

Senate candidates speak on the issues

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out flyers around issues like I've done in the past."

Stevenson: "I would meet regularly with people in the district. Town hall meetings are a good idea. Some of the best bills I helped pass came to me from private citizens. The role of a senator is to help citizens realize their aspirations."

What is your stand on State Divestment in South Africa and how would you work to get it through the legislature?

McCoy: "I sponsored the first bill and helped with the last. The bill has never passed because people on state retirement do not want it. They fear they are going to lose money. It's a matter of education. More and more, people are becoming aware of what the problem is and they should

come to Salem and talk in a rational way about how they can do it. No controversial legislation passes the first time around."

McElroy: "I'm not familiar with that subject."

Priestley: "I've always supported divestment. There are currently too many people in the legislature with campaign contributions that prohibit them from voting on this. It has to come from the people. Five hundred people will have to come to Salem and look mean and angry, scream and shout."

Stevenson: "I've followed that issue and know the arguments both pro and con. My instincts tell me we should divest."

What is your position on U.S. involvement in Central America,

South Africa, and what is your position on nuclear disarmament and affirmative action?

McCoy: "Foreign policy is left to the Congress. None of us in the State Legislature, other than to pass resolutions, has any effect. I'm not going to do anything about Central America in anyway. Divestment in South Africa will directly affect funds in Oregon. I'm not going to do anything about disarmament or re-armament in the State Legislature. And I've also supported affirmative action."

McElroy: "The U.S. has no business with any military involvement in Central America. We have to take care of our people here. I'm not informed enough on South Africa and support a nuclear freeze and affirmative action."

Priestley: "I vomit everytime I think of our involvement in Central America. I'm against U.S. policies in South Africa. Ballot Measure 7 (nuclear freeze) was organized out of my office. I voted for all the bills regarding affirmative action and introduced bills in this regard."

Stevenson: "I'm opposed to mining operations in Central America. We should be very careful in interfering with the internal affairs of sovereign nations. My general feelings regarding South Africa is that...we should do all we can to encourage policy changes in that country. I don't know how anyone can be other than in favor of nuclear disarmament. My record on affirmative action when I was labor commissioner speaks for clear support of it."

Williams seeks District 18 seat

Editor's note:

Last week the Portland Observer covered three of the four candidates for state representative from District 18. Harold Williams declined to be interviewed at that time, but granted us the interview this week.

If elected, what are among the steps you will institute to promote economic development for residents in District 18?

"I would work to restructure the tax system. You can give relief across the board. I will work with the banking community to make sure there are low-interest loans available to small businesses."

Who are you going to support and vote for President of the United States?

"There is none other than Jesse Jackson."

The low-income and elderly are faced with inadequate health care resources. How will you address this issue and provide medical coverage for those without?

"I would look at what is already available to see if it can be expanded. We should have a voucher system in the state for any person who desires and needs health care."

What type of communication link will you establish to keep in tune with the voices of District 18?

"I will go into the community on a quarterly basis to let people know what is going on. I'll constantly be involved."

Why should residents in District 18 vote for you?

"I'm sincere and committed to the overall goals in the district. I've learned the system as an apprentice. This community helped me get through school and I own this community to give something back as quality. I'm prepared. I've paid my dues."

The subsection of the economic question deals with jobs. What would you do to create employment opportunities for residents in District 18?

"We have to embrace the banking community and the Chamber of Commerce to see what they are doing to attract business into our community. Also, we can see where we could get low-interest loans and which business is best suited for our zoning. I would give that information to MBE's and small proprietors."

Why participate in the District 18 leadership forum if you were not going to abide by its decision? (Margaret Carter, 97; Harold Williams, 76; and Luther Strong, 25).

"It was my understanding that it would be an opportunity for people to hear other persons who might run for office. I had some misgivings. If the community wanted to back one candidate I had run before and came short by 60 votes. I'm the only one who had something to lose. All too often, people want you to feel the way they want you to feel and echo what they want to hear. I say 199 people don't dictate to this district. My feeling is you have a right to endorse any person that you choose. What has been said, that Harold Williams agreed to drop out, is an outright lie. I respect the process. I did not say I agree with it."

Your stand has, in effect,



HAROLD WILLIAMS

broken with the ranks of Black leaders in the community. Please explain.

"I don't consider it breaking from the ranks. We were never in a situation where it was stated that the forum would be the voice of the community. It was a group of people who have stations of status in the community. The issue is not with personalities, but to give the community a choice. The primary is to decide who is the best qualified. No small group decided that. Those in the forum are not my spokespersons. They have concerns and opinions and I have concerns and opinions. I respect their's and I hope they respect mine."

The centerpiece of your campaign platform is your experience in the system. Yet, sources close to your job in Salem, as a labor negotiator, said your job was in trouble. Prior to you filing a discrimination suit, they were going to charge you with incompetence. What is really going on?

"I filed a suit against the State of Oregon because I was denied promotion to a salary range of \$29,000. I am receiving a salary range of \$26,000. Every labor negotiator in the state is 29 except me and I have the most seniority. I asked why and found out by accident that everybody else was promoted to a 29. The supervisor said it was a gut feeling. We determine the success of a person if they successfully complete their contract. I completed all mine. The state determines how high a Black male and female can go. They felt I'd gone as high as I should go. Black people are not to make beyond that. When I confronted the supervisor, he said they would grind me into the ground for challenging them. Therefore, I filed a suit."

Running for State Representative drops your salary by \$18,000.

"I have to give up my job to run for office. With my family, I have prepared for the sacrifice. We need someone in the system who understands the bureaucracy. We need a voice to open the door wider. Over the last 25 years, this community has given a lot to me. I'm in a position to give back what has been given to me. I'm one of the few people in government who has been at the executive level who understands how it functions. That is one of the reasons why a lot of people outside this community are opposed to my candidacy. They try from the outside to build up a picture to put you in confrontation with your own."

Who are these forces from the outside?

"The Roberts—Barbara and Frank Roberts. They feel they should determine what is fair for this community. I say to Herb Cawthorne, John Garlington and Ron Herndon that we look at why other people are trying to orchestrate what happens in our community. They ran Ed Leek's campaign and are quietly supporting other interests that are negative to this community under the banner of liberalism."

Those who attended the forum who were not committed to any one candidate felt your answer to the question, 'What have you done for the community over your job responsibilities?' was elitist and side stepped the question. Your answer was, 'To be a good husband and a good father. Explain.

"It wasn't intended to be elitist. I feel all too often the image of the Black man in the family is very negative. I was trying to make the point that I was trying to be a positive force as it relates to the family. I have many community activities. To state that you are a good father and husband is a positive. You have to start at home."

In 1970, you voted to exclude women from the City Club.

"That has come to haunt me. At that time, it was not a situation of voting against women. The question came up which said, should the City Club have the right to be a man's club. By me being Black and saying that, I was thrust out as being anti-women. That was a mistake. That was 14 years ago and I don't think that is something that should be held over my head."

Political observers and some voters view your presence in the race as a spoiler. If you or Carter do not get in, many will blame you for that.

"One of the things people should look at is I don't view my candidacy as a spoiler. I ran last time and was short by 60 votes. I'm running this time because I came so close last time. I did not accuse Carter of being a spoiler and not being supportive of me, had having a hoax meeting to pick a person when they had someone that has been tested. I'm not in the race for ego or financial gain. I'm in it for the positive development of this community."

I can't help but hear in your answers that you feel it was your natural right to run because you ran before.

"It is my right to run as a citizen. I feel the primary will determine who is qualified."

Candidates fair

Bring your concerns and questions to the politicians who want to represent you! Candidates for State Treasurer, Secretary of State, House and Senate Districts 18 and 19, city commissioners, mayor and various judges will be present.

The fair will be Saturday, April 28th, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th Avenue, in the Cafeterium.

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is sponsoring the event.

Citizens Congress set for N/NE area

Special problems effecting North/Northeast Portland will be part of the discussion at the Citizens Congress at Cleveland High School, Saturday, April 28th.

Rev. John Garlington will be the keynote speaker on, "Citizens Do Make a Difference." Other North/Northeast citizens active on the program for the Congress include Bob Nelson, chair pro-tem; Fern Alexander, vice chair pro-tem; Joice Taylor, chair, Human Services Committee.

Interested citizens are urged to become delegates and to take part in this forum for involvement in the issues. Forms are available at the N.E. Coalition Office, 4815 N.E. 7th or from a number of individuals. It will be an open meeting and people can register at the start of the meeting, April 28th.

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