.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Vote Kujala, Roscoe for county commissioner

I would like to offer my thoughts on two of the candidates running for positions on the Clatsop County Commission. Because of where I live, I cannot vote for either one of them; I certainly would if I could.

The first candidate is Mark Kujala, and I have known Mark and his entire family all my life. Mark has played an extremely active role in the Astoria-Warrenton communities for as long as I can remember, volunteering on dozens on local boards and committees. He spent 12 years on the Warrenton City Commission, and even became the city’s first elected mayor. He now serves both cities as the membership director at the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.

I have also known Peter Roscoe and his family nearly all my life. Like Mark, Peter has shown his love and passion for, and commitment to, our area by actively serving in so many voluntary positions, such as the Astoria City Council, Astoria Regatta Board, Rotary Board and too many others to count. Peter is an idea man with a special knack for getting other people motivated to also get involved.

Both Mark and Peter know the meaning of the word balance, and fully realize that not every decision can be made with a black and white mentality. Neither of these men are running for the commission with some high-level personal agenda they want to get advanced. They both understand that it will be their job to do the will of all of the people, not just certain segments.

SKIP HAUKE  
Astoria

### Commissioners causing unnecessary chaos

I’m writing in support of Clatsop County Manager Cameron Moore and the commissioner who support him. Mr. Moore is one of the more qualified managers the county has had over the past 20 years or so. When he arrived, he dealt competently with some difficult issues that had been previously neglected.

Clatsop County is a large and complex organization that provides a myriad of services. It is well-run, with many good people

## LETTERS WELCOME

working hard at their jobs for our greater benefit. What we’ve been reading in the paper about Clatsop County Commission meetings demonstrates the importance of moderate, reasonable people running for and being elected to office.

I served as a county commissioner from 2009 to 2016. Over time I have had strong disagreements with some of my colleagues. The current level of unnecessary chaos caused by individual commissioners would indicate a need for change for more competent representation.

In our home rule charter, the commissioners’ role is to help set policy and then go home and let the professionals run the day-to-day operations. Problems arise when the elected officials try to do the manager’s job. These errant electeds can be very difficult to check by the manager and other commissioners. Only the voters can correct the current situation.

DIRK ROHNE  
Brownsmead

### Vote Gladwin for county commissioner

As a Seaside resident and self care professional who has heard the candidates and scanned the voters’ pamphlet, I have one concern for this election cycle. That concern is safe drinking water.

Would you knowingly drink water that has toxic chemicals in it? Are you aware of the six chemicals authorized to be sprayed in Seaside areas that have been clear cut? If so, do you know the long-term effect of these chemicals? What are the alternatives? What happens to the health of the people, the animals, the land, the water systems in those areas?

Susana Gladwin has the extraordinary background of having managed 90 acres of timber across from Clatsop State Forests, and farmed 20 acres, of having done the research, the phone calls, the meetings, the activism, the wise stewardship, to be thorough and transparent in her decisions as the District 5 county commissioner.

Our lives are not a sporting event. There is no room for the I-win-you-lose dynamics in healing a chaotic world. Let’s quit pretending. Let’s look at the trade-offs we have made.

Let’s do better. Creating harmonious solutions with each other and the environment comes from the choices we make. Vote for Susana Gladwin.

LINDA LAWSON  
Seaside

### County commission needs solidarity, dialogue

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has been trending in a dangerous direction for quite some time. With the decision of County Manager Cameron Moore to no longer attend meetings, the commission must be deemed dysfunctional (“Clatsop County manager strikes back over commissioner comments,” The Daily Astorian, April 26).

The county charter provides that the county manager be responsible for day-to-day operations. But in and by itself, a commissioner’s role requires adherence to her/his fiduciary duty to the people of the county. That duty requires that a commissioner carefully oversee money and property. From time to time, that may include making inquiries about transactions executed by the county manager.

Hopefully, newly elected commissioners will be able to bring back the harmony and reciprocity that is needed for the commission and the county manager to work for the good of the people. This can only be done by both sides embracing the process of solidarity and dialogue.

GEORGE McCARTIN  
Candidate, Clatsop County commissioner,  
District 1  
Astoria

### Vote Roscoe for county commissioner

The voters of Clatsop County Commission District 3 are fortunate to have a candidate the quality of Peter Roscoe on the ballot. Peter is a longtime local resident I have personally known since grade school. He has always cared about our community and, in his adult years, has been a successful business owner, city councilman, advocate for the Astoria Regatta, Court Appointed Special Advocates

## LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian.

Letters should be fewer than 250 words and must include the writer’s name, address and phone number. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar, and, on occasion, factual accuracy. Only two letters per writer are allowed each month.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters in poor taste will not be printed.

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(CASA), The Harbor (formerly Women’s Resource Center) and scholarship programs for our young students.

Peter has made many trips to Salem on his own time and expense to represent the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association (ORLA) and testify in front of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission to fight on behalf of our local commercial fishermen, processors and seafood consumers. Whether you are a logger, fisherman, public employee, tourist, business owner, retiree, or whatever, Peter will do his best to find a balance that is fair to everyone.

I am sure the other candidates are good people, but I know Peter and what to expect, so as Salmon For All president, I urge a vote for Peter Roscoe for the District 3 County Commission seat.

JIM WELLS  
Knappa