

Ballot

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change by next week.

Sample pointed to the 2008 primary race between Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton as an example, which he compared to the mid-term primary elections in 2010.

“So four years ago you had 60 percent turnout – that was the presidential primary

with the contested Democratic presidential ticket,” he said. “There was a lot of interest and there are a lot of

Democrats in Multnomah County.

“In this election we’re on track similar to what we were in the May 2010 primary where we were at 35 percent turnout,” Sample said.

“But that doesn’t mean this week and Monday, Tuesday of next week that we couldn’t have a huge surge and turnout

could definitely go beyond what it was two years ago,” he said. “That wouldn’t surprise me at all.”

Sample said that for a candidate to win in a contested primary – ending the race before the General Election which is held in November — they must receive 51 percent

of the votes, which is most likely in races where there are few candidates.

“Some of the races – there are the county commission seats – some of those the candidates may

win in the primary,” Sample said. “Getting to 50 percent in a primary is very rare but it does happen.”

For more information about Multnomah County Elections click here <http://web.multco.us/elections>

‘Getting to 50 percent in a primary is very rare but it does happen’

Jordan

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fitting tribute for the man who added 44 new parks and natural areas to Portland’s system, and put people front and center of the city’s parks policy.

“There’s not a place where you can look in this city and not see his footprint,” says Michelle Harper, who worked with Jordan at the City and at Portland Parks. “Portland’s living room,” Pioneer Courthouse Square, would not have existed if not for his leadership. And he was the first to call it Portland’s living room. In so many ways, he was ahead of his time.”

Jordan was the guiding light behind quintessential Portland landmarks such as: the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Delta Park, Southwest Community Center; renovations to Tom McCall Waterfront Park and to Matt Dishman Center and, of course, Pioneer Square.

“His great saying was, ‘Parks are more than just fun and games,’” Harper says. “He is a spiritual person with a strong connection to his church, and he saw us all as being connected. Parks were where we

could come together to build community and family.”

Built to house shipyard workers who arrived in Portland during the 1940s, University Park Community Center is a relic of Vanport. The low-income, multi-racial community was lost to flooding when a dike broke on the Columbia River. When Jordan became Parks Bureau director in 1989, the center was a run-down building in a crime-ridden neighborhood.

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“He was determined to make sure the families who came to that center felt that they had a safe place to play that was as good as any in the City,” the proposal committee writes. “He often walked the halls of the center to watch the children play and to show that this place was special, just like the children who played there.”

Kelly

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spiritual background helps me be empathetic. Personally I believe all wisdom is God’s wisdom. I show the compassion that Jesus would. Jesus was around a lot of non-believers.”

A mother of two who works full-time as a bilingual Medicaid eligibility worker for Multnomah County Health Department, Kelly was born in Patterson, N.J. and moved to Portland during middle school.

After graduating from Jefferson High School in 1989, Kelly graduated from Portland State with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and French.

She is in charge of spiritual care and handles counseling for veterans, and also performs ceremonies such as marriages, funerals and christenings.

Kelly says she’s lucky not to have been deployed to any dangerous theaters, but she is with her soldiers in spirit.

Ordained in 1997, Kelly also serves as

Associate Pastor of Maranatha Church in Northeast Portland. She says she was born and raised in the church and that she found her faith at a young age.

“I sensed a call to do work for him (God),” says Kelly. “When I was younger I thought I would be on a mission field. God doesn’t give you the whole picture at once.”

Before she was ordained, Kelly taught Sunday school, led Bible studies and worked with young adults in the church.

She began seminary at Western Evangelical Seminary and completed her studies at Western Seminary.

According to Kelly, faith was part of what led her to the military. She says she had friends and family in the service who insisted she would be a good chaplain; so she signed up for the Guard and was given the opportunity.

For the most part, this didn’t cause much commotion, she says.

Aspire

PHOTO BY LISALOVING

The YWCA of Greater Portland’s 20th Annual Inspire Luncheon featured NPR radio host Michele Norris, co-host of All Things Considered, here at left signing her memoir, “The Grace of Silence,” for Donna Maxey. Norris addressed a large, lively crowd at the downtown Hilton Hotel on The Race Card Project, which she started in 2010 to explore America’s experiences and attitudes about race.

Against advice to raze the center, Jordan won voter approval to turn it into one of the best and most-used community centers in Portland.

Jordan spent much of his career in Portland, first as a twice-elected city commissioner, and later as Parks director. Yet his advocacy, big-picture vision, and sheer charisma won him friends and admirers not just in Oregon, but across the nation.

His legacy includes five years as parks director for Austin, Texas, and five years at the helm of the Conservation Fund. And wherever he went, he fought to bring people of color to the table.

In Austin, the Charles Jordan Hall, at Conley-Guerrero Senior Center was named for him. “Lady Bird Johnson was one of his strongest supporters,” Fish says.

“If there were any stumbling blocks, she’d move them right out of his way.”

As city commissioner, Jordan created Portland’s first police accountability body, the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee or PIIAC. He brought police into schools to create positive relationships, pushed for equity in city recruitment, and

championed citizen involvement. He also fired two police officers for dumping dead possums outside an African American-owned restaurant. That spurred a police march on city hall. Jordan didn’t back down, but in a now-familiar process the officers were rehired.

At Portland Parks, he set in motion popular programs such as, Pot Luck in the Park and Movies in the Park, and too many youth initiatives to mention. He also succeeded in gaining public support for two large bond measures and a parks levy. Famously, his love of young people fueled his work.

“I am in the business of crime prevention,” he said about his work at the Parks bureau. “I challenge any police bureau in the country to beat me at crime prevention. We have thousands of young people playing on fields and courts, and when they are with me they are not hurting themselves or anyone else.”

Jordan’s son, Dion Jordan, said the family feels honored by the proposal.

“I think it’s a good choice as far as location, across from the school and the Boys and Girls Club, and that it’s a community center, because he is all about community.”

Now 74, Jordan is in good health, but is dealing with some short-term memory loss, Dion Jordan says.

“That’s another reason why it’s such a good time to do this.”

“I’ve never had anyone get up and leave,” says Kelly. “In the military you learn to adjust to adversity. I had a funny moment at one event where someone asked me, ‘Are you the chaplain’s assistant?’”

Kelly will be using her experience as an underrepresented voice to advocate for other veterans she feels are underserved. Specifically, she says she wants to advocate for traditional Guardsmen because, according to Kelly, most of the people serving on the Veterans’ Affairs Advisory Committee are chosen from former active duty soldiers.

This has resulted in, she says, more extensive GI loans for active duty soldiers; the issue, she says, is that Guardsmen are not eligible for some benefits because they are considered by some to be “weekend warriors” rather than full members of the military.

Another issue she wants to address is defining military leave. Currently the state can only give Guardsmen two weeks of military leave. Kelly says two weeks isn’t enough.

“I’m tasked to do extra things like funerals and weddings,” she says. “This is time I



have to take away from work. What if I have used my two weeks but I need to help a family that has to bury a loved one?”

Kelly recalls one moment, during a memorial in Bulgaria, where she saw the bright eyes of a woman in the Bulgarian military and was touched by the sight of a fellow female soldier.

“I deploy through my members,” says Kelly. “As they travel across the globe, I’m privileged to be able to serve, pray for them and reach out to families.

“When they return I can help them transition back to civilian life.”