

Candidates Count on Experience

Rubio

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complaining that they couldn't see change, but change takes time, especially with a bureaucracy like that.

In recent years, a lot of poverty has moved to mid county and east county. What should the county government do to handle this issue?

Well I think the county's role is to provide services where the needs are. I think the migration to east county has had a huge impact of the people there. People become fearful of what they're unfamiliar with. I think the county needs to take a more active role in getting communities to accept change. I don't know what form that would take, but we need to address that. New services will be required. We're in the middle of major change and I think the county needs to be preparing for that right now. We absolutely need to take a bigger role and not just let the fear create anger, prejudice, perceived racism, and violence at the end of the day.

Do you think the county can do anything to mitigate the displacement of people from gentrification?

I think the county can take a bigger role in education and facilitating the process. I don't think we can stop what's started, but maybe make it more equitable and easier for people to come back to the community by providing the resources to purchase homes. It's ridiculously impossible to purchase a home in this area. Let's see if we can provide some sort of support to help them move back. I don't think you can stop progress because in a way it is progress. It may have negative impacts on specific communities, but let's do something about mitigating that impact by allowing

people the resources and the wherewithal.

You said that equity is one of your goals, but it's hard to reach people who are poor or marginalized. What are some strategies for doing that?

Well, I think that the county can do more in terms of funding community organizations that can reach certain people. I don't think it's enough to set up a clinic in an area where there is a high concentration of people living in poverty. I think outreach needs to be done. You can't just give a person a slip of paper that says to go to an office. They're not going to go. I think that it needs to be done by people who have the trust of the community, especially new immigrants.

How are you doing on endorsements?

I have the endorsement of two ex-county commissioners, Maria Rojo and Serena Cruz. I also have school board member Martin Gonzalez and of course Mayor Tom Potter. But I also have community endorsements from all sectors of the community.

Is there anything that County Chair Ted Wheeler or County Commissioner Jeff Cogen did particularly well?

I think Ted Wheeler did a good job of making people feel like things were in control. He came in with fresh eyes, fresh ideas, and got the county through this major budget crisis, at least part ways. I think he conveyed security and confidence. But I don't think that the community really feels a connection to the county right now. I would like the community to really identify and know what the county services are and know they are accessible to them.

Are there any community or political figures you really admire?

I really admire Avel Gordly's leadership style. She's consistent. She's steady. She gets things done. She's a gentle person. Of course I admire my old boss. He's a very genuine, ethical leader.

Hansen

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police is they're police. You know, they really can't do a whole lot until a crime has been committed. So it's almost like some different form of community responders, other than police, might make a lot of sense with things like domestic violence and mental health incidences. We got CHIERS and Hooper [Detox Center], and that system works better than when the police just drag them into jail.

The other big issue facing the county for a long time is the empty Wapato jail. I'm proposing that it be converted to a drug treatment facility creating a program within the state justice system that would be like a super drug court, where people faced with two years incarceration for property crimes, who are also dealing with drug and alcohol issues -- which the vast majority of people involved with property crimes are -- would be held in advance if they could complete a 6 month close custody, intensive alcohol and drug program at Wapato. If you look at the cost of two years incarceration that the state would be avoiding, you could easily pay for a six month alcohol and drug program.

How are you doing on endorsements?

Former Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner, City Commissioner Randy Leonard, and a whole bunch of neighbors and folks in north Portland. The unions, the organizations and other groups haven't really got going yet. This thing came up so quick that most of them were done with their endorsement process.

How big of deal do you think labor will be in this election?

I don't think it's going to be huge and the reason is the labor unions don't typically play a big role in county elections.

Do you think there's anything the county can do to mitigate gentrification in north and northeast Portland?

Well, probably not, to be real frank. I know it's a hot button. There's some flip sides too. I've lived in this district for over 40 years. There was a time we had 40 percent decrease in our home value in a two year period of time. There was a point where no one bothered to fix anything up because you couldn't justify the value of the place. At a certain point there was no way to get the money back so it was a recipe for slums. I think it's the city problem. The county's is how to find a home for someone in the first place.

There's been a question that was asked by the League of Women Voters and it's started popping up in the interviews, as poverty has moved into mid-county of how do we geographically adjust our services? It's a good point, and now our services need to follow the people.

What are some things that Jeff Cogen as past county commissioner could have done better, and has he done a good job on?

Well, I endorsed Jeff for re-election in district two before the musical chairs thing. I think he did a good job, especially the way he worked on brining the board together. It was a very functional county commission. I don't want to hone in on Jeff, but there wasn't enough oversight given to Cascadia's mental health services that nearly collapsed from mismanagement and that's a long-term problem for Multnomah County. The county also doesn't do a good job of monitoring the non-profits that provide a lot of social services. When you assign so much of the county's resources and programs to non-profits you need to watch them like they were a county department.

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A Sister of Sisters (S.O.S.)

African American Breast Cancer Survivor Support Group

Transition to Wellness ~ Mind & Body

Sponsored by Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The Portland Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta is organizing a breast cancer survivor support group for African American Women. We would like to invite all African American Breast Cancer Survivors to join "A Sister of Sisters" (S.O.S.) - a breast cancer support group focusing on issues relating to African American women surviving breast cancer.

If you're an African American Breast Cancer Survivor - please join us:

Time: April 29th, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Place: Providence Irvington Village (community room)

Address: 420 NE Mason St. / Portland, OR.

- Light refreshments will be served -

