

# Election Special



## The Skanner News 2012 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 and grassroots community.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
COMMISSION DISTRICT 1  
✓ **DEBORAH KAFOURY**

MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
COMMISSION DISTRICT 3  
✓ **JUDY SHIPRACK**



### Candidates

CITY OF PORTLAND MAYOR  
✓ **CHARLIE HALES**

CITY OF PORTLAND  
COMMISSIONER  
POSITION 1  
✓ **AMANDA FRITZ**

CITY OF PORTLAND  
COMMISSIONER  
POSITION 4  
✓ **STEVE NOVICK**

METRO COUNCILOR DISTRICT  
5  
✓ **SAM CHASE**

METRO COUNCILOR DISTRICT  
6  
✓ **BOB STACY**



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 Communi-

ty 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

## Committee Honors Black Suffragist Hattie Redmond

Century of Action seeks family or friends who know more about mysterious 1912 activist

By Helen Silvis  
Of The Skanner News

An obscure grave in Portland's Lone Fir Cemetery is the final resting place of a Black woman who helped change the world. Her name was Hattie Redmond, and she was a leader in the 1912 campaign that won equal voting rights for Oregon women.

Now, 100 years later, the Century of Action committee plans to give Redmond's grave some long overdue respect. Century of Action is leading the centennial celebrations

for the women's voting rights victory. And they are looking for family, friends, or anyone with information about Hattie Redmond, to come forward and help design a headstone worthy of her achievements.

"We have a wonderful story to celebrate in telling Hattie's story and how she helped bring about these changes of such great sig-

nificance," says former Sen. Avel Gordly. "It is so wonderful to have that history."

Century of Action project director, Janice Dilg, has been poring over old newspapers and city records to find out as much as possible about this unsung Portland hero.

"We've been piecing together some information," Dilg says. "She lived in Multnomah County her entire life. She was married to Emerson Redmond, and we're not sure when he died, but she was a widow.

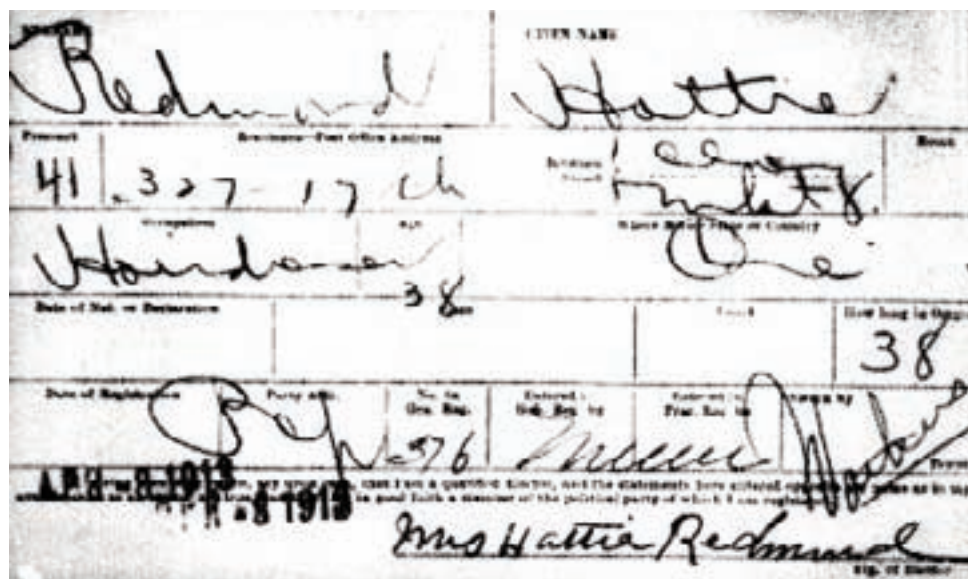
"These women poured so much of themselves into building community."

-- Avel Gordly

And she was very active in her church, one of the founding Black churches in Portland: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church."

#### Black Women Worked For the Vote

Redmond was secretary, and later president, of the Colored Women's Equal Suffrage League, which had grown out of



the Colored Women's Council of Portland. Black women formed the Women's Council of Portland in early 1912, with the mission of helping "poor and unfortunate women."

Soon after, women from five different churches joined forces to campaign for the vote. One early meeting was held at the African Methodist Church, 68 North 10th Street. Other meetings were held at Mt. Olivet, 85 N.W. Seventh St., and at the

library. Among the early Black women leaders named in news articles were: Katherine Gray, Edith Gray, Mrs. Lancaster, Mrs. Lizzie K. Weeks, Mrs. Virgil Keene, Mrs. Will Allen and Mrs. Bonnie Bogle.

"The women involved in that were involved in all kinds of programs, organizations and activities that benefited the

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