



Aretha Franklin's Powerful Legacy

Funeral services planned for undisputed 'Queen of Soul'

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Family Holds PSU Accountable

Pushes for disarming force; firing officers

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BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jo Ann Hardesty, the front-runner for a seat on Portland City Council, briefs her campaign staff on Saturday before they head out for door-to-door canvassing from her campaign headquarters at the Filipino American Association at 8917 S.E. Stark St.

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There wasn't a minute to waste as Portland City Council Candidate Jo Ann Hardesty greeted supporters and reached out to voters. The frontrunner to become the first African American female city commissioner was fully engaged in her signatory boots-on-the-ground activist mode.

Meeting at the Bipartisan Café, just down from her campaign headquarters in southeast Portland, Hardesty had the phone to her ear. She thanked a union representative who had just given her their endorsement. Another endorsement is delivered in person when a woman running for the State Legislature canvassing in the same neighborhood stops in to greet her. Hardesty then finds a moment to turn to an elderly man who was sitting next to her at the cafe, making sure he got the sandwich

Focused on Issues

Hardesty's boots-on-the-ground campaign

he ordered.

"You come in here an awful lot," the man told her. "You must be the governor by now."

"Not yet," Hardesty quipped. "I'm just running for a little small post like Portland City Council."

The man listens intently as Hardesty

answers my reporter questions while also keeping the potential voter in her orbit.

As the decisive May Primary winner for a position currently occupied by retiring City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, Hardesty is running confidently. Her optimism shows just as it had the night before at a Race Talks Forum which also featured Hardesty's opponent, Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith.

Hardesty, 60, a former state representative from Portland from 1995 to 2000, and a longtime grassroots political activist and former president of the Portland NAACP, has centered her campaign on four main platforms: Housing and homelessness, green jobs, police accountability, and access to local government.

On her point to make entering politics

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