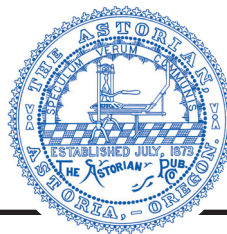


# OPINION

editor@dailyastorian.com



# the Astorian

Founded in 1873

**KARI BORGEN**  
Publisher

**DERRICK DePLEDGE**  
Editor

**SHANNON ARLINT**  
Circulation Manager

**JOHN D. BRUIJN**  
Production Manager

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Honest and caring

Judge Darleen Ortega is a smart, hardworking and capable judge who has served on the Oregon Court of Appeals for 19 years. She is honest and caring, and her written opinions are thoughtful and well-reasoned. We are lucky to have her. I encourage you to vote for her reelection.

PAULA BROWNHILL  
Astoria

### Corporate populism

The routine influence of money in politics has become such a commonplace that its presence is no longer shameful, or even remotely unseemly.

“Timber baron jumps into Oregon politics” (The Astorian, April 19) is a case in print. Betsy Johnson’s acceptance of campaign donations from corporations, or any and all comers from the American oligarchy, should clearly illustrate whose interests she will be championing if she is elected Oregon’s next governor.

These same one-percenters and corporate donors are the money that bankrolls the so-called grass roots “populism” of the #TimberUnity political action committee. I am not opposed to living wages, or the livelihood of working people.

However, the real cream in this state’s timber industry is, has been and always will be floating to the top. For the plutocracy, support for “independent” Johnson is a wise investment that will pay big dividends. Money is the mother’s milk of politics.

As a maverick in the Oregon Senate, she played the Joe Manchin role perfectly. Power, for the sake of power, and perversity in service to obstructionism. Imagine how she might govern, while the public’s real needs and their possible solutions go unaddressed.

Vote for Betsy! Vote for stability, and the status quo will be grand-ma’d in!

GARY DURHEIM  
Seaside

### Demonstrates honesty

I will be voting for Steve Dillard for Clatsop County commissioner, District 5. The main reason is his past history of successfully working with homeless issues in California. He believes that a countywide coordination will play a key role in making progress. He is results-oriented, and ready to get to work.

He has volunteered in youth programs, Habitat for Humanity, Rotary and others. He demonstrates honesty, integrity and accountability, and believes in freedom! Vote for Dillard for county commissioner!

JUDY HIXSON  
Seaside

### Pam has my vote

Clatsop County is lucky that Pam Wev is running for reelection this May. She has worked hard for us these last four years, and has the experience to make a difference as a county commissioner.

I am a mom of young kids, and I am grateful to Pam for the work she is putting in to help expand child care in the county. This is such an important issue, and we need smart people like Pam working on it.

Pam has also been working on expanding broadband options, which our rural areas so desperately need. Plus, Pam cares about affordable housing, and has helped new housing projects get off the ground during her time as commissioner. She has the expertise and dedication we need to



see projects to the finish line.

In my eyes, this election is an easy choice, and I hope you’ll join me in voting for Wev for county commissioner.

JENNIFER RASMUSSEN  
Astoria

### Needs to go

Pam Wev needs to go, and Nathan Pinkstaff needs to take her place.

Why? Because she thought it OK to spend \$56 million on a new public works facility.

Why? Because she thinks it’s OK to spend millions on an upgrade to the county offices.

Why? Because she wants to turn rural Clatsop County into a transient resident playground.

Why? Because she doesn’t hear her constituents asking for day care centers, nontourist related jobs and keeping the unincorporated county rural. Her county of tomorrow looks like overcrowded Hillsboro.

Preserve rural Clatsop County, vote for Nathan.

MATHEW PARDES  
Astoria

### Practical experience

It’s always thrilling — and a huge relief — when good people run for office. Clatsop County Commissioner Pam Wev sees her position as an opportunity to do good for the county. She works at it full time, and we’re lucky to have such an informed and energized elected leader.

I especially appreciate Pam’s knowledge of how government works, and what the county can and can’t do under law. She’s a thoughtful advocate for keeping Oregon and the county beautiful and economically sound, despite the challenges of the pandemic and a changing world.

She’s worked on housing and job development for years, within local and state government and as owner of her own business.

I’m grateful that Pam values communication and coordination with others who have different opinions and new information. She has the hands-on experience and knowledge that will benefit all of us.

The May election could change the political and philosophical balance on the county commission. If you value experience and informed decision-making, then please vote to reelect Wev as our county commissioner.

Be a voter. Ballots are due May 17. Ballot drop sites are at [co.clatsop.or.us/clerk/page/elections](http://co.clatsop.or.us/clerk/page/elections)

Laurie Caplan  
Astoria

### Fresh approach

I’m writing this letter in support of Nathan Pinkstaff for Clatsop County commissioner of District 3.

Being from the area that Pam Wev used to represent, I found her to be less than transparent. Her availability to our area’s questions, emails and calls was nonexistent.

In fact, when there was a tour of the possible new public works facility site, she, as our commissioner, chose not to attend. It was disheartening, as a constituent, to know that while the cost of the site climbed to \$56 million, she still supported this facility.

We need a fresh approach to the issues of child care, homelessness and responsible growth of the county. Nathan is looking for a transparent government that is accountable and open to the taxpayers. Nathan wants to work with the cities on the big issues, not dictate to them. He understands that we all need to come together to keep this county rural, the reason we choose to live here.

Change is needed. A career government employee and consultant is not what’s best for our county. We’ve heard time and time again about the “experience” that Wev has, and how you reach out for experience with a mechanic, doctor or hairdresser.

I know I’ve had a mechanic who took advantage of my mechanical ignorance I’ve sought out a second opinion on a diagnosis and I’ve definitely had more than one bad haircut. Just because you have the experience, doesn’t mean you’re the best person for the job.

SUZETTE BERGESON  
Astoria

### Speaks volumes

Regarding “Timber baron jumps into Oregon politics” (The Astorian, April 19): Thanks for letting us know that Betsy Johnson is being backed by Sierra Pacific Industries, avid supporters of former President Donald Trump. Speaks volumes.

SANDY REA  
Seaside

### Best qualified

As a registered voter in Clatsop County since 1964, I’ve read about dozens and dozens of candidates for Clatsop County commission. Some have even become good friends.

In the 2018 election, Pamela Wev filed for a seat on the commission. I read her resume and heard her speak at a forum. It occurred to me there had never before been a candidate so qualified, primarily as Wev had been consulting with both government and private firms. Apparently other voters took note, and elected her to the commission.

Here in the 2022 election, Wev is on the ballot for a second term in District 3. She has continued her contacts with other governments and agencies, written comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, supported affordable housing on the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority Board, promoted public safety and delights in the historic character of this county.

Wev is again the best qualified candidate as commissioner in District 3. Cast your vote for Wev.

JUANITA PRICE  
Astoria

### Please listen

This letter is in response to the front-page articles (The Astorian, April 21) covering the American Association of University Women candidates’ forum, which was not only excellent but, thanks to KMUN, livestreamed.

However, I’m deeply disappointed at the lack of coverage by The Astorian for the only 1st Congressional District candidate, Scott Phillips, who demonstrates great ability to lead, with a diverse life experience and strong background

in community.

His real-world problem-solving involvement, with an emphasis on change and inclusion, is what we need right now. And, unlike other candidates, he doesn’t spout erroneous conspiracy or ideologies stemming from a false narrative from the entrenched political side of our country determined to simply put those back in charge again who divide us, not unite us.

Not only was his photo not used, he wasn’t even mentioned in the articles. I strongly suggest everyone take the time to listen to this candidate. He came to Astoria to be heard. Please listen.

JUDITH P. NILAND  
Astoria

### Willing to do the work

I’m writing this letter today in response to the recent article (The Astorian, April 26) about the Clatsop County commission race between Pamela Wev and Nathan Pinkstaff.

I will start out with my experience regarding Wev. Recently, I and my community members raised some questions regarding the “resilience project” and the construction of the county road department in our rural community. We wrote emails to our commissioner, Wev. We heard nothing.

She stated in the article that she has more experience than Pinkstaff, saying it would be “sad” for him to be elected. I disagree. Nathan is a community member, first and foremost. He has lived here his whole life, and has chosen Astoria to raise his children in.

He may not know everything, but he is transparent, honest, willing to listen and willing to do the work. And those attributes mean more to me and this community than a million years of government experience.

COLLEEN LARSON  
Astoria

### Represents our values

I recently saw an article in your paper (The Astorian, April 26) that referenced interviews with Pam Wev and Nathan Pinkstaff.

I was surprised to read Wev’s comments about people with inexperience not being qualified to run. She called it a “shame” and said “citizens lose.” It was shameful of her to say that, and exclude people like me from these community elected positions.

Experience does not just come from being a long-term government individual. Pinkstaff has been involved in our community, volunteers and raises his family here. This provides the experience needed to be successful as a Clatsop County commissioner.

New members are needed to keep perspectives rooted in the values of our local area. Each of us is uniquely qualified and experienced to serve by the fact that we live and work in this community. Recently, Nathan organized a parks cleanup for our kids, and this last week he volunteered at the local crab festival, as he has in the past.

Wev did not show up as a commissioner for the controversial public works facility site tour. Relying too much on experience can cause an elected official to become complacent, and ignore the voices of those in the community.

I encourage each of you to vote Pinkstaff for county commissioner for District 3. He represents our values and local community.

BRIAN ALLEN  
Astoria

## LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The 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 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 should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Discourse should be civil. Send via email to [editor@dailyastorian.com](mailto:editor@dailyastorian.com), online at [bit.ly/astorianletters](http://bit.ly/astorianletters), in person at 949 Exchange St. in Astoria or mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR., 97103.