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OUR VIEW

Support for the shoo-ins

There are plenty of decisions to make on the November ballot that require a lot of thought, but there are several that are pretty much made before ballots are printed. Senators and representatives are running against relatively unknown challengers, both in federal and state elections, and some are even running unopposed. We'll run through a quick list of those races here, and some advice for voters to hold those winners accountable.

Bill Hansell, Senate District 29, has made an impact in his short time in Salem.

The long-time Umatilla County Commissioner stepped up a level to the Oregon Senate, and has made an impact there. Hansell has a clear problem-solving mentality and constituent-driven approach to the legislature. Approach him with an issue and he just might draft a bill to address it.

His work has paid off in terms of respect in a legislature where he is in the minority, as both a rural and Republican representative. His ability to reach across the aisle and across the Cascades has made him a target from a far-right segment of the party well outside the district's limits, but has done much good for this part of the state.

He has an opponent — Independent Barbara Dickerson — who is not a credible candidate. Her sole goal is repealing Measure 11, a mandatory sentencing law enacted by voters in 1994. She'll mention in passing other smaller-government concepts, but eventually will come back to M11. Voters should have no illusion that a term in office would accomplish anything.

Hansell should get your vote. **Greg Smith, House, District 57**, is now among the most powerful House Republicans in Salem, and Eastern Oregon has a lot to gain from having him hold such an important seat.

Smith admits he came into politics as hyper-partisan, but has since learned that philosophy doesn't accomplish much without the respect of your peers. He has since learned to work the system, negotiating and supporting bills and then cashing in his chips to get what he wants done late in the session.

It's the kind of respect for personal relationships and helping one another that used to be a linchpin of American politics, but has gone missing at the federal level. Returning Smith will keep it alive in the Oregon House.

We also believe that he stands first on conscience and principle, and that hasn't altered despite his many years in Salem.

There are plenty who question his income-generating job in economic development throughout the district and elsewhere in Oregon, and all we ask is that Smith continue to address those concerns openly as they arrive. It's not a clean mesh of careers, but it's what comes out of a part-time governing body.

Greg Barreto, House District 58 is running unopposed as the Republican, Democrat and Independent candidate. That's right — the most outspoken Republican state representative in Umatilla County (who also serves Union and Wallowa counties) earned the "D" and "I" by reaching those voters leading into the primary.

We consider that a big vote of confidence from his constituents for a man who speaks very frankly about his frustrations with not being heard in the Democrat-controlled Capitol. Even those who may disagree with him politically see him as an ally in the legislature. And that speaks volumes.

We believe he has learned the job quickly, including the difficult task of picking your battles, and another term will provide him many more opportunities to speak his mind and for the people of northeastern Oregon.

Greg Walden, U.S. Representative, should return to Washington, D.C., as the Republican representative for a wide expanse of rural Oregon.

He's a common sight in his expansive district (just an idea of how expansive — his challenger, Democrat Jim Crary, is from Ashland) and is a standard bearer for the Republican Party across the country. The fallout from Donald Trump's presidential candidacy will certainly be felt in the party, and it will take work to set a new course in the aftermath.

Ron Wyden, U.S. Senate has outmatched not just his opponents Republican Mark Callahan, Independent Steven Reynolds, Working Families Party Shanti Lewallen and Pacific Green Progressive Eric Navickas, but most of his colleagues in D.C.

He's somewhere in the middle of fellow Democrats in ideology, and with that doesn't always align with the majority values of Eastern Oregon. But his deep concern and hard work on issues of public lands and digital privacy alone warrant another term in office.



Hansell



Smith



Barreto

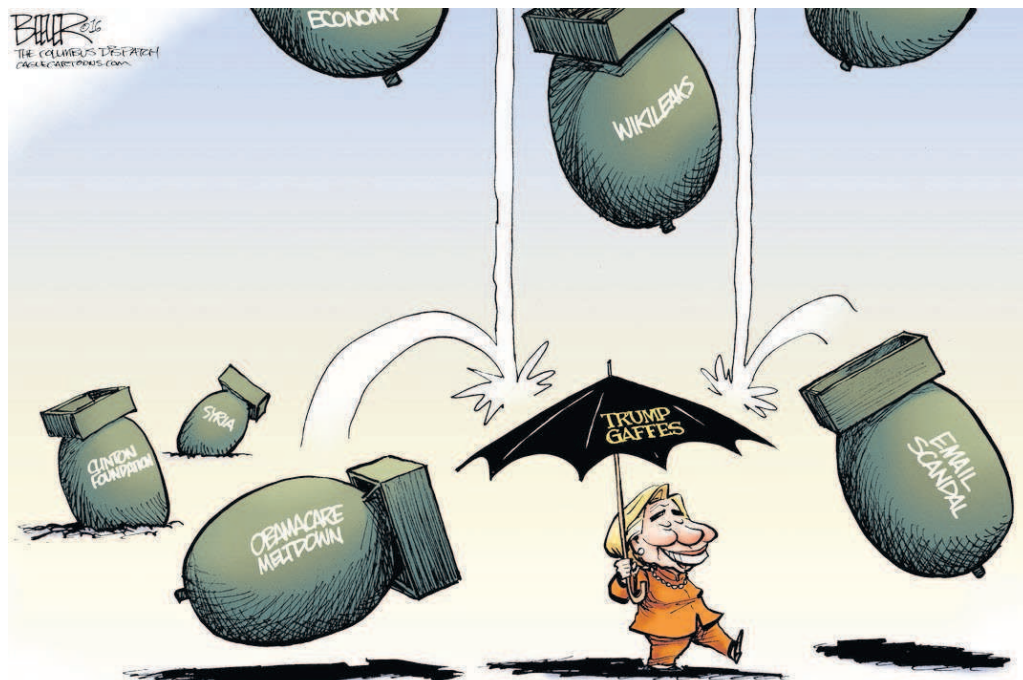


Walden



Wyden

OTHER VIEWS



"AT LAST, DONALD MADE ONE PRODUCT THAT DIDN'T ACTUALLY FAIL!"

Hillary Clinton's resounding mandate

I hear two observations about the 2016 presidential race so incessantly that they're like hit songs at peak ubiquity. The lyrics are seared into my brain.

One is that the Republican and Democratic nominees leave voters with no real choice. That's nuts, because it implies that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are equally unpalatable and it misunderstands "choice" as profoundly as Trump misreads polls. He and Clinton may not be the political buffet of our dreams. But one entree is perilous, while the other has tired ingredients in a suboptimal sauce. Salmonella or salmon with cucumber and dill: That's a choice. I know what I'm putting on my plate.

The other observation is that when Clinton is elected — sorry, if Clinton is elected — she'll have shaky authority and murky marching orders, because she'll be the beneficiary of an anti-Trump vote, not a pro-Clinton one. This, too, misses the mark. Even if we grant that voters aren't so much rushing to her as fleeing him, they're fleeing for specific reasons. They're expressing particular values. Those reasons and values are her marching orders, and there's nothing murky about them.

I'd go even further and say that they amount to a mandate, which is this: to safeguard the very America — compassionate, collaborative, decent — that he routinely degrades.

First, though, some math. As Damon Linker explains in *The Week*, Clinton is in a position to notch a resounding victory by historical standards.

As of late Tuesday, the Real Clear Politics average of recent polls put her 5.4 percentage points ahead of Trump in a four-way race and 5.1 ahead in a one-on-one matchup. In three of the last six presidential elections, the margin of victory was significantly smaller than that; in the other three it was larger, although only slightly in the 1992 contest (5.5 percent), which her husband won.

Given early-voting patterns, Trump's erratic behavior and her campaign's superior ground



FRANK BRUNI
Comment

game, I think she'll exceed current projections; an ABC News tracking poll last weekend had her up by 12. The largest national margin since Ronald Reagan's 18.2-point advantage in 1984 was the 8.5-point spread with which her husband was re-elected, and that was 20 years ago.

It's true that none of the victors in the contests over the last three decades had an opponent as unprepared, unsteady and unsavory as Trump.

But it's also true that Trump is the protest candidate — the "change agent," in prognosticators' preferred parlance — at a juncture unfavorable to an insider like Clinton, who's no darling of voters to begin with.

So if voters hand him an overwhelming defeat, it's a bold statement, with undeniable messages.

They'd be saying that sexism like his is intolerable. That's evident in the yawning gender gap that he confronts, in the disproportionate number of women who are voting early and in the possible surge, after Election Day, of women in Congress. The Year of Trump is turning out to be the true Year of the Woman, and not only because of a glass ceiling's shattering.

This gives Clinton a mandate to make sure our public discourse and laws never treat women as subordinate to men.

Voters who weren't intrinsically anti-Trump but ended up in that column are punishing him for the way he attacked the Khan family, Alicia Machado and so many others before and since. That's clear in the words and timing of Republican leaders who defected from Trump. Each reached a point where, for reasons moral or political, Trump's pettiness and viciousness could no longer be shrugged off.

There's a mandate for Clinton in this as well. It's to rise above and push back at the corrosive politics of insult, and she did more to betray than to honor this with her "basket of deplorables."

Frank Bruni is a New York Times columnist.

YOUR VIEWS

Struggling Americans ignored

I wish to thank Mr. Murdock for his Viewpoint on October 22, 2016, in the *East Oregonian*. His description of what is to probably come to the people was comprehensive without forty dollar language.

Why is it that no one has brought the Social Security "raise" to the elected officials for federal and state governments where it should be addressed as critical for 65 million Americans? At \$5.00 per month, which may go to Medicare Part B, people who can hardly pay the rent and utilities, much less prescriptions and food, will go from struggling to poverty come 2017. Their solutions are insane and they need to get real and see how it really is.

With millions going into wanting to be president, think of how that may have really helped with the poor and the homeless who, by the way, are in every city in America. This is the "American Dream." God Bless America and God or somebody save us all.

Again, thank you so much Mr. Murdock!
Jacqueline Hood
Hermiston

Bud Pierce for governor, No on Measure 97

The cost of living in Oregon is growing much faster than the ability of working families to make ends meet. This is especially true in rural Oregon, where we haven't benefited from the recovery and rapid economic growth of the urban west side. There are the usual cost drivers — food, housing, child care, education expense, transportation, etc. — and then there are those imposed by state and local government.

Recently in a short video President Obama gave a big shout-out to his friend Kate Brown. He wistfully credited her for achieving the things he was not able to do. He cited greatly increasing the cost of energy and fuel with no benefit to the environment. He praised her arbitrary mandated increase in the minimum wage. Well, Mr. Obama, it's pretty easy when you have control of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.

