

House District 17: Wally Priestley

We have consistently endorsed Wally Priestley for election and again endorse him for the Democratic nomination for District 17.

Priestley has served in the Oregon legislature for 16 years. His voting record is beyond reproach and has been highly rated by labor, senior citizen groups, women, environmental organizations, and consumer groups. His philosophy has consistently been to protect the interests of the low and moderate income persons and minorities.

Priestley is unique in that he opens his office for use by all citizens—whether they are pushing legislation for nursing home rights, public power, anti-nuke, peace, etc. All are welcome to use the facilities and use the legislative system to promote their cause. This allows the legislators to hear another voice—that of the people who are not able to hire lobbyists to promote their causes.

In the interest of participatory democracy, we endorse Wally Priestley for election.

Ballot Measure No. 2

Ballot Measure 2 amends the state constitution to allow bonds to be sold to finance housing loans for low-income elderly, non-low-income elderly, and disabled persons. The law now specifies elderly households of low income, so the bonds would also benefit disabled persons and there would be no income limit if the measure is passed.

Measure 2 could help our sagging housing industry, help make home ownership a more easily obtainable dream and shore up the declining buying power of seniors and the disabled. It should be passed.

Ballot Measure No. 4

Ballot Measure 4 would raise commercial vehicle taxes 10 per cent or more each year for three years and the tax on gas and other fuels 1¢ per gallon per year for the next three years. The money, estimated to total \$65.2 million by fiscal 1984, would be collected by the Highway Fund and disbursed to state, county and city governments to maintain roads.

There is no question that Oregon's roads need repair. But this measure would only treat the symptoms, not the cause.

Critics of the measure point out the vast majority of highway damage is done by trucks and that these vehicles should pay a greater share of repairing the roads. Opponents intend to place a proposal on the November ballot to equalize the repair burden and force trucks to pay their share.

A 14.3 per cent gas tax increase was passed by the Legislature in 1981 and in 1980, another gas tax increase proposal was overwhelmingly defeated by voters. We need fair taxes requiring trucks to pay their fair share of the cost of maintaining Oregon's roads, not more taxes on car drivers. Let's find a better way to correct the road problem.

Portland Public School Tax Base: Yes

We are very pleased that the confrontation between the community and the School Board is over.

The leadership of Matthew Prophet shines brightly and the School Board and District can now go on its merry way educating children. The puzzle cannot be completed without money, so we fervently ask all to support the school tax base on your ballot. Programs must be maintained to continue the high quality of education in the Portland School District.

Ballot Measure No. 1

Ballot Measure 1 would allow state bond money to be used to build municipal water projects. Currently, the Oregon Constitution only allows the money to fund loans for irrigation and drainage projects; the measure would add the municipal use and allow half the bond money to be lent to towns of fewer than 30,000 population for their water projects. Small towns and communities in the state have had water quality problems in the past and Ballot Measure 1 could help rectify them. We recommend a yes vote.

Multnomah Ballot Measure No. 6

This amendment to the county charter would make the county sheriff, clerk, district court clerk and assessor elected positions rather than appointive, as they are now. It would also require salaries of all county elected officers to be set by primary or general election vote; limit officers to eight year terms; prohibit paying a county lobbyist and require any officer running for another office to immediately resign his or her current post.

There are many questions left unanswered by this amendment: How would salaries be set? Wouldn't this raise the costs of county elections? Wouldn't county departments be better run by administrators instead of persons elected through perhaps expensive or rhetoric-filled campaigns?

In the absence of concrete answers, we recommend a no vote.

MSD Councilor, District 11: David Weiss

MSD District 11, which includes Northeast Portland, has attracted three candidates for councilor. We think David Weiss is the best choice.

Incumbent Marge Kafoury has missed more than one-third of the MSD Council meetings in 1981 and is not running a vigorous campaign to retain her seat. Weiss is strongly opposed to the garbage burning plant in Oregon City and has spoken out against accounting irregularities and the lack of public involvement in MSD decisions. He would make a good addition to the council.

Supreme Court: Vern Cook

Incumbent judge J.R. Campbell was appointed by Governor Atiyeh in December 1980. Previously he had been a judge on the circuit court and the Oregon Court of Appeals, appointed to both positions and then re-elected. He is from Eastern Oregon.

Vern Cook is a Gresham attorney who served 24 years in the Oregon Legislature when he was a member of the Judiciary and Criminal law committee for 22 years and was chairman of the Judiciary Committee during the 1979 session. He co-chaired the 1979 committees that rewrote Oregon's Rules of Civil Procedure and strengthened anti-trust. He chaired the interim committee that rewrote Oregon's evidence code. He is considered to be one of the leading experts on Oregon's open meeting and open records laws and in election law. In other words—Vern Cook understands the law.

His own background, his personal philosophy, and his concern for the "under-dog" ensure that his application of the law be equitable, just and humane.

We endorse Vern Cook for Position 4 on the Supreme Court of Oregon.

District Court, Dept. 14: Gary Roberts

Through his service with Legal Aid Gary Roberts has demonstrated his commitment to making the legal system work for the poor and for minorities.

He has not been afraid to battle with the most powerful adversaries in his pursuit of legal rights. He sued the State Attorney General and Labor Commissioner to make the Civil Rights Bureau more responsive; he represented the Gray Panthers in their legal efforts to gain more rights for nursing home patients; he obtained court orders to prevent involuntary transfer of nursing home patients; he served on the Storrs Committee and threatened to sue the Portland Police Union if misleading literature against a police audit committee were not withdrawn (it was). He has lobbied actively for progressive laws and helped write most of Oregon's landlord/tenant and consumer law.

Also a candidate for the position is Attorney John Toran. Toran has been in private practice since 1963, has served on numerous Oregon Bar committees including affirmative action, and served a term as legal counsel to the Senate Environment Committee. Although Toran is well qualified for this position, we believe this 8-person race will result in a close call between Roberts and Nely Johnson. Therefore we must throw our support to Gary Roberts.

Also:

House District 13: Rich Bauman
House District 14: Shirley Gold
County Auditor: Anne K. Feeney
City Auditor: Jewell Lansing

Labor Commissioner: Jim Chrest

The position of Labor Commissioner is important in that it heads the Civil Rights Division, Wage and Hour, apprenticeships and other programs of significance to workers.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries has never provided the leadership that it should in the area of civil rights. During previous administrations enormous backlogs determined that cases would take years to resolve—if ever. Now a new law provides that cases must be closed in a year whether completed or not. There are no huge backlogs, but does this promote justice?

Although some improvements have been made in some areas by the current Labor Commissioner, Mary Roberts, we still hear complaints about the Civil Rights Division. Also, the powers of the office have never been used to their fullest to promote civil rights/affirmative action or to investigate offending employers.

Jim Chrest, currently State Representative from North Portland, has a long history of interest in the causes of workers. We believe he has the ability, energy and concern to not only make the Civil Rights Bureau viable, but to use the office to advocate for civil rights and worker causes.

County Executive: Dennis Buchanan

We recommend a vote for Dennis Buchanan for Multnomah County Executive. Buchanan is currently a county commissioner and is seeking the position left vacant by Don Clark. His chief opponent is Gordon Shadburne, also a county commissioner.

Buchanan proposes a program whereby residents of the county who do not live in a city, but who receive a disproportionate amount of county services but pay the same property tax as city dwellers, be taxed for those services. This would relieve property tax for city residents. HE also favored the state takeover of the courts which will free local funds for other uses.

While Buchanan is concerned with savings and economizing to meet budgets restrictions, he places human services, health services, libraries and corrections as his priorities.

We consider Buchanan to be more in tune to those who require social services because they cannot help themselves than his opponent.

Previously endorsed:

Court of Appeals: Stephen Walker
Circuit Court, Dept. 3:
Michael Marcus
Jail Bonds: No
Appoint Chief Justice: No

WHO MAY REGISTER:

A voter must be 18 years old by election day.
A voter must be a U.S. Citizen.
A voter must be a resident of Oregon 20 days before the election.

POLL BOOK DEADLINE:

All voters whose registration forms are received by the County Elections office on or before April 28 will have their names in the poll books for the Primary election.

WHO NEEDS TO RE-REGISTER:

Anyone whose address has changed.
Anyone whose name has changed.
Anyone who wants to change political party.
Missing an election does not remove anyone from the poll book. To be removed for not voting, a voter would have to miss all elections for a 2 year period and ignore the subsequent mailed notice.

HOW TO REGISTER:

The simple registration form may be obtained at over 600 locations in the County—at all banks, all schools, all libraries, all post office branches and many other locations. In addition, over twenty shopping area locations will be staffed April 16-24. The registration form must be filled out completely and signed. There is an envelope attached to the form for mailing to the correct elections office.

REGISTRATION AFTER APRIL 29:

All voters whose registration forms are received between April 29 and May 7 will be mailed a Certificate of Registration. On and after May 8 Certificates of Registration must be picked up in person at the County Elections office. Registering early saves a trip to the Elections office and a possible lengthy wait.

CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION:

A Certificate of Registration is issued to a voter whose name will not appear in the poll book. The voter must take the Certificate to the polls, sign it before the election board and surrender it. For subsequent elections the voter's name will appear in the poll book.

INFORMATION:

Any further election information may be obtained by calling the Multnomah County Elections Division: 248-3720.

War on crime becomes war on crime

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on the black community, which has been especially critical of police activities. It is seen as an attempt to discredit the people who criticize, an attempt to say that a black journalist cannot be professional and cannot be trusted.

Ms. Williams, who is the *Observer* 'Woman of the Year', has received much support from the community since the latest attack on her.

Ms. Williams denies that she is a critic of the Police Bureau. "I have never criticized the Police Bureau. I report questions other people raise; I have also related positive things... The Administration has very little tolerance for criticism; they attack anyone who criticizes. The press reflects the criticism—the questions being raised by the public."

Ivancie has never complained to Ms. Williams directly and generally treats her cordially. His complaints have been that she has interviewed the wrong people or discussed the wrong issues. He has not accused her of misquoting him or making errors.

Chief Still reported to television reporter Claudia Brown that the Bureau has a file on Ms. Williams. "In principle I consider keeping files on a person to be completely inappropriate and a dangerous signal; I am concerned about that. Otherwise I'm not concerned—my work is out

for everyone to examine; my work speaks for itself.

"In my personal life I have nothing to be ashamed of. I've always obeyed the law. You can't defend yourself against untrue rumors, but the people who know me know what kind of person I am."

Ms. Williams is more concerned about the attack on the press and the attempt to undermine the credibility of the press. By casting aspersions on the reporters, the city administration plants doubts on the integrity of the media.

"If they are trying to intimidate me, it won't work. My best defense is to do my job. I'm not going to defend myself against the charges, but Ron Still should know that he is walking a thin line between criticism and slander."

And Jordan, too

Ms. Williams is not the only target of police ire. Commissioner Charles Jordan, also black, has also been the target of rumors.

"The police department is a sacred cow," Commissioner Charles Jordan said. "You don't touch them because of what they can do; they can create a nuisance for you." Jordan was police commissioner until last summer when Mayor Ivancie took the bureau himself and hired a new police chief, Ron Still.

"They can come to your door frequently and the neighbors wonder why. A downtown restaurant was harassed by officers hanging around

outside. People think something is the officers abuse their power but they can get you if they want."

Jordan was aware that he was being investigated by certain officers. "I knew when they were investigating me and I consulted an attorney at the time." Jordan explained that the effort was to find something in his personal life that could be used against him. "It's a subtle pressure—they are trying to tell you to stay in your place."

In every city, black officials have trouble with the police, he added. Why? Because black officials are always looking for equity. Portland is unique in that it had a black in charge of police work but does not have a large black population. "They perceive that I don't have a foundation because there are not many blacks in Portland; they perceive a weakness and attempt to use scare tactics."

"The same scare tactics were used in circulating petitions opposing a police audit committee. 'The literature said, 'It will deter self-motivated police activity' and since most police activity is self-motivated it implies the police won't do anything unless they are called. It is an implied threat."

Mayor Ivancie and Chief Still are not aware of the environment, Jordan explained. "We need a Chief who is aware of the times and will train his officers accordingly. I don't advocate letting criminals go

you. Only three to five per cent of but when there is high unemployment—frustration and anger—it pays to walk softly, let up, be courteous."

"They believe that if you get more manpower you have more force and don't have to be courteous. They haven't caught up. Twenty years ago that worked but it doesn't work now."

Ivancie fears citizen participation, he said. "He wants the bureau to run itself. Citizens' bodies can force you to take a position; he doesn't want to deal with the public—doesn't want to go against the union which is the base of much of his support."

Will he run?

Commissioner Jordan had indicated earlier that although he has expressed some interest in the Mayor's position he would not seek that position unless he felt that there were objectives for the city that he could meet as Mayor but not as a Commissioner.

"I have said I won't run for Mayor unless I have a reason. Frank has given me a lot of reasons. If I run, I will win. And I will win in the primary."

Mayor Ivancie was unavailable for comment at press time, but his response will be forthcoming.