

Bonamici sails to victory in 1st Congressional District

Verbeek takes Republican primary

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici dominated the Democratic primary Tuesday for the 1st Congressional District.

The Oregon Democrat faced off against political newcomers Ricky Barajas, a dental office manager and student, and Michael Stansfield, a quality control engineer and author who works for a security company.

Bonamici amassed 92 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results. Stansfield totaled 4 percent and Barajas had 4 percent.

John Verbeek, a financial planner, was ahead of George Griffith, a mechanical design engineer, in the Republican primary to see who will face Bonamici in November. Preston Miller, an Army veteran studying at Portland State University, was a distant third.

Verbeek received 50 percent, Griffith 40 percent and Miller 8 percent.



U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici



John Verbeek

The 1st Congressional District covers Clatsop, Columbia, Washington and Yamhill counties and a northwestern portion of Multnomah County. Republicans haven't held the seat since 1974.

Bonamici, a consumer protection attorney, served four years in the state Legislature before being elected to Congress in 2012. She has raised more than \$630,000 since the beginning of last year, according to the Federal Election Commission. Griffith was the only other candidate to report any contributions, totaling \$817.

Area voters approve four special district tax levies

The Daily Astorian

Tax levies for the Clatsop Care Health District, Warrenton Police Department, Lewis and Clark Rural Fire Protection District and Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District all passed Tuesday with some breathing room.

The health district's five-year, \$3 million levy imposes a 23-cent tax per \$1,000 of property value, according to the county assessor's office. It was the closest race among the special district tax levies, but passed with 59 percent of the vote. The district operates three long-term care facilities in Astoria and Warrenton plus an in-home care agency.

Health district officials say the money will go toward upgraded services and technical capabilities — including mainte-

nance at the aging Clatsop Care Center in Astoria, two new buses and expanded treatment services at the memory care facility.

The Lewis and Clark Rural Fire Protection District sought an \$887,000 levy, which represents a 20 percent increase from past measures. Revenue will go toward emergency services, employee pay, new fire equipment — like fire helmets and gear — and other operational costs. The levy passed with 61 percent of the vote.

Fire Chief Jeff Golightly said the department would eventually like to purchase a new fire engine and brush truck as well.

The Warrenton police levy is a renewal of a five-year, \$895,000 tax option. The tax will cost 28 cents per \$1,000 of property value — \$56 per year for a \$200,000 home — according to the city.

The money will pay for a full-time police officer and partially finance another salary. The funds raised by the levy — which passed with 71 percent of the vote — will help the department keep pace with the growing city, said Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman. He said the department was "humbled by the overwhelming support from our community to pass the levy and maintain our staffing levels."

The Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District renewed a \$5.3 million levy at the same rate as the previous measure. District officials cited funding needs for emergency services, employee pay and fire equipment. The fire district covers 135 square miles of rural area that extends into Clatsop County by Bradley Summit. The levy passed with 60 percent of the vote.

Commission: Voter turnout in Clatsop County was 36 percent

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Wev stressed advocating for fishermen and environmental preservation in her campaign, while also discussing education funding, government transparency and collaboration and investment in mental health.

"I am excited that the people of the third district responded to our campaign of new ideas, fresh energy and forward direction for Clatsop County," Wev said in a statement. "During the runoff campaign I will continue to describe how we can have a strong and sustainable future without going backward with outdated and inadequate approaches."

In his campaign, Roscoe proposed using natural resources to create energy and incorporating mental health services into a potential new county jail.

"It's kind of what I expected," Roscoe said. "It looks like it's going to be a long summer. What can I tell ya? I think I did a lot of ground work

that will help me in this next election."

Roscoe said he will distinguish himself from Wev as a longtime county resident who is not bound by "I-5 corridor" ideals. Wev and Thompson have both been involved with Clatsop County Democrats.

"In a lot of ways there are not a lot of differences between us, but in a lot of ways there are," he said. "I choose to look at each issue and examine them and go toward that middle."

Environmental preservation, advocating for fishermen and emergency preparedness were Doug Thompson's key issues.

In District 1, which covers Warrenton, Hammond and the west end of Astoria, Kujala received 67 percent to George McCartin's 18 percent and Andy Davis' 15 percent.

Scott Lee, who is the board's chairman and holds the seat, announced in 2016 that he would not seek re-election.

Kujala, a former Warrenton mayor and owner of Skipanon

Brand Seafood, had the most experience in local government of the candidates who wanted to replace Lee. He spent 12 years on the Warrenton City Commission and became the city's first elected mayor in 2014. The core issues in his campaign included healthier collaboration between governments, affordable housing and opening more access to mental health treatment.

Kujala thanked voters and said he was humbled.

"I extend that appreciation to both candidates I ran against. This was a very civil and respectful race," Kujala said. "I look forward to unifying all the residents within District 1 as their representative on the county commission next year. I also look forward to unifying the county commission to work diligently on the issues facing our region."

Davis is a data analyst with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc., and McCartin is a retired attorney.

Davis sits on the Astoria and county budget committees. He

is a member of Indivisible North Coast Oregon, a progressive activist group. The data analyst stressed affordable housing and mental health access throughout his campaign.

He said while he has some policy concerns, Kujala's experience could benefit the board.

"I think we were kind of hoping there would be a runoff and that we would head to the fall and have a longer conversation," Davis said. "There is some obvious tension on the board right now. I hope that he's able to show the board good ways to cooperate and work together."

Issues McCartin touched on during the campaign included making the county commission work better together, creating more affordable housing, increasing access to mental health services and addressing homelessness.

"I think the voting in District 1 demonstrated there are still a lot of people who are interested in how they spend their money and where they spend

it," McCartin said. "Likewise, with regard to the jail, there's a substantial number of people who would like to see homeless people in some other facility and not the jail."

Commissioner Thompson won a second four-year term in District 5, which covers most of South County. She received 59 percent to Susana Gladwin's 39 percent.

Her top priorities are housing, economic development and emergency preparedness.

"Thank you to my bosses — the voters in District 5," Thompson said. "I'm grateful for their support and will continue to work hard to do right by them."

Thompson has faced sharp criticism from three other commissioners and County Manager Cameron Moore over her travel expenses, behavior toward county staff and view that commissioners should have a more active role in day-to-day county operations. At one point, Lee called for her resignation.

"When I went out and said,

'(Voters) are at the top of the organizational chart, you pay the bills, you hold staff accountable for what they paid for,' they said, 'Yep, that's it,'" Thompson said. "Now we're crystal clear on that."

Gladwin, a Jewell farmer, challenged Thompson. The candidates served with each other for four years on the county Planning Commission. Gladwin often attends Planning Commission meetings and highlighted housing and forestry policies as two of her core issues.

Ron Brown, running unopposed for district attorney, secured a four-year term on Tuesday. The longtime prosecutor has served as District Attorney Josh Marquis' deputy since 2004. Marquis is retiring after 25 years in office.

Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas, also running unopposed, won another six-year term. Matyas has been a judge since 2007.

Voter turnout in Clatsop County was 36 percent.

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