

Q&A from A9

system and pension program.

Next, we need to regain our status as a national leader in health care and Medicaid delivery, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who depend on it. In the past our health care system was known for its compassion and innovation.

Today, it is known for scandals, mismanagement and waste. As a physician, I will lead to ensure that every Oregonian has access to high-quality health care. Third, homelessness is a humanitarian, public health and public safety crisis. I will lead with compassion, and a little tough love to ensure that in Oregon, a tent or a sidewalk is never anyone's home.

Finally, our rural communities have been left behind and forgotten by leaders in Salem for far too long. Oregon's rural-urban divide is not an immovable feature of the natural landscape. It is an artificial political divide resulting from choices made every day in Salem by elected officials and unelected government employees. I will be a leader for all of Oregon.

As Governor, I will make State government a partner for growing jobs and restoring hope and opportunity in rural Oregon.

BROWN: While our economy is growing in Oregon, that growth isn't reaching everyone. Over the next four years, I will bring together Democrats and Republicans, urban and rural Oregonians, to tackle the state's big problems and make sure every Oregonian has the opportunity to thrive.

First, we have to strengthen our schools. I have a plan to expand high-quality preschool in the next two years to an additional 10,000 low-income children; reduce class sizes, require a 180-day school year, and expand career and technical education. For all Oregonians to thrive, we must also expand access to high-quality, affordable health care. I will fight to protect our Medicaid expansion and make sure that every Oregonian, no matter where they live, has access to the care they need."

How do your positions differ from those of your opponents?

BUEHLER: I will challenge the status quo and be a Governor for all of Oregon no matter who you are, where you live, who you love, or how you register to vote. In contrast, Brown has proven that she is unwilling to take on the powerful special interests in her own Party that defend a broken system. I will bring moderate, independent leadership to the

Governorship while working with Democrats, Republicans and Independent to help solve our most pressing issues.

BROWN: Sometimes I feel like I'm running against two different people because what candidate Buehler says does not match what Representative Buehler has done — especially when it comes to health care. As a legislator, Rep. Buehler voted against a bipartisan package to fund Oregon's Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

By voting no, he voted to take away critical health care from 430,000 Oregonians — including 80,000 kids. Rep. Buehler also voted against a plan that would have covered 100% of Oregon's children. That's not only dead set against Oregon values, it's cruel.

Please share whatever else you feel would be important for our readers to know about your candidacy?

BUEHLER: Brown has been in elected office for 30 years and the past four as Governor. She has more money than any other Governor in Oregon's history, yet our most pressing problems continue to get worse — teachers are still getting laid off, class sizes are getting bigger and our graduation rates are still third-worst in the nation.

We have a growing homelessness crisis and vulnerable foster kids are not getting the care they need. Brown had her chance to show that she is capable of solving the big problems facing Oregonians.

We need new leadership. I will lead where Kate Brown has failed.

BROWN: As governor, I brought legislators from both parties together to fight for Oregon families.

We passed a transportation package that will reduce traffic, create 16,000 new jobs and make our roads safer. We passed a first in the nation pay equity and fair

scheduling bills.

We worked together to ensure that 430,000 Oregonians have access to affordable health care because everyone should be able to see the doctor when they're sick.

Congressional Race
Defazio and Robinson face off for the fifth time.

Oregon has five Congressional Districts and Florence is included in District 4. District 4 represents the southern half of Oregon's coastal counties including Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane and Linn counties and most of Benton and Josephine counties.

Democrat Peter DeFazio has represented District 4 since 1987 and is running for re-election this year. DeFazio has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts University and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oregon. He is the ranking member on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and is running against opponent Art Robinson for the fourth time.

Art Robinson has a Bachelor of Science degree from the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California in San Diego. He is a well-known scientific and medical researcher having worked with Linus Pauling co-founding the prestigious Institute of Orthomolecular Medicine.

He served as president, director and tenured research professor at the research facility after it was renamed the Linus Pauling Institute in 1971.

Why are you still interested in representing Oregon District 4?

DEFAZIO: Most Oregonians are tired of partisan bickering and gridlock in Washington. And so am I. But I have a fire in my belly and a lot of good ideas about how we can make progress for the American people.

I would like the Congress to work together to improve health

care, make investments in job-creating infrastructure programs and make college more affordable. I will work with the Trump White House or anybody else to meet those goals. But when I disagree with the President or my party I will use my voice and my vote to stand up for our Oregon values.

I have built seniority that puts me in position to be the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee if Democrats win the majority. I will be part of crafting an agenda that makes investments in our roads, bridges, ports and airports, creates jobs and strengthens the economy.

ROBINSON: I am running because I think I can do a good job. I have been successful in medical research and I have been a successful educator and scientist. Most importantly, I have been successful in the real world. Mr. DeFazio has served in congress for 40 years and he has no real-world experience.

As a scientist I am a problem solver. Mr. DeFazio does not want to solve the problems we face, he just wants to figure out how he can benefit from them. All he really

cares about is making sure he gets re-elected.

What issues are you most concerned with at this time?

DEFAZIO: Many Oregonians are one serious health issue away from personal financial crisis. Quality affordable healthcare is the top concern of most Americans and a top priority for Democrats in Congress. It's time to reduce healthcare costs by expanding coverage, protecting consumers, creating a public option outside of the for-profit insurance industry, and allowing the federal government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare recipients.

ROBINSON: I am really concerned with improving access to medical care. There are estimates that as much as 20 percent of the earnings of real people go to paying for their medical costs and medical care. I have spent a life time working in the medical field and know we can make a lot of progress there. The economy has improved under President Trump and we need to take this opportunity to support the President's initiatives to reform

healthcare.

Again, Mr. DeFazio has no interest in providing good health care to people, all he wants to do is figure out a way to secure votes, while continuing to postpone meaningful changes to the healthcare system.

What are the most significant challenges facing the House this term?

DEFAZIO: If Democrats win the majority in the House, it will be a message from the electorate that they want Congress to uphold its constitutional duty to serve as a check on the Trump administration. As Chairman of the House Transportation Committee with oversight of the General Services Administration, I plan to investigate the President's conflict of interest as both the lessee and lessor of the Trump Hotel and White House involvement in the siting of a new FBI Headquarters.

It will be a challenge to find common ground legislatively, but I'm hopeful that we can come

See CONGRESS 12A



COTTAGE GROVE COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE INFO FAIR!

SUNDAY, NOV. 4TH 11-2pm
106 10TH STREET

What Can You Expect?...

This is a cooperative event, aimed at giving back to the People through Resources, and to Local Charities. A Celebration of Cottage Grove and all the wonderful Businesses here.

- A HUB of local professionals that are focused on bringing helpful content and resources to those who are interested in all things Real Estate; Buyers, Sellers, Investors, and Renters.
- Come, bring your questions, and talk to a; Lender, Escrow/Title Officer, Insurance Agent, Financial Planner, Inspector, Photographer, Water & Septic Servicer, Contractor, and Realtor. Meet your neighbors and support local charities and businesses.



"Helping you make the Connections"



Trisha West
Realtor/Broker
541-870-3910
TrishaWestCanHelp@gmail.com
www.TrishaWestRealty.com

FREE ADMISSION!!

Asking for Food and Clothes donations for 'Community Sharing'

And

'Christmas for the Troops' donations to go to our Cottage Grove Troops overseas.

Prize Drawings

Farm Stand

Get Information from Local Experts

Support & Network with Local Cottage Grove Businesses and Charities

Get Registered to VOTE!

- ALL AMERICAN FUNDING
- ALL STATE INSURANCE
- CASCADE TITLE & ESCROW
- DEHART FAMILY CONSTRUCTION
- EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL PLANNING
- HEARTH & HOMES, HOME INSPECTIONS
- KAI PHOTO & DESIGN

NEW: Digital X-Rays (use less radiation)

Implants • Teeth Whitening • Extractions
Lumineers (no prep veneers as seen on TV)

Cottage Grove Dental
Dr. Brent Bitner, DDS
350 Washington, Cottage Grove (behind Better Bodies)
541.942.7934



Community Unity
SHOPPE, BUY & PLAY, STAY

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY
Middlefield Oaks Assisted Living & Memory Care
1500 Village Drive
541-767-0080

AUTO DEALERSHIP
Brad's Cottage Grove Chevrolet
2775 Row River Rd
541-942-4415

AUTOMOTIVE
Automotive Specialties
424 So. Pacific Hwy 99
541-942-8022

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce
700 E. Gibbs
541-942-2411

CHURCH
Hope Fellowship
100 S. Gateway Blvd
541-942-2061

COUNSELING
Alan D. Walker
AlanWalkerPACO@gmail.com
541-817-6271

EMERGENCY SERVICES
South Lane Fire & Rescue
233 Harison Avenue
541-942-4493

GUN SHOP
Emerald Valley Armory
147 E. Oregon Avenue
Creswell, Oregon
541-895-2666

NON PROFIT
Habitat for Humanity Restore
2155 Getty Circle – Unit #1
541.649.1104

RETAIL
Habitat for Humanity Restore
2155 Getty Circle Unity 1
541-649-1104

Homestead Furniture
615 Main St
541-942-8711

Territorial Seed Company Store
20 Palmer Ave
541-942-0510

The Flower Basket & Gift Boutique
119 S. 6th St
541-942-0505

TRANSPORTATION
South Lane Wheels
1450 Birch Ave
541-942-0456

VISION CARE
Pacific Clear Vision
257 N. 8th St
541.942.5000