



Clocks move back one hour on Sunday as Daylight Savings Time ends



**Pleas for Peace**  
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PHOTOS BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith (left) and activist and former State Rep. Jo Ann Hardesty (right) compete for election to the Portland City Council. Voters in Oregon have until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6. to vote by depositing ballots at an official county election office or drop box. Postmarks do not count.

# Momentum to Vote

## Smith, Hardesty contest propels local ballot

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Just a week out from the Tuesday, Nov. 6 General Election and Oregon is poised to see a larger than normal turnout, boosted in part by a bigger interest in the Midterm elections nationally but also in a local race for a coveted Portland City Council seat that will make history by ushering in Portland's first black female councilwoman—the contest between former NAACP President and State Rep. Jo Ann Hardesty and current Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith.

It's estimated that from 45 to 50 percent of eligible voters nationally will cast a bal-

lot by Election Day, a turnout that would exceed any non-presidential election year going back 50 years, according to Michael McDonald, a University of Florida professor who studies and maintains a turnout database, electproject.org. A turnout that high would be leaps and bounds larger than just the last midterm election, in 2014, when a record low 36 percent of voters cast a ballot, the lowest since World War II.

Some voters in the community shared their thoughts with the Portland Observer about why more people may be voting this year.

"I mean obviously Trump has a huge impact on that. It's kind of like revenge,

I think," said Gus Brunder from northeast Portland, who added that he votes in every election.

Miles Craig, a Jo Ann Hardesty supporter from northeast Portland, echoed Brunder's sentiment, saying opposition to Trump's presidency is influencing more voters to cast their ballot.

"I think because of what's happening in the nation, it seems bigger than usual," he said.

According to McDonald, in a report on Oregon Public Broadcasting, early voting across the country has already reached record highs in comparison with other Midterms. There's also a record number of can-

didates, including more women, who filed to run this year.

The voting trends are a reversal of what happened in Oregon in the May Primary when the turnout, at 34 percent, hit a low not seen in several decades. What's more, turnout for the General Election traditionally nets a much higher swatch of voters than do the primaries.

The expected increase in voting could make the race for the City Council seat being vacated by retiring councilman Dan Saltzman a tighter one than the May Primary when six candidates ran and Hardesty

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