

# Candidates vie for District 18 legislative position

**Robert Boyer**



Bob Boyer is president of the Inland Boatmen's Union, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and has been active in youth work, education, voter registration and the NAACP. He is employed at Waterways Terminal.

**What new sources of revenue would you support? How would you balance the budget?**

"I would like to see a restructuring of taxes so that income taxes are graduated—so people who make more money and corporations that have higher profits, pay more." There should be a fair and equitable tax structure. He would support a lottery if it were designated for education or a specific human resource program.

To balance the budget, programs should be designed according to the dollars available.

**Do you favor public utility districts?**

Boyer favored PUDs prior to the WPPS problem. "The cost of power in Clark County was one-half that in Oregon, yet we use the same

power source. But with PUDs funding WPPS the cost is skyrocketing. I would have to reassess to ensure that buying out the private utilities would not raise the rate." If the cost to the ratepayers over a period of time would be less—and if the economy can handle the buyouts—he would favor PUDs.

**Do you favor the fair share concept for state employees?**

All people share in the benefits. When the union goes out on strike and the fair share people don't, it causes bad feelings. The union is the bargaining unit—the person wants the benefits but will not go on strike. Boyer prefers a closed shop, where if there is a strike, all go out on strike.

**Should public employees have the right to strike?**

Public employees—if they have a union contract—should have a right to strike. He supports binding arbitration for police, fire and teachers.

**How would you reorganize the state system of higher education to economize yet provide quality education?**

Boyer would look at the entire system. If there is any way possible he would like to see departments condensed to stop duplication. "We don't have the money to finance everything, but we should see which programs have the best return for the money. I don't see a need to close schools—there are areas of the state that have specific needs and should have their schools."

**What committees would you like to serve on? What are some issues you would address?**

Boyer would prefer Labor and Ways and Means. In the Labor Committee he would deal with the need to diversify industry. Each county should have a bureau to assist with economic development. There is a need for trained people and research resources to deal with the problems of the economy.

Ways and Means deals with the state's finances. "I would seek funds for training, consolidating

funds in the state and local budgets."

**What are the major problems for the people of District 18 and how would you address them?**

Unemployment is the major problem. As education chairman of the Inland Boatmen's Union Boyer proposed a tugboat school and has attempted to steer the union to sources of funding. He designed a youth development corps to train young people in housing rehabilitation trades.

Another serious problem is lack of home ownership. A state bank or some other type of funding is needed to enable people to buy or lease. Home ownership brings community pride.

Small businesses in the area need help to stabilize and grow. There is a need for more small businesses to prevent dependence on one industry. He would like to see more commercial development on Union Avenue—restaurants and supermarkets.

**Who would you consult on pending legislation? How would you keep in touch with your constituents?**

Boyer would form a network of neighborhood associations, organizations, churches and other organizations. He would stay in contact with the people, listening first.

**What is your opinion on the crime problem?**

Boyer believes the crime statistics are somewhat distorted. The neighborhood crime watch and the locks program help. He would rather spend money for prevention with teenagers than for prisons.

**What do you think of the Tubman decision and the Black United Front's tactics?**

"The Board should stay with their original decision—Eliot." As long as the BUF is non-violent he will support them. He recognizes that the BUF's tactics brought mediation. "Different organizations have to take different approaches, in this case confrontation was the method that worked."

**What are the major problems for the people of District 18 and how would you address them?**

Crime is related to jobs. People have to have incomes. There is pressure to consume and compete. "There are no effective sanctions. The prison bond measure is for more maximum security, they do need to be removed temporarily. Leek advocates restitution centers, halfway houses, forest camps and other alternatives to prison."

There is a need to retrain and rehabilitate prisoners. "The cost for society in the long run for warehousing prisoners is astronomical." **Who would you consult on pending legislation? How would you keep in touch with your constituents?**

"One of the failures of representatives in the past has been keeping in touch. This district needs a regular breakfast meeting like others, during the session and between sessions." There is also a need to have a regular group of people willing to act as advisors in various areas. There is also a need for polling.

**What do you think of the Tubman decision and the Black United Front's tactics?**

"The decision was fore-ordained after the School Board elections—when Bauman and Newhall lost. I have little hope that it will be reversed. It is one of a series of continuing insults. It was perpetuated by insensitive, seemingly uncaring people."

Leek is "uncomfortable with the separatist nature of the Front. I have always been an integrationist. People used to move away from my wife and I at BUF meetings." He questions whether the Front represents the community as a whole—

"They take up issues that are of concern to the community, but there is a diversion of opinions. The BUF is not the black community."

The tactics of the Front "are hard for me to deal with. I am not comfortable with confrontation but I have used and understand the tactic. The School Board would have washed its hands of the whole affair if the Front had not acted."

"Some type of confrontation was necessary but I'm not sure this type was necessary. A combined front could have been put together that could have found enough people to make them reconsider—through marches, demonstrations, pressure."

**Vesia Loving**

**What new sources of revenue do you support? How would you balance the state budget?**

"I would like to see more industry in the country whether this is from overseas or local. There should be more manufacturing to create jobs and bring taxes. Low interest rates would also encourage new companies."

**Do you think the state should use its option to obtain and sell electric power? What is your opinion of public utility districts?**

"I feel that public utilities might be more beneficial. The utilities have a monopoly and if they had competition the rates would go down."

**Do you favor the fair share concept for State employees?**

"Not necessarily. I did belong to a union but now now; I don't feel that unions are necessary. Not everyone can afford to pay dues. People's situations vary."

**Should public employees have the right to strike?**

"Yes, definitely." Everyone who is not satisfied with conditions on their job should have the right to strike.

**How would you reorganize the state system of higher education to economize yet provide quality education?**

"In the Portland Public Schools there are too many chiefs. After the administrators are paid there is very little left for the students and teachers; it is not necessary to have four or five superintendents. The administration costs too much."

**What committees would you like to serve on? What are some of the issues you would address?**

Mrs. Loving would prefer the Education and Human Resources committees. "I am concerned about senior citizens a lot; they need care whether it is in a nursing home or in their own home."

"We need protection for low-income people. They should have a right to medical care. It might mean more taxes but no one should go without medical care."

**What are the major problems for the people of District 18 and how would you address them?**

"Jobs are the real problem. The majority of our people are out of jobs. We would have a better neighborhood if there was employment." There is also a need for economic development and low-income housing.

**Who would you consult regarding legislative decisions? How would you keep in touch with your constituents?**

"I would make myself available; wherever I went I would be available." She would also send communications to organizations and persons regarding issues coming before the legislature.

**What is your opinion on the crime problem?**

"I am concerned about crimes against senior citizens. The only way to stop crime is through jobs and education." Ms. Loving would like to see a system to eliminate drugs and is interested to determine why girls get into prostitution and how this can be prevented. "Prostitution is a social problem that has plagued me; it brings a negative image to the community."

Unemployed persons have problems because they are not eligible for welfare if they are employable. This forces them into crime and prostitution.

Mrs. Loving would advocate for vocational training for children of welfare families to teach skills and the work ethic.

**What do you think of the Tubman issue and the BUF tactics?**

"When we asked for Eliot we did it because we felt it was better; we had looked at everything and felt it was least disruptive. It is also a neutral area—both black and white parents will send their children there."

The Boise decision was a racist decision, she believes. "They have been trying to close Boise for 12 years; I have fought for 12 years. The City's comprehensive plan has designated the area from the Coliseum to Killingsworth Avenue as industrial. It was stopped by Boise school. Then we stopped the free-ways and they weren't built."

"White parents would not send their children Boise and after a few years we wouldn't have a school. Other organizations joined the fight



Vesia Loving is a teacher's aide at Boise Elementary School. She is active in the Black United Front, Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church, and is concerned with education and police problems.

because it was right . . ."

"I am a member of the Front, As a Christian, if I felt it was doing something that was not right I wouldn't be part of it. The Front was organized because it more or less meets the needs; it is not run by one person—each is a part of the decision making."

This was the first demonstration of this type and it was right. After four years of patience, no method is too strong. The Front is what brought the change in attitude—it brought them face to face with the problem.

"I feel good about the part I've played in changing things."

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**Ed Leek**



Ed Leek is former chairman of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, is active in neighborhood associations and the Democratic Party. He is a retail clerk.

**What new sources of revenue would you support? How would you balance the budget?**

I would start out with a graduated income tax. "The maximum is now at \$10,000; everyone with earnings above that pays the same percentage. A graduated corporate tax could decrease taxed for 80 per cent of the businesses. You raise more money by collecting more from the larger companies."

"I am opposed to a sales tax or an increase in property tax."

Leek would eliminate the 30 per cent property tax relief and replace it with a "super-HARP"—tax relief based on income. Property tax relief now goes to people with \$200,000 houses. "If they can't afford to pay taxes on \$200,000 houses then they shouldn't have \$200,000 houses."

**Do you favor public utility districts?**

"I was an initiator of the current petition making the Public Utilities Commission elective." Generally in favor of PUDs and active in the drive for PUDs in the past, Leek has some concerns about the cost of buyouts of private utilities at this time and how that would affect rates.

**Do you favor the fair share concept for state employees?**

"Yes. They should pay if they get the benefits."

**Should public employees have the**

**right to strike?**

Leek supports the right of public employees to strike with the exception of public safety employees—prison guards, police. These areas should be covered by binding arbitration.

**How would you reorganize the state system of higher education to economize yet provide quality education?**

"I would take a hard look at the cost benefit of all the colleges and close two schools. The effect of closing a college in the economy of that city is a trade-off. Government can't be in the business of providing facilities solely to provide jobs."

**What committees would you like to serve on? What are some issues you would address?**

Aging and Minority Affairs, human resources, labor.

Leek said he could get the South African divestment bill through the Legislature. "Wally [Priestley]—and I love him—just doesn't have the skills to get the bill through. I can draw together a pressure group, a coalition of the minority and religious communities, and it would pass."

The Martin Luther King holiday is another issue he would push. Also improving Project Independence, which helps senior citizens remain in their own homes.

Holding the line on human service program is all that is possible—"how to hold on to what we have."

**What are the major problems for the people of District 18 and how would you address them?**

The major problems are unemployment and property taxes. "We need public job creation programs." Leek supports Don Clark's proposal to use the unemployment trust fund to create work. WPA programs—"lots of buildings are needed, lots of services. Rivergate needs roads and sewers." These could be built through a WPA-type program.

There is a need for training for long-term employment. Leek would like to improve the apprenticeship programs. The economic development program should be redesigned so it will be used properly to create jobs.

There is a need to move away from property taxes. There is no relation between property taxes and income or services received. There is a need to provide more of the education budget from income taxes to re-

lieve property taxes.

**What is your opinion on the crime problem?**

"Crime is related to jobs. People have to have incomes. There is pressure to consume and compete." There are no effective sanctions. The prison bond measure is for more maximum security, they do need to be removed temporarily. Leek advocates restitution centers, halfway houses, forest camps and other alternatives to prison."

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## Street Beat

Our Street Beat question this week is: What issues are you most concerned with as a citizen?



**Donna Stoudamire, systems engineer**—"The education of all black children in the city of Portland. I'm also concerned with the rate of unemployment for black youth. They aren't being prepared for jobs in school and the ones coming out can't get jobs."



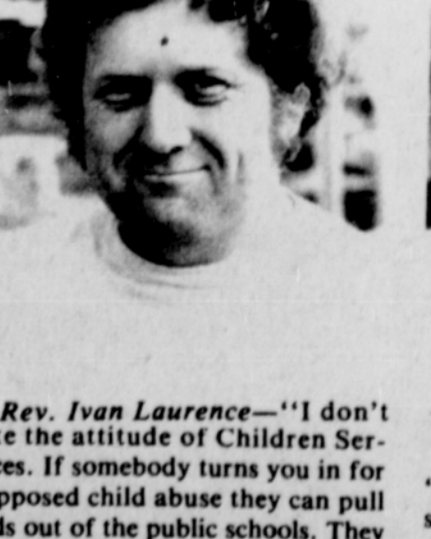
**Antoinette Edwards, instructional aide**—"The economy, and my husband having a job. Somebody's gotta work it out—I don't have the answers."



**Mark Carver, salesman**—"Crime right now. Burglary in homes is a big problem. Also, taxes."



**Clifford Green, dietary worker**—"Jobs right now. I am also concerned with what's happening with the Falkland islands—I have children and it might affect their future."



**Rev. Ivan Laurence**—"I don't like the attitude of Children Services. If somebody turns you in for supposed child abuse they can pull kids out of the public schools. They don't have to tell you where the kids are for three days. Also I don't like the way the media handles crimes against old people—they get very little coverage. An old lady was killed right across the street from me and there was very little news coverage."



**Pamela Slaughter, receptionist**—"Unemployment, financial aid for students and police affairs. Our neighborhood is concerned with prostitution. Women in the community are being harassed by people looking for prostitutes."

by Harris Levon McRae and Richard Brown