

The INSIDE

The Week in Review page A2

OPINION pages A6-7

SPORTS pages A8



METRO page A11



pages A10-13
Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

CLASSIFIEDS page A14-15

CALENDAR page A15



WASHINGTON CLASSIC B section

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What's on your list today?®

LOCAL NEWS



The Multnomah County Elections Office, 1040 S.E. Morrison St., opens for extended hours ahead of Tuesday's May 17 Primary. Ballots in the vote-by-mail election can be dropped off at the elections office and any official drop site location until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Ballots Due

Decision time for Oregon voters

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon's Primary day is right around the corner and one look into the Voter's Pamphlet shows the magnitude of issues and candidates facing voters. With ballots due by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, the time to hone in on which way to vote is now.

A split choice in the Democratic Party between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton gives Oregon a voice on who is best to face Donald Trump in the November General Election. Trump has become

the presumptive Republican nominee nationally after vanquishing all of his primary opponents. Clinton leads Sanders, but hasn't reached the total delegates to push her over the top. Though Clinton has a longer political resume, Sanders' forthright and grassroots campaign has also made him a popular choice.

In local races, Tawna Sanchez and Robert Phillip-Robbins highlight a primary race for state representative in House District 43, covering the heart of Portland's historic African American community in inner north and northeast Portland. The winner would advance to the November General Election as the odds-on favorite in

a heavily Democratic district. Sanchez and Phillip-Robbins are gunning for Lew Frederick's seat as he turns his attention to running for Senate District 22, which covers the same area as his house district in combination with neighboring House District 44 which extends northwest to St. Johns and the Columbia River.

Some of Frederick's issues are cutting healthcare costs and bringing more afterschool and summer programs to neighborhoods. Sanchez and Phillip-Robbins both support more affordable housing, labor rights, and stabilizing the Cully neighborhood where poverty is greater than other parts of Portland and where many residents live on unsafe streets without sidewalks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Ethnic Studies for All High Schools

In a 7-0 vote, the Portland Public Schools Board of Education has agreed to support an expanded ethnic studies curriculum in all of the district's high schools.

The proposal was generated by the Asian Pacific Network of Oregon (APANO) and its youth organization group, Asian and Pacific Islander Leaders for the Liberation of Youth, or "ALLY" for short. Public testimony and

letters in support was also drawn from the Native American Youth and Family Center, the Urban League of Portland, Latino Network and Momentum Alliance.

The original plan was heavily backed by Dr. Julie Esparza Brown, a member of the school board and a Portland State University professor. It calls for at least one ethnic studies course in each Portland high school as well as the creation of both an

oversight committee and a student advisory council to oversee the curriculum's implementation.

Superintendent Carole Smith will lead the district in working the courses into their budget, while also working with an APANO ALLY leader to co-create the ethnic studies curriculum. With everything in place, course offerings should be in gear by Fall 2018.