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Materials Operations, Instructor 2, Fire Officer 3 and National Fire Academy Leadership Training.

Able is quick to mention the importance of training when discussing his priorities. His experience and enthusiasm are apparent when stressing the need for rigorous training sessions for first responders.

"My first priority is the 'Chief's Bullseye' and safety and performance are at the center of the target," Able said. "I am looking at the safety of individuals as well as the safety of the entire crew. You cannot be safe unless you are properly trained. We are putting people into fairly dangerous situations. If they are not well trained, you are not going to be safe. And if you put firefighters at risk, you put your community at risk."

Able has progressed steadily up the ranks in different fire services since leaving the fire marshal's office, serving as fire chief in West Linn, division chief in Tualatin and spending four years as fire chief for the City of Mount Vernon.

During those leadership stints, he worked closely with civic leaders and government officials to organize, among other things, a City Incident Management Team, oversaw the implementation of an Advanced Life Support Program and developed and maintained budgets for multiple fire districts.

Over the last decade, Able has been tapped to head transitional leadership situations at fire departments at the Pleasant Hill / Goshen Fire district in Oregon, and at the Palominas Fire District and Bucksfire Fire Department in Arizona.

While a focus on preparation

is central to Able's philosophy, professionalism from all district employees and volunteers is a close second.

"When a resident of Florence calls 911, they expect well trained professionals to respond," he said. "They want them to know what they are doing and to do it right the first time. When someone calls 911, they don't care if it's a career firefighter or a volunteer, they want a well-trained, proper response with the proper equipment."

The need for cross training of EMTs (emergency medical technicians) and firefighters is a subject familiar to Able and one that he believes is dictated primarily by the changing nature of the calls received by SVFR and fire departments across the country.

"I'm glad we are having fewer structure fires. That says a lot about the local fire prevention programs and it says a lot

about the building codes," he said. "We are responding to a lot more medical calls and there is a public expectation of proper emergency medical response from all agencies. If we are responding to medical calls, we better know how to handle the defibrillator without getting the instruction manual out. The next call may be a motor vehicle accident, and we may need to do a vehicle extraction. We better know how to use the jaws of life."

The new interim chief has most recently spent time as a consultant for the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

SDAO assists member organizations with staffing situations that require a specific skill set. Often these groups are districts from smaller towns or nonprofits, as in the case of recent SDAO client the Oregon

Coast Humane Society in Florence. SDAO assisted the humane society with hiring an interim director earlier this year.

Over the last decade, Able has been tapped to head transitional leadership situations at fire departments at the Pleasant Hill and Goshen Fire District in Oregon and at the Palominas Fire District and the Bucksfire Fire Department in Arizona.

Able has been successful in stabilizing these situations and assisting with the retention of his successors, leaving the districts with competent, professional leadership.

He has also worked in larger

districts, with much more involved fire situations. As division chief in Tualatin, he served a population base of more than 440,000 with a department that employed 36 full-time employees that were deployed to 21 fire stations.

Able's focus on preparation and training were captured in a statement, simple on its surface, but meaningful in its implications for residents of the SVFR district: "There is no satisfaction in fighting a fire you could have prevented."

Able has a contract to serve as SVFR's interim chief director through June 2019.

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Voter control itself, she said, constitutes a significant bulwark against badly-written bonds.

Overburdening the underprivileged also concerned Olsen.

Raising property taxes in the name of affordable housing will hurt some of the very people backers of the bill purport to be helping, he said, such as those who are financially struggling and edging by month-to-month.

"Every action has an equal and opposite reaction," he said, "and if you put people into homes because you charge somebody else, you might put those people out of their homes. That concerns me and nobody has taken that into account."

There are also concerns that the proposed amendment does not include safeguards against the risks associated with giving private entities access to public money, though Wever said these buffers already exist.

"There are a lot of safeguards attached to public money and attached to money for affordable housing," she said. "And every layer of money that you bring in, whether it's state money or federal money, to those bond funds, adds additional, rigid requirements for how long that housing has to be affordable, who it's going to serve ... and how well it's being kept up."

Additionally, some worry the bill lacks independent oversight.

"It doesn't provide for adequate audits," said Henry. "The audits under this bill are allowed to be done by the government managing the money. That'd be like me auditing my own tax returns."

However, most small cities hire third parties to conduct audit reports as it is rare to keep an auditor on city staff.

"The audits and the public reporting required in the measure — that's an additional piece that's not required of bonds otherwise," said Wever. "So it really is an extra level of scrutiny on those funds."

Even so, opponents of the bill remain uneasy about giving governments and their private partners undue public fund access, and protest that the bill does little to alleviate the state's housing crisis.

"It's not that I don't want to build affordable housing," said Olsen. "Of course I do. I want to get people off the streets like everybody else."

Olsen believes it's a case of treating the symptom, not the disease. Deeper problems such as restricting urban growth boundaries and accumulating systems development charges only serve to worsen the problem.

"So those are the things that concern me," he said. "And giving carte blanche without



knowing what you're going get."

For local governments, though, there remains an appeal to local control when addressing problems as unwieldy as homelessness and affordable housing.

"Communities across Oregon are really struggling with a housing crisis," said Wever. "There's almost no county in Oregon where a full-time, wage-earning renter can afford to rent a one-bedroom apartment because rents are rising faster than income in nearly every community. I think Measure 102 is a really small change

that will make a really big difference."

Though proponents argue that the measure adds another tool to the toolbox, opponents worry that the tool will be misused by people who don't know how to use it — or worse, know how to abuse it. Even accepting that the bill has flaws, the question voters must consider is whether it's better to implement a flawed plan or no plan at all.

Lane County Elections mailed ballots Thursday for the Nov. 6, 2018, General Election.

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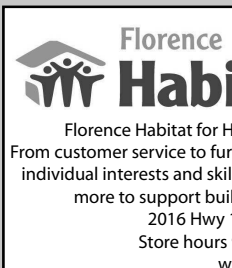
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Most voters should receive their ballots by Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Voters may drop off their ballots at one of many official drop box locations listed in the insert included with their ballot. Drop boxes are now open and will remain open until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Florence's drop box is located at the Florence Police Department, 900 Greenwood St.



Florence Food Share provides food to those who are hungry in our community. If you have four hours a week available, we are in need of volunteers to staff our Front Desk and also act as Guides as clients walk through the pantry. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Sarah Lovejoy, @ 541-997-9110 (Monday - Friday, before noon) to learn more about volunteering. info@florence-foodshare.org 2190 Spruce Street.



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