

EDITORIAL/OPINION

McCoy, Loving

James Loving is challenging incumbent Senator Bill McCoy for Senate District #8. Also in the race is Larry Inskeep, a savings and loan employee. This race is one of the most important, yet one of the most difficult in this year's election. Loving starting late and with little money, can by splitting the Black vote make victory possible for Inskeep. Loving's campaign effort has not reached the large white St. Johns electorate sufficiently to insure his own victory.

Loving's campaign is rooted in the concept of the right of Black people to be represented by a public official with a Black perspective.

Bill McCoy is a man of integrity, who has a good voting record. The first, and only, Black in the Oregon legislature he has held positions of responsibility. He has been accused by the white press and by legislative staff members of lacking leadership and organizational skills. Some constituents say kind and encouraging words are not always followed by constructive action.

Some of the complaints about McCoy might be exaggerated. One of his main objectives in the 1979 session was passage of the Washington, D.C. amendment, which failed. Criticism was heard that most of this effort fell on the shoulders of Senator Jim Gardner. But we were told by House Majority Leader Gratton Kerans that McCoy did a good job on that issue. McCoy has opposed the Black Commission bill. Because Senator McCoy could not find time for an interview with the Observer, we did not have the opportunity to discuss those issues with him.

Many Black citizens complain that McCoy is out of touch with the Black community. This problem reflects the design of the legislative districts which splits the Black community into four House districts and four Senate districts. It points to the need, with reapportionment based on the 1980 Census, for districting that would leave the Black community in tact and allow these Black and white voters to select representatives from their own community. Although Senate District 8 does extend into the Black community the preponderance of its voters are in St. Johns and other white neighborhoods. There is no way the Black voters can compel their representative, no matter who he is, to respond to their needs.

Loving is in communication with all segments of the community. Among his recent community activities is service as Chairman of the Northeast Coalition. He was repeatedly elected to represent Boise on the Model Cities board, has served on a member of local and City, State and national organizations advocating for the young, the old, the poor, the sick, Blacks, whites and other minorities. He is daily in contact with a wide variety of community spokesmen - participating in the Black United Front, the NAACP, and neighborhood groups. He knows the needs of the citizens. Whether he could put those needs and desires into constructive legislation is yet to be seen, but Loving is the epitome of the involved citizen - the citizen who has the knowledge of his fellow citizens that is necessary to represent them.

Since both Loving and McCoy's son, Paul, are part time employees of this newspaper, we are not going to make and endorsement in this race.

✓ Vern Cook

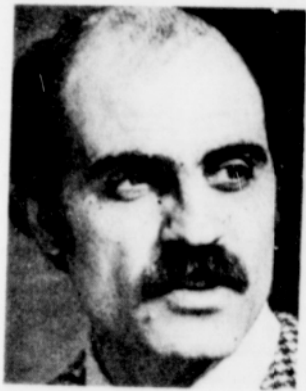
The Observer endorses State Senator Vern Cook for re-election to the position he has held since 1961. Throughout his years in the legislature Cook has supported measures that aid and protect free speech and access to the vote.



He is a strong believer in the right of the people to put measures on the ballot or to change legislation through the petition.

His record shows special concerns for medical care for the disadvantaged, decent and affordable nursing home care, equal access to educational programs, and consumer protection. In general, he has voted for measures that place the rights and needs of the people first. In spite of constant negative publicity in the daily press, we consider Vern Cook to be one of the better and more intelligent legislators and recommend his re-election.

✓ Stephen Kafoury



Steve Kafoury represent Senate District 7 encompassing the southern end of Albina and a portion of Southeast Portland - a typical urban district with large area of low - income residents. Kafoury has been a leader in the Senate on issues involving human and civil rights for minorities and women, the right of workers, environmental protection, child care, housing opportunities for low and middle income. An attorney, he is a resident of the Irvington neighborhood and a former Jefferson High School teacher. We endorse Steve Kafoury for the Democratic Party nomination to Senate District 7.

✓ Jan Wyers

Jan Wyers was first elected to the State Senate in 1976 and in his first term distinguished himself as a hard working, able legislator. Although his stand against nuclear power gained the most attention, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Aging Wyers let the push to save the 10¢ senior citizen for a Tri-Met and gave much attention to improvement of conditions for the elderly. He supports out-of-prison alternatives for non-violent crimes. The Observer endorses Jan Wyers for the Democratic nomination to Senate District 6.

✓ Harold Williams

Harold Williams is seeking the House of Representatives position now held by Dr. Howard Cherry. Dr. Cherry is almost never seen in the district and confines his legislative work largely to education and health care. Williams points out serious problems in the community - unemployment, lack of facilities for the elderly, preschool children and young people, inadequate health care, inferior educational opportunities and he believes the district needs a more aggressive and inventive representative.

A former affirmative action officer for the state and director of the PSC Education Center, Williams understands the impact of racism in education and employment and will sponsor and support legislation to deal with these issues. The Observer endorses Harold Williams for House District 14.

✓ Jim Chrest

Jim Chrest has represented House District 15 in North Portland for three sessions. he has served on a number of committees - Labor, Intragovernmental Affairs, Education and has been a leader in the effort to change and improve Workers Compensation and OLCC.

Chrest has gained the respect of his constituents and his fellow legislators. He does a good job for his district and for the people of Oregon and should be retained.

✓ Rick Bauman

Rick Bauman gained much attention during the 1979 legislative session - his first. His efforts to stop the proliferation of nuclear power plants, his work on behalf of public power, his sponsorship of bills to protect the public against the dangers of nuclear power brought him the label of a "one-issue legislator" by the daily press and the private utility lobby. Bauman is not an one - issue candidate, and his hard work and persistence on behalf of the people baffled many long-time legislators. Rick Bauman should be retained in the House. He has the potential of becoming one of Oregon's better public servants.

✓ James Hill

James A. Hill, Jr. is a candidate for the Democratic nomination to the House of Representatives, from Salem. Hill has been an attorney with the state's Justice Department for five years - in the Appellate Division handling criminal and civil appeals, in the Antitrust Division and the Public Utilities Section. In this position Hill has been able to experience first hand how the state agencies operate and how the laws effect their constituents. This is valuable insight for a legislator. We endorse James A. Hill, Jr.



✓ Eugene Jackson

Eugene Jackson is a candidate for the Republican nomination to County Commissioner, Clackamas County. Jackson, who is the executive director of the Northwest Minority Contractors Association, was instrumental in obtaining state set-asides for minority businesses as well as developing opportunities for Blacks in construction.

A Clackamas County rancher, Jackson represented Oregon at the White House Conference on Small Business and the Regional Small Farms Conference. He advocates zero - based spending as a method to gain control over Clackamas County's perpetual budget problems. The Observer endorses Eugene Jackson for County Commissioner, Clackamas County.

✓ Calvin O.L. Henry

Calvin Henry is the founder and president of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs. Henry was in the forefront of the struggle to attain a state affirmative action officer. He was the author of the twice defeated bill to create an Oregon Commission on Black Affairs to document the inequities and lack of opportunity, and to reveal how state and local laws and policies effect the lives of Black people. Since he arrived in Portland, Henry has been active - helping to organize the Corvallis Chapter of the NAACP and serving as it's first president, and documenting racism at Oregon State University.

The Observer endorses Calvin Henry for County Commissioner, Benton County.

✓ Jewell Lansing

Jewell Lansing, Multnomah County's auditor, is in a close race for State Treasurer with Jason Boe, optometrist and three term President of the State Senate.

Ms. Lansing is a certified public accountant, owning her own firm prior to her election to her current position.

The State Treasurer invests and protects the state's money, protects its land and water resources, and controls the expenditure of budget state money. She is better qualified than her opponent for these tasks.

As county auditor Ms. Lansing has critically audited departments such as the District Attorney's office and corrections, her audit serving as guides for funding and improved managers.

We recommend Jewell Lansing for the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer.

✓ More Judges

The Observer also endorses Judges Robert Redding and Linda Bergman of the District Court and Judge Jake Tanzer, who is unopposed to the Supreme Court.

Also:

- ☐ Gretchen Kafoury, Democrat House District 15
- ☐ Wally Priestley, Democrat House District 16
- ☐ Jim Gardner, Democrat Senate District
- ☐ Paula Bentley, Multnomah County Commission
- ☐ Dennis Buchanan, Multnomah County Commissioner
- ☐ Les AuCoin, Democrat U.S. House, First District
- ☐ Norma Paulus, Republican Secretary of State
- ☐ Grattan Kerans, Democrat House, Eugene

Measure 1 - ☒ No

Ballot Measure No. 1 would restrict the use of gasoline and vehicle tax to use for highway construction and maintenance.

Currently a portion of the tax is used on the state level for highway patrol and state parks. About one - third of the money is distributed to the counties which can use it all for road maintenance or for police and parks. Some counties receive additional money from the federal government for highways, so they use much of their state money for police and parks. This measure would take away that option.

The most destructive result of this measure is that because the state police and state parks could no longer be funded in part from gasoline tax money, their cost would have to come from the general fund budget. They would compete with human services for funding - resulting in a decrease of social services for those in need.

We recommend a no vote on Measure No. 1.

Measure 6 - ☒ Yes

This ballot measure amends the State Constitution to define "multifamily housing." In 1978 the voters approved a bonding program to provide multiple unit housing for the elderly, but that measure has been interpreted to mean only rental housing. Measure 6 would add the definition to include owner - occupied housing such as condominiums, mobile homes, and other retirement facilities.

Measure 5 - ☒ Yes

This measure extends the 1979 - 1980 tax relief program adopted by the Oregon legislature. It provides tax relief on owner - occupied residences and to renters. Until a better situation to the property tax problem can be found, this measure should be supported.

Measure 26 - 10, 26 - 11

✓ Yes

This measure authorizes the Metropolitan Service District to levy over \$1 million for zoo operations and over \$2 million for capital construction for three years. This levy replaces the one that will expire next year.

The operations funds would continue service at the present level and capital funds will finance new exhibits for Alaskan and African animals as well as completing exhibits now under construction.

The Zoo is an important asset in the community and deserves this support. Vote yes for 26 - 10 and 26 - 11.

Mt. Hood CC - ☒ Yes

Mt. Hood Community College is seeking a revised tax base to continue existing programs. The school has 24 vocational preparatory certificate programs and 46 vocational - technical associate degree programs, as well as 11 State Apprenticeship Council Programs. The school also has 60 pre-professional transfer programs and a wide variety of community education courses.

This school provides options for students who are interested in vocational training or who work to obtain the first two years of their college education at low-cost. Vote to retain the course program at Mt. Hood Community College.