

OPINION

the Astorian

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ELECTION
2020

Never been easier

Whether your political beliefs be pointing the finger or self-responsibility, the privilege of voting has never been easier. Our system of government does not work if the citizens do not participate. Please, now maybe more than ever, vote.

TROY HASKELL
Astoria

Shoutout

First: I want to do a shoutout to the Clatsop County leaders for providing the voters with a candidates’ pamphlet.

Second: I want to do a shoutout to the candidates who gave a clear, positive picture of themselves in their own words.

As we move forward and out of the COVID-19 economic crash, we need clear, proven, positive leadership for Clatsop County. Leaders who have experience and are ready to take the next steps. Now is not the time to have unknown, unproven people as our county leaders.

Kathleen Sullivan is a proven leader, and I urge all who can vote in her district to vote for her as county commissioner. We need her experience. She is someone proven to give us a clear, positive future and leadership for all of Clatsop County.

Keep Kathleen!

TAMRA TAYLOR
Astoria

Impressed

I don’t usually write letters supporting candidates. But I’ve been impressed with Kathleen Sullivan’s leadership. I decided to speak up in support of her reelection.

It is rare to find an elected official who can relate to people from all walks of life. Kathleen Sullivan understands that the heart and soul of Clatsop County is the people who live and work here.

She has been particularly diligent in working to protect the water and forest resources that provide jobs for our families. She supports local businesses. Kathleen wants to expand technical and other vocational education to prepare our citizens for a changing economy.

She wants to be sure no one is left behind with automation and other technological changes. She has worked to increase affordable housing in our county. Kathleen’s work has been focused on us, the people of this county. Her work has been focused on preserving our way of life, and at the same time preparing us for the future.

We can’t afford to lose her leadership now. Please vote for Kathleen Sullivan.

RUSS MEAD
Seaside

Right choice

Clatsop County Commissioner Sarah Nebeker and I are close friends, and I will always admire her service to this community and value our friendship. However, we have fundamental disagreements on the solutions for affordable housing, and their link to short-term rentals. A recent Clatsop County housing study drew a firm conclusion that short-term rentals eat up available housing for our working families.

Commissioner Nebeker and her associates sponsored a ballot measure in 2017 to repeal Gearhart’s common-sense vacation rental regulations and support unlimited rentals in Gearhart, with no legal fire or life safety guidelines.

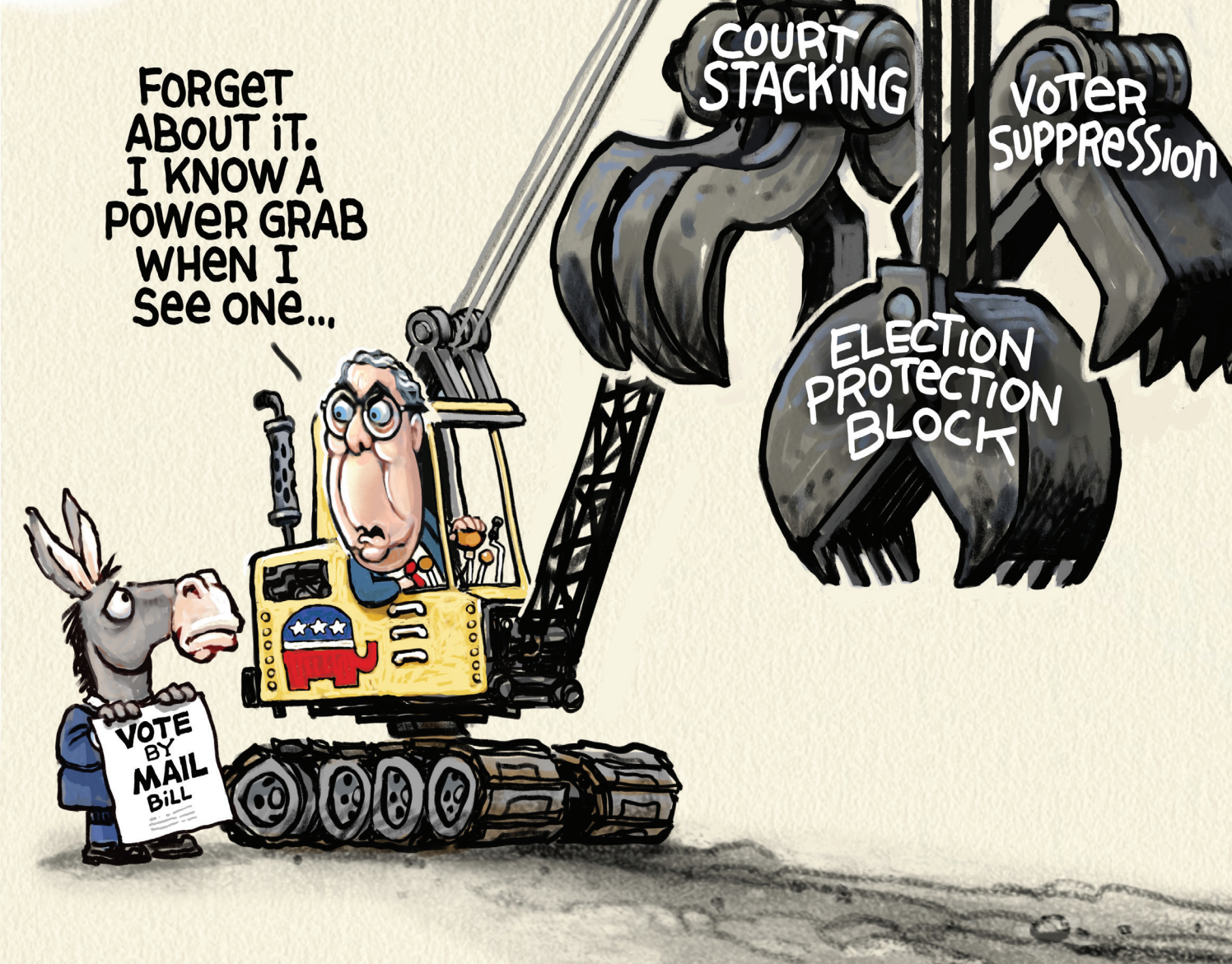
John Toyooka always puts community and working folks first, and partisanship last. Like me, he understands affordable housing and limiting short-term rentals is a top priority in Clatsop County. John also pledges to regularly attend Gearhart City Council meetings, listen and be open-minded to the needs of Gearhart residents, and represent working families by supporting small business, living wages and family health care and education.

John wants to help Gearhart build a new fire station to protect our community, and be prepared for all emergencies from tsunamis to pandemics. He understands the Clatsop County housing study concludes that short-term rentals eat up available housing inventory in our coastal communities, and he supports the Gearhart comprehensive plan to keep Gearhart residential.

Toyooka has the right views on protecting what makes our city special; that’s why he is the right choice for Gearhart.

MAYOR MATT BROWN
Gearhart

STAR TRIBUNE
SACK



Qualified

Sen. Mark Hass is the only candidate in this year’s Democratic primary qualified to be Oregon secretary of state — the second-most important position in Oregon’s state government. The secretary of state oversees a complex and diverse set of functions, including the elections division.

It is unfortunate that Jamie McLeod-Skinner did not follow through on her commitment to run again for Congress representing the 2nd Congressional District. Enormous amounts of money were spent in 2018 that would have given her significant name recognition this year, for an election with no incumbent.

More worrisome was her support last year of plurality voting, which Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called “a preeminent second-generation way to deny equal opportunity for minority voters and candidates.”

When McLeod-Skinner’s position was questioned, she doubled down on her defense. Her lack of understanding of democracy, coupled with minimal experience in public office, disqualifies her for this critical position in Oregon’s government.

Sen. Shemia Fagan at least has experience in state government. Her fearlessness and independence are commendable. However, she does not have sufficient background to fill this key role in state government.

LAWRENCE TAYLOR
Astoria

Report card

Now is the time for us all to start thinking about who we want in leadership positions, both locally and on a national level; now more than ever we need responsible, reliable and reputable leaders.

A report card of all Ds does not deserve our vote. Denial of the true facts; delayed action during crisis; deficient in scientific/medical information; deflecting accountability and pointing blame; delinquent, deceptive behavior.

Denigration, derision of others in opposition; discard or dump “pandemic response protocol” in place; disparage or dismiss media as fake; dereliction of duty and responsibility; deliberate misinformation; devoid of compassion, grace and heart.

All these Ds add up to an F on this report card. We risk deterioration of our democracy, as we are dangerously unprepared to be a true leader in today’s world.

It’s our choice in each election: A for approval or F for flunk. Register now; vote every chance you get for America to be back on track, which will give us all a future we can be proud of.

LaREE JOHNSON
Astoria

Disturbed

I am disturbed by the number of deprecating letters to The Astorian about Sarah Nebeker, which she does not deserve.

The No. 1 issue is the turning down of the timber revenue. She was not the only member of the county commission to vote against this, but they had good reason to do this. This is a controversial bone of contention, a billion-dollar lawsuit which costs all of us in Oregon taxpayer money.

Sarah’s family and my family have lived on the same block in Gearhart for almost 50 years. Our children grew up together; Royal and Sarah were good friends to my wife and me.

She served on the Gearhart Planning Commission at the time I was mayor. I submitted her name to the Gearhart City Council, and they interviewed her. She was poised and composed and answered all questions completely and thoroughly, and demonstrated that she knew more about issues than probably all of us. She studied thoroughly and was well-informed.

She has taken that same dedication to the county commission and with hands on, investigated, interviewed on her own and became thoroughly at home with the issues at hand. It is my feeling that the electorate should be acquainted with the good things that Sarah has done, and if you disagree with her, then just don’t vote for her, but don’t badmouth her, because in her years of public service she has done a lot for Clatsop County.

KENT A. SMITH
Gearhart

Effective

Sarah Nebeker has been an effective Clatsop County commissioner. I urge you to reelect her.

Sarah has worked to protect our tax dollars with common-sense budgeting. At the same time, she has worked to maintain and improve our quality of life here.

Sarah has worked to find ways to increase affordable housing in the county. She has worked to bring good jobs here. She has promoted the arts.

Our community is better for having Sarah Nebeker as county commissioner. Let’s not change that. Vote for Nebeker.

KATHLEEN MACDONALD
Seaside

Strong leadership

Sarah Nebeker has shown strong leadership as a Clatsop County commissioner. Our county is facing economic and health crises with the COVID-19 pandemic. I’m glad Sarah has been a county commissioner during this very difficult time.

Sarah has been a leader in working with health officials and other state and local officials in setting policies to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Thanks to her leadership, we have a county medical contingency plan with more hospital capacity if it is needed. She has helped make us feel safer.

Sarah has worked hard to protect our local businesses and expand our economy with good jobs. So I know that as we reopen, she will be the leader we need to help people get back to work as quickly as possible.

Let’s keep an experienced, hardwork-

ing leader like Sarah. Vote for Nebeker for county commissioner.

GENEIA JAMESON
Seaside

Think before you vote

Have you been concerned about the recent Open Oregon marches in Salem? During this election season, it is vital to realize that the same dark money sources, corporate interests and anti-science/anti-fact propagandists lurking behind the Open Oregon protests are also the invisible backers of the #TimberUnity movement.

If you are appalled at people who use the language of personal freedom and patriotism to push for a premature lifting of COVID-19 precautions; if you believe that there are times when life, health and the common good must take priority over corporate greed; if you value truth and mutual care in the society we create for ourselves and our loved ones, please connect the dots and see the danger that #TimberUnity poses for Oregon.

The forces of extremism operate more slowly than this virus, but they are just as deadly to our common life.

I urge you to check each candidate’s statement in your voters’ pamphlet, and only cast your vote for candidates who truly represent our best interests.

DEBRA LIVINGSTON
Astoria

Best choice

Registered voters have received a voters’ pamphlet and ballot by now. If you are living in District 2 or 4, you will be voting for county commissioner, a nonpartisan office. I appreciate that in Clatsop County, we have many nonpartisan offices in our local government.

The highly polarized politics at the state and federal level get tiresome, and can be discouraging to citizen participation. When you vote to fill a nonpartisan office, you can relax and more easily focus on which candidate will do the best job in the office they seek.

Local issues are of concern to me, so I attend many commission, council and board meetings. Based on listening and seeing the two incumbent county commissioners in action over the past few years, the decision is clear for me. But if you haven’t attended any bimonthly commission meetings, the voters’ pamphlet captures the difference between the two incumbents and their challengers.

Take a look. Do you want a new and completely inexperienced commissioner who is simply on the attack, or do you want an experienced, dedicated, thoughtful and proven capable commissioner who has the background, consensus-building skills and is community-minded?

If you are in District 2, please vote for the best choice — Sarah Nebeker. If you are in District 4, please vote for the best choice — Kathleen Sullivan. You will be happy you made the right choice for the next four years.

CHRISTOPHER FARRAR
Astoria