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Daylight
savings time
ends on
Sunday

Down Home Blues

Honoring the late
blues, gospel and
jazz legend Janice
Scroggins

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The Portland Observer 44

'City of Roses'



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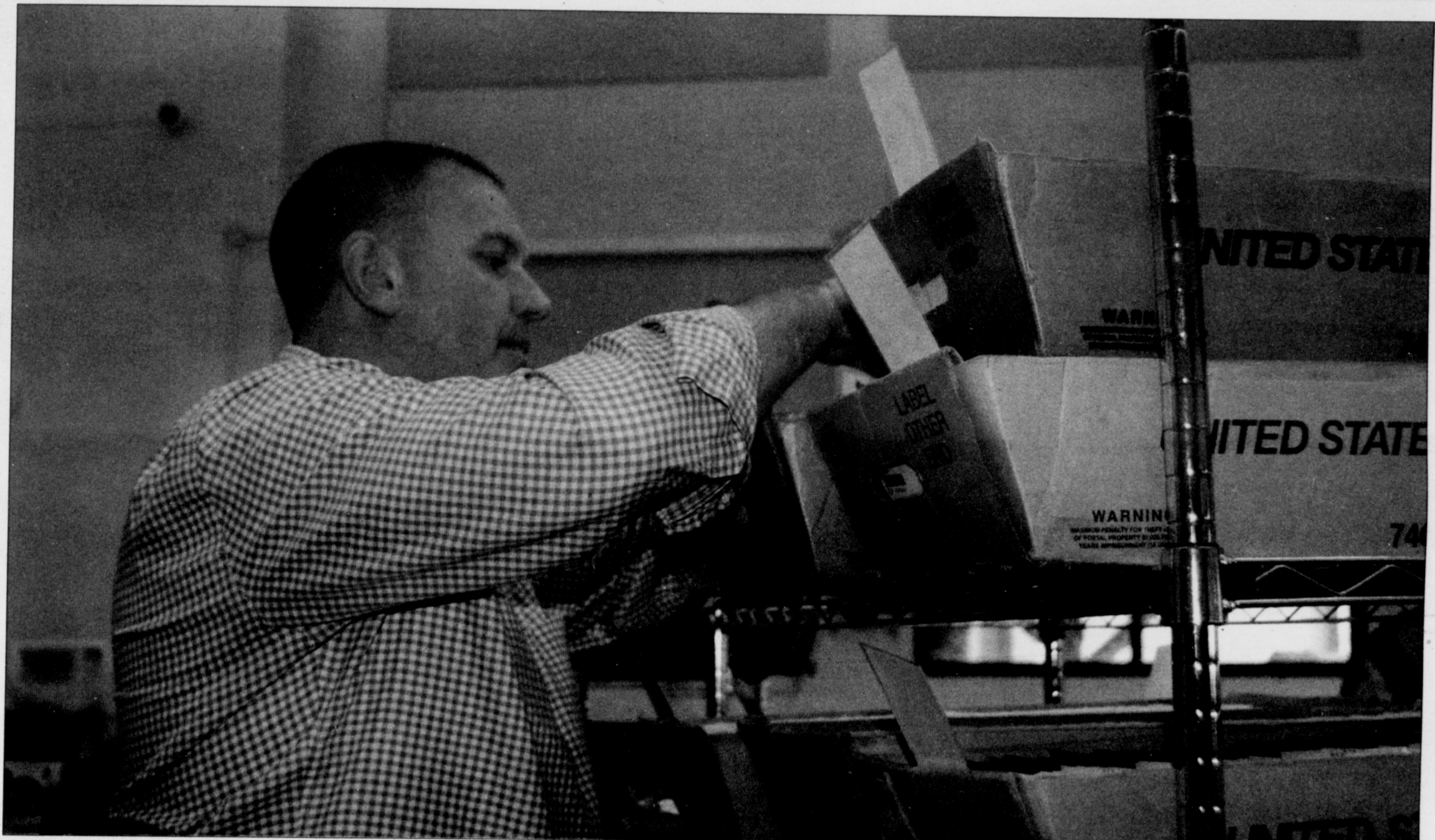


PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ballots already received in the approaching Nov. 4 General Election are sorted by Tim Scott, Multnomah County director of elections. Scott predicts that about 70 percent of registered voters will participate in the election which is dominated by several important and controversial issues.

From marijuana to parks, ballot issues dominate

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Voters are about to have their say in an election featuring Oregon candidates for Governor and U.S. Senator and dominated by some important and controversial issues, ranging from supporting parks and schools to the proposed legalization of marijuana and allowing driving privileges based on the ability to drive safely and not on immigration status.

To get your vote counted in the state's vote-by-mail election, the ballot must be received at an official county elections box or county elections office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

As of Tuesday, about 22 percent of registered voters in Multnomah County had already turned in their ballots, according to Tim Scott, the county's director of elections.

Scott is predicting a total turnout of about 70 percent to

Power of the Vote

roughly match the turnout of registered voters in 2010, the last November General Election occurring in a mid-term cycle between presidential elections.

There are eight 24-hour ballot drop-boxes available in the Portland area, including a new one placed in the parking lot of Regal Cinemas at the intersection of Southeast 165th Avenue and Division Street.

"About 44,000 people will have a closer ballot box than

they did before," said Scott, on the new drop box location. "We try to look at underserved areas and offer them more options."

Multnomah County libraries will also collect ballots, but only during normal library operating hours.

For those who haven't decided how they will vote in every race, the approaching deadline gives a bit more time to learn about the candidates and issues, many of which could use clarification or further explanation.

Measure 86 seeks to change the Oregon Constitution to allow for the establishment of higher education bonds for Oregon college students and students in other career training programs. The measure would authorize the state to finance student funding and allow the state to incur debt if need be to help those students attend school. Proponents say that a 'yes' vote would provide more support for students pursuing higher education, but detractors are concerned about the financial risk involved.

Measure 88 would affect immigrant groups in the state. If passed, the measure would allow residents to get drivers licenses without the state requiring proof of the right to stay in the country. At the moment, many undocumented Oregon drivers find themselves trying to get licenses from Washing-

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