

# Campaign 1998

"VOTE" It's your privilege & your responsibility



## Voting Is My Choice, Everyone's Responsibility

BY HAROLD L. "BUTCH" MILLER

On November 3rd, I will be 1,500 miles from my home in Woodbridge, Va. Still my voice will be heard because my absentee ballot is in the mail. I have never missed voting in an elec-

tion since I became eligible to vote. I do it because it is my choice.

As Election Day 1998 draws near I wonder where the majority of American voters will be. Statistics show me they won't be at the polls. That's a disgrace.

During a span of 28 years, the

number of Americans of voting age has increased more than 77 million while the number of voters has grown by just 26 million. It doesn't take a math professor to calculate that more Americans are failing to exercise the one right, the one responsibility, that sets us apart from so many other

nations - the right to freely vote for the candidates of our choice.

What is the compelling reason why Americans are not going to the polls? There is none. The biggest reason given for not voting: Too busy and no time off top the list at 21.5 percent in statistics compiled by the U.S. Census

Bureau. Couple that with 13 percent who dislike the candidates and 16.6 percent who just don't have an interest and we're faced with an epidemic of voter malaise.

There is no magic pill to stop this epidemic. Yet there is a place to start with you.

Voting is essential if America is to remain strong and free. If you vote, encourage others to vote. If you are a non-voter, it's time to accept your responsibility. For our representative democracy to work well, your voice and vote are needed.

## Charles Jordan Receives 1998 Roundtable Award In Washington D.C.

Charles Jordan, the Director of Portland's Parks and Recreation Department was recently awarded the 1998 Roundtable Associates Award on October 23rd for his public and professional service.

The Roundtable Associates, Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. Annually, they honor outstanding work by African Americans in the fields of Recreation, Parks, Conservation or Youth Service.

Mr. Charles Jordan was the thoughtfully chosen award recipient this year. Throughout his career, Mr. Jordan included parks, recreation and conservation in his arsenal of human service tools for providing guidance, giving hope and finding ways

(right) Charles R. Jordan, Director of Portland's Parks and Recreation Department.



to open doors that lead the way to opportunity and quality of life. Through responsibility and experience that has ranged from senior and youth programs, jobs training and

human relations, he lends a perspective to the parks, recreation and conservation movement that has been described as insightful, refreshing, bold and visionary.

## Report Reveals Wide Wage Gap for Oregon's Women

Every time an Oregon woman opens her paycheck, she sees two penalties - she's penalized 28 percent for being a woman and gets an extra three percent penalty for living in Oregon.

That's the conclusion of a new report issued today (Oct. 22) by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) in Washington, D.C. Entitled "The Status of Women in Oregon," the report was co-published by the University of Oregon Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS).

According to the IWPR report, women in the United States are paid slightly more than 72 cents for every dollar men are paid. The wage gap is three cents worse in Oregon, which ranks in the bottom third of states for wage equity.

The situation is especially bad for the least educated Oregon women. The report finds that the real earnings of Oregon women without high school diplomas dropped 26 percent in the last two decades, and they are paid only 62 cents for every dollar paid to men who didn't graduate from high school.

In addition, the study found significant wage gaps between racial and ethnic groups. Median incomes for African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans are between 67 percent and 75 percent of those of white families.

These findings are among the most striking in the new report, which used national data sources to compare women in the 50 states and the District of Columbia on a range of indicators of politi-

cal participation, employment and earnings, economic autonomy, reproductive rights and health.

"Even in areas where Oregon enjoys relatively high rankings, there is plenty of evidence that some groups of women do not share in the good news because poverty, racism and discrimination against lesbians and women with disabilities keeps them from reaping the benefits shared by other women," notes Sandra Morgen, CSWS director and chair of the Oregon Advisory Committee, which consulted with IWPR on the report.

As an example, the report shows that poverty rates for women of color in the state are between seven and 16 percentage points higher than for white women.

One place where Oregon women's progress has been most visible is the voting booth. The report finds that Oregon women rank sixth in the nation for voter registration, the highest in the West.

Despite this, women remain a distinct minority in elected office, both in Oregon and in the nation, according to the report. In Oregon, only one statewide elected official is female, and men outnumber women three to one in the state legislature. The high point for Oregon women is the congressional delegation, in which women constitute 40 percent of the five-person delegation to the House of Representatives. But, neither of Oregon's U.S. senators are women.

Rep. Jo Ann Bowman of Portland's District 19, a mem-

ber of the Oregon Advisory Committee, is concerned that the numbers of women elected to state offices fell in the last legislative session.

"We cannot go backwards," she says. "We have far too many important issues facing Oregon, and we need elected officials who represent all Oregonians, men and women, and members of all racial and ethnic groups."

Rep. Kitty Piercy of Eugene, Oregon House Democratic leader and another member of the Oregon Advisory Committee, says that the report is timely as lawmakers return to Salem for the legislative session in January.

"The Status of Women in Oregon report is an important tool for state policy makers," she says. "It not only compares us to other states, but helps us to understand both Oregon's successes and remaining challenges when it comes to full equality and opportunity for Oregon women."

In addition to "The Status of Women in Oregon," IWPR on Oct. 22 released a national 50-state report and nine other state reports, covering Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

Copies of the Oregon report are available for \$10 each from the Center for the Study of Women in Society, 340 Hendricks Hall, 1200 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; or by calling 541.346.5015. To receive a copy of the national report, contact Jill Braunstein, 202.785.5100.

## Yes on 26-70, Is A Vote for the Future of our Parks

Measure 26-70 is a \$68.4 million, 20-year general obligation bond measure for park renovation, improvements and construction throughout the city. It also will allow acquisition of park acreage in park deficient areas such as Southwest and Outer Southeast Portland.

There are 51 different parks or park facilities targeted. Measure 26-70 will improve or add 15 playgrounds, upgrade five community pools, fix soccer fields, and complete other maintenance projects.

Measure 26-70 has been received by Commissioner Jim Francesconi as a great legacy for future generations. There hasn't been an-

other bond like it since 1994 where \$58.8 million was allotted to parks and recreation projects throughout North and Northeast Portland. Funds were used in the creation of the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Peninsula Community Center, Cathedral Park, Alberta Park and other sites.

A levy instituted in 1989 made it possible to build the Matt Dishman Center in Northeast Portland. The center has served as a vehicle for all cultures to come together for social and recreational play.

Portland's Park system is over 147 years old and has received little attention and minor investments. "Facilities were hand me

downs and most of them have outlived their useful life at the time of acquisition. It is more than time to step up for the future generations and protect their inheritance," supports Charles Jordan (Director of Portland's Parks and Recreation).

The Portland Observer recommends Measure 26-70 as a necessary investment to secure the safety and enjoyment of parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. Please vote Yes on Measure 26-70 this November 10th.

For more information, call 823.5588 or 823.2223. There is also information on our web page: <http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us>

## Expanding The Convention Center

BY LYLE PETERS

Supporting the Center a decade ago made sense and voting for the expansion makes sense now as well. Supporting the Oregon Convention Center expansion is supporting the increased vitality of our region.

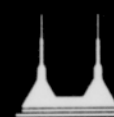
The expanded Convention Center will provide needed momentum for our Convention Center District to continue to evolve into the vibrant living room for

Oregon. Someone can and will site about the additional \$170,000,000 per year expected addition to our economy. That is certainly an impressive number and there are many, many more financial examples of why we should all support this ballot measure as a prudent use of public funding.

But there is a reason that is more important than all the financial examples. This neighborhood where I spend the majority of my time deserves our support.

I see how close we are to emerging into a premier district just as occurred with the thriving Lloyd District to the east, Downtown's rebounded Central District to the west, the booming Broadway corridor to the North and the Hawthorn to the South.

We are a proud neighborhood around the Convention Center. I want to see that pride grow as our region as a whole continues to grow. Join me to vote yes on November 3rd.



OREGON CONVENTION CENTER  
At The Center Of Success

1990-1997

ALL EXPECTATIONS SURPASSED

### ATTENDANCE:

350,000 per year originally projected  
660,000 average achieved each year  
*Nearly 5 million total attendees*

### JOBS:

3,300 jobs per year originally projected  
5,300 jobs average each year

### TAX REVENUE:

\$4.3 million per year originally projected  
\$17.5 million average generated each year  
*Total of \$122 million to help pay for schools, police & social services*

### ECONOMIC IMPACT:

*Total of \$2.5 billion in economic benefits to the region*