



The Skanner News Endorsements

Systematic attacks on voting rights around the country, alongside exploding issues of street violence and racial justice, are bringing the public focus firmly to the ballot as a tool for making our communities better places to live and work. We at *The Skanner News* believe strongly in voter participation. We encourage you to support these ballot measures and vote on Nov. 4.

We are watching this Election Day with interest, because the critical measures on the ballot point to a more interesting midterm election than usual. Will there be a large voter turnout? We sure hope so – with gun control and transit funding on the line in Washington State, as well as retail cannabis and legal driving cards for undocumented motorists in Oregon, there are game-changing initiatives awaiting your participation.

OREGON CANDIDATES



Sen. Jeff Merkley



Susanne Bonamici



Earl Blumenauer



Kurt Schrader

GOVERNOR OF OREGON

We are faced again with a lack of choices for state leadership. Gov. John Kitzhaber has been in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. Cover Oregon should have been his golden moment – but his lack of oversight in \$250 million of federal funds resulted in one of the biggest scandals in Oregon history. We believe the incumbent is unresponsive to the needs of diverse communities, but at the same time, candidate Dennis Richardson's views on women's issues are extremely conservative, and he has no record of working on issues critical to people of color. **That is why we cannot endorse any of the candidates for governor.**

The Skanner News endorses these unopposed candidates:

State Senator, 23rd District
Michael Dembrow

State Representative, 43rd District
Lew Frederick

State Representative, 44th District
Tina Kotek

State Representative, 45th District
Barbara Smith Warner

State Representative, 46th District
Alissa Keny-Guyer

State Representative, 47th District
Jessica Vega Pederson

U.S. SENATOR

Jeff Merkley

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

1st District **Suzanne Bonamici**
3rd District **Earl Blumenauer**
5th District **Kurt Schrader**

MEASURES

OREGON STATE BALLOT MEASURES

Measure 86 amends the Oregon Constitution to create a fund for Oregonians pursuing post-secondary education; authorizes debt to finance.

If passed this law would allow the legislature to sell bonds for a higher education loan fund benefitting college students as well as career training programs; it would not raise taxes, but it would give state lawmakers more tools to help college and trade school students get the best education they can. **We vote YES.**

Measure 87 allows judges to be hired by the National Guard and public universities; allows school employees to serve in the legislature.

This is little more than a housekeeping measure, brushing cobwebs out of our state Constitution. It would have no financial impact; why shouldn't state court judges join the National Guard or take a teaching job at a college if they choose? **We vote YES.**

Measure 88 upholds four-year driver licenses for those who cannot prove legal presence in the United States.

Our communities are far from reaching a consensus on improving our immigration laws and processes; but whatever you may think about the reform debate, this measure would make our roads safer and encourage a more humane attitude towards working families across the state. **We vote YES.**

Measure 89 guarantees equal rights regardless of sex.

Some people say Oregon doesn't need an Equal Rights Amendment for women; at the same time, women are at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder, with lower pay, less political representation and few corner offices in the corporate sector. Four retired state Supreme Court justices have made an open appeal for passage of this measure. **We vote YES.**

Ballot Measures

STATE OF OREGON

- ✓ Yes on Measure 86
- ✓ Yes on Measure 87
- ✓ Yes on Measure 88
- ✓ Yes on Measure 89
- ✗ No on Measure 90
- ✓ Yes on Measure 91
- ✓ Yes on Measure 92

CITY OF PORTLAND

- ✓ Yes on Measure 26-159

METRO DISTRICT

- ✓ Yes on Measure 26-160
- ✓ Yes on Measure 26-161

WASHINGTON

- ✗ No on Initiative 1351
- ✗ No on Initiative 591
- ✗ Yes on Initiative 594

SEATTLE

- ✓ Yes on Early Learning Proposition 1B
- ✓ Yes on Transportation Benefit Proposition 1

Measure 90 creates an open, top-two primary election system.

We are leery of changing the state elections system, especially after a sketchy campaign in which the 'Yes on 90' camp filed fake Voters Guide statements and even created a fake website to lampoon its opponents. Top Two has not resulted in less contentious elections or more ethnic

representation in the two states in which it has passed – despite claims to the contrary. **We vote NO.**

Measure 91 legalizes recreational marijuana; tasks Oregon Liquor Control Commission with regulation of its sale.

Of all ballot measures facing voters in Oregon, this might be the most far-reaching. As the so-called War on Drugs has failed to stem their use and has filled our jails and prisons with low-level offenders – all at taxpayer expense – this measure might be the best chance we have to restore some sanity to the system. Legalize it, regulate it like alcohol, and create a new revenue stream for the state. **We vote YES.**

Measure 92 mandates labeling of certain foodstuffs that contain genetically modified organisms.

We want to know what's in the food we're eating – what's wrong with that? **We vote YES.**

CITY OF PORTLAND

Measure No: 26-159 continues bonds to fix playgrounds, trails; improve park facilities, safety, and accessibility.

This measure continues the already-existing parks bond, which is modest and has so far been very well spent by Portland Parks & Recreation. Funding parks is one of the best investments we can make in community health, violence prevention and quality of life. **We vote YES.**

METRO DISTRICT

Measure No: 26-160 would retain the prohibition on Metro-required single-family neighborhood density increases.

If passed, this measure would continue a voter-imposed limitation on Metro's planning power – specifically it keeps Metro from requiring more infill homes in neighborhoods for the next 16 years. **We vote YES.**



"Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now"

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
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JERRY FOSTER
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LISA LOVING
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HELEN SILVIS
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PATRICIA IRVIN
DAVID KIDD
Graphic Designer

MONICA J. FOSTER
Seattle Office Coordinator

JULIE KEEFE
SUSAN FRIED
Photographers



The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published each Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc.,

415 N. Killingsworth St.,
P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228.
Telephone (503) 285-5555.
E-mail: info@theskanner.com
World Wide Web site:
<http://www.theskanner.com>
Fax: (503) 285-2900

The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

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