



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

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The Skanner News Endorsements

Over the past few weeks we have had excellent interactions with our readers over the May 15 primary elections. We solicited your questions for the candidates on Facebook – and received some of the best feedback ever, which we incorporated into our coverage. We also fielded calls from around the city from voters who directly expressed their opinions about the candidates of their choice – and we enjoyed hearing their views.

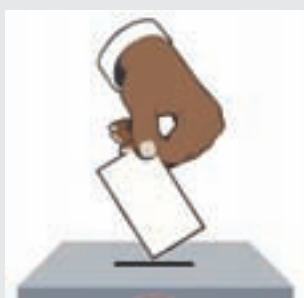
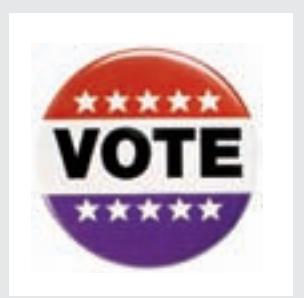
This election season is rolling out at a time when our local communities are facing an economic and social catastrophe. In Portland, two of the most celebrated schools are back on the chopping block; public transit has been trimmed so severely that whole sections of the city worry they are being cut off from the downtown core; home foreclosures are swamping the housing system and driving skyward even the cost of rentals.

Our youth of color and our elders seem to be in the path of this deadly tornado as service programs of all kinds are set to be decimated by budgets currently under consideration at every arm of local government. Meanwhile, unemployment is dragging down our community like a cement weight on a swimmer.

We ask ourselves: What kind of political leadership will lead us out of this mess?

Is it fair to criticize the incumbents who failed to do what even the most powerful figures in the nation can't fix — the economy? And all the backbiting, negative campaigning and misinformation has kept us shaking our heads at times.

One thing is clear: Whoever is elected to office had better be ready to stop attacking their colleagues and start engaging in the real issues. For this crop of endorsements, we at The Skanner News put a premium on individuals who know how their prospective elected offices work, because our region doesn't have time for learning curves right now. We also looked for people who value public input, collaboration

MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 1 ✓ DEBORAH KAFOURY	Candidates	METRO COUNCILOR DISTRICT 5 ✓ SAM CHASE
MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 3 ✓ JUDY SHIPRACK	CITY OF PORTLAND MAYOR ✓ CHARLIE HALES	METRO COUNCILOR DISTRICT 6 ✓ BOB STACY
	CITY OF PORTLAND COMMISSIONER POSITION 1 ✓ AMANDA FRITZ	
	CITY OF PORTLAND COMMISSIONER POSITION 4 ✓ STEVE NOVICK	

and grassroots community.

And here's a heads-up for the candidates themselves: You'd better be up to the challenge and ready to get things done.

In the races for Multnomah County Commission, we endorse incumbents **Deborah Kafoury** for District 1 and **Judy Shiprack** for District 3.

In the City of Portland races we endorse **Charlie Hales** for mayor and **Amanda Fritz** for City Commissioner Position 1. We are endorsing **Steve Novick** for Portland City Commissioner Position 4, because he is politically sophisticated, smart and has a long track record of fearlessly confronting large institutions in the public interest – however we don't see him as a consensus builder, and that is a concern.

For Metro Councilors, we endorse **Bob Stacy** for District 6, and **Sam Chase** for District 5. Chase is not an incumbent, but his political ties to the Oregon Opportunity Network, the

Clackamas Community Land Trust and currently the Coalition of Community Health Clinics puts his knowledge base squarely on some of the crisis hotspots right now. This was a tough decision because we like Helen Ying's focus, stamina and positive attitude; hopefully Ying will run for office again and we will have a chance to possibly give her our endorsement in the future.

We also endorse **Measure 26-125**, funding for our local library system. If passed the levy will simply continue the previous levy, at .89 cents per \$1,000 assessed home value.

Ballot Measure

YES ON
MULTNOMAH COUNTY
#26-125 LIBRARY LEVY

Finding Morality in Budget Documents

This week the nation funds our priorities as we pay our annual tax bill. “Our budget is a moral document and it is either going to reflect the best of who we are or the worst.” This was so eloquently stated by the Rev. Jim Wallis of *Sojourners*. Tax expenditures thus speak to who we are as a people. They define the sacrifices and choices we are willing to make as we look to the future for our nation and citizens young and old alike. Each expenditure is by necessity a critical affirmation of meeting the nation's needs.

With a continued waning economy, each dollar becomes even more significant. So many issues remain under funded or non-funded and therefore the decisions we make are even more critical. From education, healthcare, infrastructure to environmental stewardship we are forced to choose and prioritize our needs. Yet there remains a gorilla in the room that not only threatens our very survival, it steals from the lifeblood of every community in our nation, depriving them of precious resources and taking a toll in opportunity costs – the critical programs left wanting when funding is not available. I am speaking of the massive dollars spent on behalf of nuclear weapons programs. Once again this number will exceed \$54 billion for the current fiscal year according to Stephen Schwartz, author of the Atomic Audit.

The weapons that these expenditures support threaten our very

PEACE AND SECURITY

Robert Dodge

existence every moment of every day. Every citizen and every community feels the burden of these costs. From our nation's poorest community—Buffalo County, South Dakota with its 1912 residents, 49.3 percent who live in poverty spending \$138,172 of its limited dollars—to Los Angeles County spending over \$1.7 billion, the costs are great and morally reprehensible.

Public education is but one example of lost opportunity. On a daily basis school districts across

scientists, teachers, professionals and leaders. I ask, is this our priority? What is the ripple effect of such short-sightedness? We all will suffer the consequences. This does not have to be the case. When will we speak up? We have an opportunity and responsibility to realize the possibilities before us.

We now have bipartisan elder statesmen who are working to globally eliminate all nuclear weapons stockpiles. We even have U.S. Air Force researchers and RAND corporation nuclear planners who suggest the U.S. could address its stated military concerns with roughly 300 nuclear weapons. Current global stock-

pled that a majority of U.S. and global citizens want to see nuclear weapons eliminated. Their continued existence encourages further spread of nuclear materials and weapons. Now is the time to redefine our priorities.

We the people have an opportunity and responsibility to make a difference. It is time for all of us to raise our collective voice and demand that the nuclear madness stop. We can no longer gamble on our future relying on luck to protect us from accidental or intentional nuclear strike. Nor can we afford to waste precious resources on any program that does not add value to our future let alone that which threatens our very existence. Every elected official needs to be questioned what they are doing specifically to work toward a nuclear free world. You can contact your congressional representative or senator by going to www.contactingthecongress.org. Let your voice be heard. For when the people lead, the leaders will follow.

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the land deal with ever shrinking resources. As a Californian I am terribly concerned for our state's public financed education. California ranks 48 in the nation in per pupil spending. As an American, I know the cuts in public education across the land will have an everlasting effect on the future of our nation and the world.

Is this really what we want? Today's children are tomorrow's

piles contain 19,500 weapons with over 94 percent in the U.S. and Russian arsenals. Nuclear weapons programs are not an entitlement program. They have outlived their Cold War purpose and it is now time to work to reduce and ultimately eliminate these dangerous weapons and wasteful expenditures.

The choice is ours. National and international surveys have con-

Robert Dodge, M.D. is a board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles (www.psrla.org) where he is a Peace and Security Ambassador. He is also a board member of Beyond War (www.beyondwar.org) where he coordinates their Nuclear Weapons Abolition Team. He is co-chairman of Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions (www.c-p-r.net).