

Something curious

I just received our voters’ pamphlet, and immediately noticed something curious about our Clatsop County commissioner candidates’ statements. The incumbents listed accomplishments and plans for tackling issues faced by our area.

The challengers spent all of their space attacking the incumbents, and said nothing about their own ideas or proposed solutions. It’s uncanny how orchestrated this appears. Do they understand the many issues facing the county? Don’t they think we deserve their candor?

JAN MITCHELL
Astoria

Right thing

I am writing this letter in support of Vineeta Lower. She is a Republican candidate running for state representative in House District 32. I met Lower when I was a sophomore in high school. She is a great role model to me and many other students.

Being a former student of hers, I know firsthand that Lower is organized and motivated. She has always done the right thing, even if it was difficult. She has a strong sense of integrity and is always respectful of others.

I have no doubt that Lower would be an exemplary state representative. Her priorities are always clear. I have always felt supported and cared for by Lower, and I am certain that she will show the same attentiveness to those in her district. She advocates for citizens in her community, such as veterans and the timber industry. Lower is a strong believer in family values and community participation.

Lower is the kind of leader I would like to see as the state representative of House District 32. I believe she possesses the skill and the desire to bring Oregon into a brighter future.

DAELYN WILSON
St. Helens

Right person

John Toyooka is the right person at the right time to help our county move forward.

As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, John is dedicated and responsible.

He is engaged in the community, and is a practical nonpartisan leader who is collaborative and intelligent, yet extremely humble.

His focus is people and the issues that are important to them, including affordable housing and sustaining critical infrastructure.

Please join me in supporting Toyooka for Clatsop County commissioner, District 2.

PATRICK NOFIELD
Cannon Beach

Qualified and experienced

During these difficult times, we believe it’s extremely important to keep qualified and experienced people on the Clatsop County commission.

There are two commissioners up for reelection who have been on the county commission for four years and eight years, respectively. They are both well-versed in how local government works, and are actively involved in making decisions concerning COVID-19.

We are advocating for Kathleen Sullivan in our District 4 and Sarah Nebeker in District 2. Between them, they have the experience and knowledge to help us all navigate this coronavirus pandemic, and have already demonstrated their value by their actions as sitting commissioners. Their opponents have zero government experience, which would very likely weaken the well-functioning commission we now have in place.

In our District 4, Sullivan is not only experienced and savvy, she is totally independent from any special interests. Her opponent’s campaign is mostly funded by forest products companies and #TimberUnity. We don’t need a one-issue person serving on the county commission with no governmental experience, and beholden to one industry.

The Clatsop County commission has numerous diverse duties to perform, and has been well-served by Sullivan and Nebeker. Let them continue their good works on our behalf. Reelect Sullivan and Nebeker.

LULU and NED HEAVENRICH
Brownsmead

Rest easy

I can rest easy as a resident of Clatsop County District 4 because I can vote to reelect Kathleen Sullivan as county commissioner. I appreciate her strong leadership.

She has the character and values I want in my elected representatives. She asks the right questions, and listens to everyone’s input. I am exceedingly proud of her running a positive campaign, and urge others to reelect Sullivan as Clatsop County commissioner, District 4 on May 19.

McLAREN INNES
Astoria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Positive force

The COVID-19 global pandemic has challenged us in ways many of us have never experienced. I have been impressed and reassured by Kathleen Sullivan’s strong leadership on the Clatsop County commission. She has made the difficult decisions to protect the people of our county.

Thanks to Kathleen’s leadership, our hospitals and clinics are not overrun and there is less risk to our first responders and medical care workers. Kathleen also understands that it is important for people to be able to return to work as soon as it is reasonably safe. She is working to protect our businesses and jobs during this crisis. I trust her experience and leadership to get us through this.

Sullivan is a positive force in this community. I’ve noticed that she listens to all sides, and makes clear she represents all of us. I’ve been impressed by her strong belief that everyone’s voice matters. It’s no surprise that her reelection campaign has been positive, a call for unity. In Kathleen’s view, we are all her neighbors and she is working in the best interest of all of us.

When you get your ballot, vote for strong, positive leadership. Vote for your neighbor, Sullivan.

LAURA ALLEN
Seaside

Positive campaign

We are heading into the final weeks of the primary. In running for office, we have not been able to have the live public forums, or even to continue going door to door, to meet and talk with neighbors. But I am proud of my many volunteers helping to get the word out.

In this campaign, we continue to honor my commitment to stay positive, and to run on my accomplishments and hopes for the future. I am grateful for the skills, understanding and working relationships I have gained as a commissioner.

The current Clatsop County Board of Commissioners are working well with each other and with county staff, along with our new county manager, new county counsel and new sheriff. I believe my experience will be valuable as we do our best to manage what lies ahead.

My experience will be even more important following this election, to find ways to heal divisions, to listen to our community members and hear what their experiences have been, so that we may learn and adapt as we go forward. Together, with compassion, we will meet the new challenges.

If live you in Clatsop County District 4, from Westport to east Astoria, I hope you will consider giving me your vote. I truly enjoy being your county commissioner, and I would very much like the privilege of continuing to serve another four years.

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN
Astoria

Long-standing leader

We need John Toyooka to help our businesses recover from the damage Sarah Nebeker has done over the last eight years of her work implementing harmful policies for our communities while serving on the Clatsop County commission.

John has been a long-standing leader, and has done a lot of good. He uses common sense and real-world solutions, which will be really helpful to our current economic crisis.

Right now, John is running against Nebeker and her failed, misguided policies, such as rejecting the timber lawsuit that our county needed.

She has exponentially increased homelessness and made Clatsop County unaffordable for the majority of working families.

We need John to fix what Nebeker has done, and help protect our working families. Vote for Toyooka on May 19.

STEPHANIE MILLMAN
Seaside

Good choice

We have an unimportant election coming up. No, not the 2020 presidential election.

It’s our local election in May for Clatsop County commissioner, which in some ways impacts our day-to-day lives even more than the federal elections. The liquefied natural gas issue was a classic example of the impact county commissioners play in determining our quality of life.

First elected after the LNG issue ended, Kathleen Sullivan is now running for a second term. Her yard signs say “Independence, Integrity, Experience.” Having worked with her on a local county issue, I agree she exemplifies these qualities.

Kathleen’s first term on the commission demonstrated her organizational, prioritiz-

ing and communication skills. Seems like all of the above are key qualities of a good commissioner. What do you think?

The fact Kathleen is running for a second term indicates she is committed to all the hours of reading, seeking out and listening to constituents’ opinions and staff reports, and the individual research good commissioners do in order to cast knowledgeable, well thought-out votes on county issues.

Sometimes, on a nice day, I go up to the Astoria Column, look out over the lower Columbia area, and think how lucky I am to live here. So yes, when I vote, I want someone committed to protecting the beauty and environmental sustainability of this jewel I call home.

Kathleen considers representing east county a privilege. I believe her record warrants reelection, and I hope you will also consider her.

CARL DOMINEY
Astoria

County first

A vote for John Toyooka is a vote to help our county recover. In our current economic crisis, John has the experience to make the kinds of decisions that will be required to help our local businesses to succeed. I cannot say that about his opponent, Sarah Nebeker.

I will vote for John not only because of his business skills, but because of his long-standing commitment in our community. He has served on the Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation board, and currently serves on the Clatsop Community College Foundation, where he is particularly focused on job skills training for students in order to prepare them for a career in our workforce. The students need him, and business owners need him.

Our county faces an uncertain future. We need stable elected officials who make good decisions for all of us, not just for special interests.

If he is elected, John will faithfully put our county first.

VICKY MCGATH
Seaside

A vote to heal

Right now, we face economic conditions that will require loyalty to our businesses and to our working families in order to recover. We need empathic understanding of the suffering many now experience. On May 19, we can help to make this happen in our Clatsop County commission District 4 election.

Courtney Bangs, a member of a Clatsop County multigenerational working family, has the background, education and the temperament to make comprehensive policy decisions that will heal our county.

Rather than perpetuate the current policies of the county commission that tear our community apart, Courtney will put our families and our economic recovery first.

Kathleen Sullivan cannot make these claims. Sullivan, from out of state, is not part of a multigenerational working family of the community. Under her tenure, our county has declined. Homelessness, affordable housing and child care are worse, rather than better. This is just for starters.

For Sullivan, being a member of many committees does not equate to leadership, despite her claims to the contrary. Like her colleague, Sarah Nebeker, Sullivan is a “Portland placeholder,” whose loyalties lie with an outside agenda. Sullivan’s Portland agenda does not serve the best interests of our families.

She was a deciding vote that prevented Clatsop County from joining a timber lawsuit over revenue that could have been invested into our schools, roads, public safety and housing. Shame on her.

This time is like no other. A vote for Courtney on May 19 is a vote to heal.

LAVONNE WHITWORTH
Astoria

Decisive

Reelect Sarah Nebeker, Clatsop County commissioner, District 2.

During this time of crisis, Clatsop County voters deserve county commissioners willing to engage across jurisdictional boundaries, and beyond special interests, to hammer out agreements that benefit the public at large.

Crisis reveals character, and the turmoil created by this pandemic has revealed Nebeker’s ability to be decisive yet collaborative. Despite being buffeted with criticism and angry voices, she continues to be caring and empathetic, staying engaged, focused and professional.

Unless voters are very watchful, a leadership vacuum will be filled by those supported by, and intent on, a single issue, to the detriment of the greater good.

Her pragmatic and thorough examination of issues and options is ignored by a few, yet her willingness to find long-term economic and social benefit for county residents is admired by many.

Crisis management is serious business, and retaining experienced leadership to navigate the uncertainty and tight economic times ahead for families and business is essential.

I invite you to join me in reelecting Commissioner Nebeker to the Clatsop

County commission, representing District 2.

KYLE K. WALKER
Warrenton

Critical decision

On May 19, we face a critical decision in our District 2 Clatsop County commission race. We face dire economic conditions that require strength, experience, acumen and leadership to protect our businesses and families.

John Toyooka, Clatsop Community College Foundation board member, Lum’s Auto Center manager and U.S. Naval Academy graduate, possesses all of these attributes. He is uniquely positioned in our community to be ready on Day One to help us recover.

Sarah Nebeker cannot make these claims. A review of each candidate’s statement in the online voters’ pamphlet contrasts John’s real world skills to Nebeker’s platitudes that “lead from behind.” Note John’s substantive community endorsements. Nebeker has none.

Don’t be fooled by the line items that Nebeker piled into her resume. Her most effective role seems to be that of a “Portland placeholder.” Our county cannot recover if a leader’s loyalty lies with an outside Portland agenda.

John’s philosophies align with state Sen. Betsy Johnson’s record. Nebeker refused to join a timber lawsuit that could have brought millions in revenue, per her “principles.” How can she look anyone in the eye who has just lost their job or their business?

Municipal workers: Remember that your paychecks depend on local tax revenues.

No matter how you have voted in the past, this time, vote like your paycheck depends on it ... because it does. Toyooka is the right person for right now.

CYNTHIA MALKOWSKI
Seaside

Genuinely cares

I support and endorse Vineeta Lower for state representative for House District 32. Vineeta has values similar to my own; we need to protect our Second Amendment, parental and constitutional rights. Vineeta has pledged to stop any further taxes, fight for our rights and she genuinely cares about helping the people in our district and state.

I come from a logging and fishing family who has personally seen the effects of overregulation and needless legislation, forcing many of my family and friends to give up the livelihood they love and depend on.

I want to see a future that includes my great-grandchildren commercial fishing the Columbia River or falling trees in the Pacific Northwest, just like the generations before them. If we do not make an informed vote to protect the livelihood that we depend on, it could all be gone.

Vineeta has been in the fight since the last election, and has not taken large campaign money to influence her campaign. To me, this means a lot. We don’t need another representative who has been bought off, or who has obligations to uphold.

Now, more than ever, we need to make sure that those we vote for have our best interests at heart, represent us, are trustworthy and will make a positive impact, not only for us, but the generations that come after us.

I am asking everyone who knows me or my family to please support Lower for House District 32 state representative.

JANIS HEBERT
Astoria

Excellent job

With all of the concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be easy to forget that we have an election coming up. I hope that you can find time to learn more about our Clatsop County commissioner, Kathleen Sullivan.

She has represented us in District 4 for the past term, and has done an excellent job in an intelligent and thoughtful manner. Commissioner Sullivan has put countless hours into our county’s response to the pandemic, encourages people to remember to respond to the 2020 census and explains why it’s important to us in Clatsop County.

She is currently working on the issue of our poor access to internet in rural areas of the county. Kathleen is concerned about environmental issues here in our Columbia River watershed, and is competent in balancing those issues with economic concerns.

Kathleen has experience, and will not be a one-issue candidate. If you have attended meetings of our county commission, you have witnessed her calm and level-headed demeanor.

I have lived in Clatsop County all of my life, and am very concerned about the people who are in positions of leadership. I want the best for the future of our youth, and I see Kathleen as being sincere and ambitious in working for what is best for them and for all of us.

I urge you to learn more about her, and to join me in casting your ballot in May for Sullivan for Clatsop County commissioner, District 4.

DEBBIE TWOMBLY
Brownsmead